



Chief Executive's Report

September 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

Economic

Technological University Dublin Delegation:

Dr. Frank Cullen, Head of School of Culinary Arts & Food Technology, Dr Dominic Dillane, Head of School of Hospitality Management & Tourism, Jackie Rigney, Business Development Manager, Dr. Teresa Hurley, Head of School of Management were in Wexford on 11th July and met with a group of Wexford Food Producers and Colm Neville, Visit Wexford, Brenda Comerford GM at Johnstown Castle, called to Wheelock Fruit Farm and did a tour of the refurbished campus in the Old County Hall. The group were exploring collaboration opportunities between TU Dublin and the Wexford.

OPUS announce 100 jobs for Enniscorthy

One of the largest job announcements made in County Wexford in a number of years was announced by Minister Michael D'Arcy and the IDA in the Riverside Park Hotel Enniscorthy on Tuesday 13th August.

OPUS Fund Services are to set up operations in Enniscorthy and are expected to employ 100 people over the next 5 years. Founded in 2006, Opus is an award winning, independently owned and operated global fund administrator.



Minister Michael D'Arcy speaking at the announcement event in Enniscorthy.



Christian Pollard, Regional CEO, Opus Fund Services



Tom Enright, CE Wexford County Council; Minister Michael D'Arcy; Anne-Marie Tierney Le-Roux, Head Regional Division IDA; Christian Pollard, Regional CEO Opus; Mark Atkinson, Regional COO Opus, Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman Wexford County Council.

Enniscorthy Technology Park – Nurturing Innovation Creating Possibilities:

New signage is now in place at Enniscorthy Technology Park and a brochure has been compiled to assist with marketing the park. The park is situated on 15.5 hectares (38 acres) in close proximity to Enniscorthy town centre and presents an exceptional development opportunity. The site incorporates approximately 9,300m² of prime office accommodation with full planning permission as well as other sites with design and build options.



ENNISCORTHY TECHNOLOGY PARK

**A1 Rated
& Passive
Certified
Office
Buildings**

**Office Units
To Let & Sites
For Sale**

053 919 6487

Supported by **Wexford**
County Council

Savannah Delegation:

A group of 36 delegates from Savannah Georgia will be in Wexford from the 3rd to the 6th September for the official opening of the Georgia Southern University International Learning Hub. The opening will take place on Thursday 5th September at 5pm. The delegation is made up of leadership from the Savannah Economic Development Authority, World Trade Center Savannah, Visit Savannah, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport and Georgia Southern University.



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

Project Actions – July/August

- 49 Irish Companies now signed up to the project
- 9 BUCANIER companies attended the Medi Wales Conference in Swansea and attended an Innovation Workshop at Swansea University with Welsh BUCANIER companies
- 3 BUCANIER Companies supported to have a stand in the Expo tent of the Energy in Agriculture Show at Gurteen College on the 20th of August
- Planning for Ploughing Championship and Food Expo

Planned Project Actions - September

- BUCANIER attending the Ploughing Championship, 4 companies supported to showcase their products in the Enterprise Tent, two from Wales and 2 from Ireland.
- BUCANIER to have a stand in the InCarlow Tent at the Ploughing Championships where 9 of our companies will showcase new products
- 10 BUCANIER food and drink companies to showcase their products at the food expo in CityWest on the 5th of September
- Ongoing recruitment of companies
- Ongoing mentoring and support to companies on the project

Local Enterprise Office

Brexit Supports:

Enterprise Ireland recently approved additional funding of €50,000 for LEO Wexford to work intensively with micro enterprises identified as “at risk” from the impact of Brexit. Following a call to tender extended to our existing mentor panel, five contract business advisors have been appointed to work with clients over a 3-month period. Initially the advisors will conduct a detailed business diagnostic with each of the companies identified helping them to identify their top 3 priority areas where they need support and help them to develop a business growth plan. The contractors have specific expertise in the following areas;

- Brexit challenges/exports/new markets
- Competitiveness/innovation
- Business planning/growth plans
- Driving online market share/trading online
- Increased productivity/LEAN

National Women's Enterprise Day:

Wexford's National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) event will take place in Newbay House on the 17th October, 2019. Mary Walsh, Ire Wel Pallets, is Wexford's female ambassador and will represent the county at national and regional events promoting female entrepreneurship. The line-up of speakers for the event includes;

Ciara Donlon, Beats Medical
Emer Doyle, International Business Coach
Mary Walsh, Ire Wel Pallets
Bevan Mahony, Dentaltech
Aine Breen, Liwu Jewellery

The overall theme for NWED is "making it happen" and this event will run from 2.00 pm to 8.30 pm and will include a light lunch, masterclass, business networking, keynote speaker and expert panel discussion (pre and post dinner).

Training/Procurement

Over the summer, LEO Wexford have conducted a full e-tender procurement process for training programmes. Tender have now been assessed and contracts awarded and the new Autumn/Winter Training schedule will be launched next week. The offering includes a range of supports from business clinics on topics such as pricing and costing product/services, social media for business, longer programmes such as Developing a Social Enterprise, Female Entrepreneurship Business Development Programme a day long workshop such as Developing a Business Model Canvas. Businesses who complete the Brexit Scorecard are offered free Brexit mentoring. Additional training offerings around Brexit include a programme on Customs Export and Imports Procedures.

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 23/08/2019 984

No. of invalid applications received up to 23/08/2019 207

Forward Planning:

Biodiversity and Natural Heritage

It is the overall aim of the Council to protect County Wexford's Biodiversity through actions and raising awareness. Wexford County Council is also signed up to the National Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. Since May 2019 the following actions and projects have been initiated;

Wex Bee Aware

With the help of The Wexford Men's Shed a large bug hotel has successfully been installed outside of Wexford County Council Headquarters



Changing landscapes

Approval has been given to trail a scheme in the Clonard area that will consist of tree planting, creating pollinator habitat's and to encourage changes to grass cutting practices and attitudes to lawn management under the umbrella of the 'Wex Bee Aware' initiative. A number of areas have now been identified and the initial meeting with the local community groups is hoped to commence shortly.

Libraries - A children's workshop took place on the importance of Bees and other pollinators in Wexford Library on Saturday 24th August. The children made Bee/bug Hotels.



Natural Wexford

An audit of the geological Heritage of County Wexford was carried out in 2018. As a result of this survey a number of sites has been identified that would benefit from information panels to raise awareness to these important geological sites. Under the banner of 'Natural Wexford' The design of the information panels has been completed and the first place to see a Natural Wexford information panel will be the Camross Pingos, an internationally Important Geological site.

Building Control:

Commencement Notices

A total of 316 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 23rd August 2019 on the BCMS.

ENNISCORTHY	GOREY	NEW ROSS	WEXFORD
105	77	40	94

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites at 23rd August 2019

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990

22	Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964
12	

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

0

Planning Enforcement:

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 23/08/19 is as follows:

➤ Cases Opened	118
➤ Live Cases	247
➤ Cases Closed	123

District Court Cases

2 Planning enforcement cases were listed in the District Courts during July 2019
Wexford:

- Enforcement case 0141/2012 relating to unauthorised palisade fence at Newcastle, Newbawn, finalised on 9th July 2019. Defendant convicted and fined €200 and ordered to pay legal fees & case costs amounting to €1,873.
- Enforcement case 0021/2018 relating to unauthorised car wash and shed at Ballynabola, New Ross, adjourned on 16th July until 23rd Sept 2019 for a plea.

Disability Access:

Week ending 26/08/2019

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC Applications validated up to and including up to and including 21st August totals 45.

The number of DACs returned as invalid from 1st January totals 15, 6 of which remain outstanding for re-submission.

Media Policy

A Media Policy to support and ensure the adoption of best practice guidelines for media including video and photographic galleries has been drafted. This policy advises on the requirements to provide and ensure that access to audio, video and photographic means of communication is accessible for all potential users in that it is: Robust, Perceivable, Operable and Understandable for all potential users

On line sign language facility will be available at the CSU by September end

Irish Sign Language is the first and/or preferred language of 5000 Deaf people in Ireland and approximately 40,000 people in general will communicate in ISL (family, friends, co-workers, etc.).

The Irish Remote Interpreting Service (IRIS) provides a live video-link to an Irish Sign Language interpreter. IRIS enables organisations to communicate with Deaf clients, giving them access to their services and fully complying with Equal Status & Disability legislation, as well as Consumer Protection Codes and customer charters.

Best practice for universal adaptable housing units

The Access Section in conjunction with the Architects/housing design section supported request from the National Disability Authority regarding our examples and methods to provide best practice for universal adaptable housing units.

2. Special Projects:

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

Trinity Wharf: The application for development approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 15/02/2019 and the period for submission of observations closed on 01/04/2019. A request for further information has issued by An Bord Pleanála and a response is required by mid October 2019.

The related application for foreshore consent was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 01/03/2019 and the public consultation process for this application is not completed.

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

Crescent Quay: Works commenced in January and are scheduled to be completed in early October. Works are progressing well but delays associated with the relocation of underground services have necessitated an extension to the programme. The works on the 'street' side of the Crescent are programmed to be completed by the early September, which will free up these pedestrian areas and facilitate full business access. The associated road works (resurfacing, pedestrian crossings, etc.) and the works on the water side of the Crescent are planned to be finished by early October.

Ballast Office: Essential repair works are required for the Ballast Office to prevent it from falling into disrepair. An appointment for design services was completed in April and investigative and structural surveys and inspections are in progress. Works are planned to commence in Q4 2019.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have commenced and are expected to be completed by January 2020.

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

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

Gorey Market House: Following discussion at their July Monthly Meeting the members of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District have requested that the development of the 2012 Public Realm plan for the Market House be suspended and that the Council re-examine options for the development and operation of a multi-functional performance venue at the site as proposed in the Public Consultation Process of 2018. This will require advancing the design and re-tendering for a

services concession contract for proposals for the development and operation of the site as a performance venue.

This work will support the preparation of an application for capital funding for the project under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Wexford Arts Centre: An appointment for design services was completed in April and investigative and building surveys and inspections are substantially completed. The preliminary design is underway and a Part VIII process is expected to commence in Q3 2019 with works planned to commence on site in Q2 2020.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: The Council has received initial RRDF funding in the value of €328k towards the acquisition and redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. Architects have been appointed for the project and the Part VIII process is due to commence in Q4 2019 with construction planned to be completed by Q1 2021.

High Hill, New Ross: The High Hill site is a strategic urban site connecting John Street and the town centre to the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. The Part VIII process was advertised in May 2019 and the CE's report approving the development adopted by the members at the July Council meeting. Tenders for detailed design services and tender documents for a works contract have been received and are currently under assessment.

An application for RRDF funding approval for this project in combination with the expansion of the New Ross tourism experiences was submitted in August 2019.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: A tender for the access road, car parking and walking trail works was advertised on the 14th of June 2019 and tenders were returned by the 12th of July 2019. Assessment of the tenders is underway. It is planned to award a contract for construction by the end of Q3 2019 and that the works will be completed by Q2 2020. An RRDF application for funding for the scheme was submitted in August 2019 seeking support for the scheme.

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 project was presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting. The propositions options report is now complete and an application for funding for the project was submitted to Failte Ireland's Pathways to Growth programme in July 2019.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Part 8 approval was obtained in February 2019. Detailed designs and tender documents have been completed and the invitation to tender for works issued on 16/08/2019. Works on site are planned to commence in Q4 2019. An RRDF application for funding for the scheme was submitted in August 2019 seeking support for the scheme.

Gorey Town Park: Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May and are due to be completed by January 2020.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway.

Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents have been completed. Public information events were held in Wellingtonbridge & Rosslare Strand in May 2019. The preparation of the EIAR & NATURA Impact reports for the proposed development is underway and is due to be completed in early Q4 2019. An application for funding, submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/2018 was not successful.

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 and confirmation of grant aid funding of €8.0m for the project was received from DTTAS on 21/06/2019.

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 in 2018
Cherry Orchard	8	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Includes 4 special needs houses in 2018
Cois Mara, Rosslare	2	Wexford	Construction complete	Complete and occupied in 2018
Baile Eoghain	9	Gorey	Construction complete	All houses completed in December 2018
Creagh	10	Gorey	Construction complete	Complete and occupied in July 2019
Danescastle	10	New Ross	Construction complete	Complete and occupied in July 2019
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in Sept 2019
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete October 2019
Slippery Green	10	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in Q4 2019
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing – due to complete in Sept 2019
The Ballagh	7	Enniscorthy	Under construction	On site 5 th June 2019
Taghmon	18	New Ross	Under construction	On site 2 nd July 2019
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues with owners not yet resolved
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved stage 3 Q3 2019
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Consultants appointed, in discussions with neighbour for more land – propose CPO (on hold)
Rosetown, Rosslare	36	Wexford	Stage 2 (<i>with DHPLG since 25th April</i>)	Stage 3 August 2019
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2 (<i>Sept 2019</i>)	Women's refuge, initial design review and costs
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 2 Q3 2019	Part VIII approved March 2019 Consultants appointed
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Gorey	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG Oct 2019
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	October 2019
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 2 Q4 2019	Consultants appointment
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 Oct 2019
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 1 approved	Part VIII Q3 2019 (reviewing Knotweed)
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 1	Stage 2 Q1 2020

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Stage 2 – Q4 2019
TOTAL	313			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 13/05/19)
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey (Buy & Renew)
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 07/05/19)
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 23/05/19)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (stage 1 approved)	TAP house, site ownership to WCC (sketch design) – Land to transfer, single stage application made
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – Funding approved from WCC Part V III August 2019
TOTAL	8		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Park	10	Wexford	To review trees and knotweed
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water ongoing re upgrade
Tagoat	9	Wexford	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q3 2019)
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. Demolition to enable works Q4 2019
TOTAL	97		

Other Projects

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

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	10	Gorey	10 units to be delivered 2019
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2019
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	13	Wexford	13 units to be delivered 2019
Knockmullen	18	Gorey	Delayed - now due to be delivered Q1 2020
Mulgannon	18	Wexford	14 units to be delivered 2020, 4 units to be delivered 2021.
Hunters Hill , Gorey	3	Gorey	Due to be delivered 2019
Clonard	6	Wexford	To be delivered 2020
TOTAL	70		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin,	23	Gorey	18 units delivered, 5 to be delivered 2019
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	35	Wexford	33 units delivered. Remaining 2 to be delivered Q3 2019
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	10	Gorey	4 units delivered. Remaining 6 units to be delivered Q3 2019.
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	3 units to be delivered Q4 2019. Remainder to be delivered 2020.
Riverchapel Lane	4	Gorey	4 units to be delivered in 2019
Whitewater Estuary, Ballyhack	3	New Ross	3 units to be delivered 2019
Michael St, New Ross	3	New Ross	3 units to be delivered Q4 2019
St. Martin's Rd, Rosslare Hbr	4	Rosslare	4 units to deliver Q3 2019
TOTAL	92		

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

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Arthurstown	9	New Ross	Delays due to legal and financial issues
Ballyboggan, Castlebridge	10	Wexford	Occupied
Meadowfields	28	Enniscorthy	14 units occupied Q2 2019 and remainder to be occupied by Q3 2019
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be delivered Q3 2019
27 Hunters Green	1	Gorey	Occupied
Clonard, Wexford	10	Wexford	To be delivered Q3 2019
Oaklee			
Fearach an Cnoic, Greenville	46	Enniscorthy	All units occupied
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
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	Due to commence 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	Planning Refused. Developer to re apply.
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. Started on site Aug 2019. To be occupied 2020.
Circle			
Abbey Centre	10	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2019
TOTAL	382		

ENVIRONMENT

Waste Enforcement

With the expansion of the Environmental Clean Up Crews since the start of the year activity in terms of illegal dumping, clean ups and enforcement activity has been considerably enhanced.

Up to end of July by comparison with 2018 clean ups are up by 101% from 984 to 1980 in total, fines issued are at 326 the same level for the entirety of last year and fines imposed to date this year are at €22,754 as against €20,774 for all of 2018.

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) reported in August 2019 that Curracloe beach and Kilmore Quay harbour are “clean to European norms” with the following stated in the inspection reports:

Curracloe:

“A considerable improvement was noted at Curracloe. It was very much deserving of the top litter ranking with a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed”

Kilmore Quay:

“A very good impression was created at Kilmore Quay. It is a lovely harbour, with a virtual absence of litter and a clean impression throughout. Recycling area was in very good order and there were lots of dog fouling signs and bins.”

Public Convenience Network

The renovated Duncannon PC facility was opened during the summer 2019. A trial for the installation of two portaloo's at Cahore Harbour, to facilitate harbour users and tourists was implemented for the summer.

COMMUNITY

Local community Development Committee (LCDC)

Cllr Lisa McDonald was elected Chairperson of the Wexford LCDC at the July meeting of the Committee. Cllr Leonard Kelly was elected Vice Chairperson at the July Meeting of the LCDC.

Healthy Ireland

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

New for HIF for Round 3

- Up to **two years funding** will be allocated to each LCDC/CYPSC.
- A completed Programme of Work must be submitted to Pobal by email between Monday 1st July and Friday 20th September 2019.

- Each action must be aligned to one of the **six thematic** areas i.e. Physical Activity, Mental Health, Nutrition, Sexual Health, Tobacco and Alcohol, Spaces and Places for Health and Wellbeing.
- Each programme of work must be underpinned by the following **horizontal principles**:
 - **A targeted approach**, to ensure a clear focus on supporting health and wellbeing of disadvantaged groups and communities, in order to address health inequalities;
 - **A partnership approach**, to ensure effective involvement and co-ordination of relevant local stakeholders in the planning and delivery of actions.

Cultural Companions 1st Anniversary Celebration 2019

Over 50 members of Wexford's Cultural Companions turned up at County Hall on Friday 19th July for a celebration of the 1st Anniversary of the group in Co. Wexford. Cultural Companions is aimed at people aged 50 and over who are interested in going to Arts and Cultural events but have no one to go with. The programme provides access to a network of like-minded people who attend events together as a group.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Fun In the Sun 2019

853 children attended our Fun In The Sun over 8 different venues. **18 children** who took part in Fun in the Sun identified as having a disability.

This programme has now run for 10 years with **6681** Children participating.

New Ross Library sports taster event – 30th

Sports Active Wexford hosted an activity taster event in association with New Ross Library. Our partners in Wexford GAA, Leinster Rugby and the FAI ran sessions for the children.

Participants : 29

Learn To Swim Programme

A level 1 Teaching Aquatics Course completed in The Apex with 8 candidates completing the course . Sports Active Wexford also supported Safeguarding courses level 1 and Level 2 in Both The Apex and Courtown leisure Centres for staff.

Windmill therapeutic unit

Sports Active Staff gave a talk and activity demo to the service users of Windmill Therapeutic Unit, Wexford. This is the first session in a series of events that will take place over the next few months for people with a disability.

Participants : 22

Wexford Mental Health – 16th & 18th July

The SIDO for Sports Active Wexford attended two activity sessions with participants from the Wexford Mental Health sports group. This was an opportunity to meet the participants/ Occupational Therapists to find out how we can work together in the future.

Participants: 40

Slaneyside Super Stars Camp Cul Camp- 23rd/24th July

Sports Active Wexford in partnership with Wexford GAA hosted a Cul Camp for children with a physical disability and their siblings/friends.

Participants: 14

Slaneyside Super Stars Camp – 15th & 16th August

Sports Active Wexford ran a two day multi-activity camp for children with a physical disability and their siblings/friends. Coaches from Leinster Rugby, FAI, Cricket Leinster, IWA, Kinetic and Warrior Kids Yoga provided sessions on the day.

Participants: 13

CAMHS – Gymnastic Summer Camp

Sports Active Wexford, HSE (South Wexford Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and Wexford Gymnastics Club have linked together to develop a gymnastics camp for children with ADHD. This camp ran from 22nd – 25th July.

Participants: 13

Urban Adventure Hub Bunclody

The Urban Adventure Hub is developing successfully, with a club being developed and programmes planned with the schools for the Autumn Term.

32 club sessions total 224

3 schools sessions total 42

6 summer camps Total 164

1 session for FDYS Total 10

1 Session for WLD Total 2

450 Participants.

Physical Activity Participation Grants 2019

We received 69 applications totally funding requests for €26,924.00

60 Groups received grants for their successful applications totalling €11,145.00 in grant aid for Physical activity promotion.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Power Family Estate Papers

The County Archive received an important collection of estate papers in August from **Irish Distillers Ltd.** pertaining to the Power family of Edermine. The collection which includes property deeds, estate correspondence and legal documents for the County Wexford estates, both owned and leased by generations of the Power family, will be an invaluable source for 18th and 19th century genealogical and social history research in the North Wexford area.

Dormant Accounts Fund - Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities

Wexford County Council has been awarded funding of €37,500 to provide library services and projects for disadvantaged communities. This funding, provided by the Dormant Account Funds, will deliver projects in all municipal districts. Projects will focus on removing barriers to access library services and improve accessibility, with a specific focus on communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged. The projects funded are:

Autism Friendly Library Services - autism friendly events and workshops for children and young people and training leading to accreditation as an autism friendly library service.
Travelling Tales - a collaborative literacy project with members of the Travelling community.
Oral History Recording with five Men's Sheds- collecting and sharing Wexford's folklore and traditions.

Tell Me a Story - experienced storyteller working with a group of teenage girls to develop literacy and storytelling skills.

Podcasting Workshops with LGBT+ Young People - programme in radio podcasting where participants use the medium to have their voices and stories heard.

Video Editing for participants in the Youth Train programme - digital photo editing course.

Age Friendly Digital Club - programme for over 55 to learn and share digital skills such as using their mobiles phones, tablets or laptops.

Comic Life - Workshops for young people on researching topics, understanding user rights, file management.

Microbit Make & Code - coding programme for families.

Video Promotion - animations will highlight the library services available to young people.

WexSci Wexford Science Festival

WexSci – Wexford's Science Festival has been successful in achieving funding from **Science Foundation Ireland** and returns from 10 to 24 November 2019. WexSci is part of National Science Week, with this year's climate action theme seeking to help people learn how science and technology can help us create a positive climate future and also understand the impact we as individuals can have on climate change.

WexSci, led by Wexford County Council, will be delivered in partnership with I.T. Carlow; WWETB, EPA, BIM and Wexford Local Link and in collaboration with community groups, national, regional and local agencies. More than 83 events for families and the general public are planned, including a sustainability science show, Meet the Environmental Scientist career talks, visit to a planetarium, Rivers and Lakes talk and Cool Planet Climate Change Workshops.

My Open Library Launch & Open Day

An Cathaoirleach, Gorey Municipal District, Cllr. Malcolm Byrne officially launched the **My open Library** in Gorey Library on Saturday 31 August. The event included a performance by Kilmuckridge Cool Hand Ukes, the official launch and an interactive storytelling event.

The **My Open Library** service has proven very popular since it began operation in March and members now have the option to use Gorey Library at times that suit them best. Library access to **My Open Library** members is available on a self-service basis from 8am-10pm seven days a week. Full staffed library opening hours remain in place Monday to Saturday. The national strategy for library development has a target of 100 participating open libraries in Ireland by 2022.

Kennedy Summer School

The Larkin Collection of Kennedy related books and documents was presented to Wexford County Council on Thursday 5th September as part of the Kennedy Summer School. This noteworthy collection was donated by historian Felix Larkin and makes a valuable addition to the New Ross Kennedy Book and Research Archive.

Summer Reading Challenge

Over 2,400 children took part in this year's Summer Reading Adventure in Wexford libraries -- our highest ever number of participants. Almost 900 participants in the adventure were new library members. This follows a major campaign in schools to promote this reading initiative over the summer that especially targeted non library users.

The Summer Reading Adventure is an important means of ensuring that children maintain and enhance their literacy levels over the summer as well as participating in one of the 160 fun events that take place in local libraries in County Wexford.

ARTS

'An Urgent Enquiry', Art & Biodiversity Residency, June- July 2019.

Wexford County Council Arts Office, in partnership with Fingal and Dublin City Councils, was awarded an Arts Council grant under the 'Invitation to Collaboration Scheme' for 3 artist residencies to explore art & biodiversity along our common eastern shorelines.

Artist Mark Clare was awarded the Wexford residency and was based in Carrig on Bannow for 3 months from May to July 2019. His residency was supported by the Arts and Environment departments and local experts in biodiversity. As part of this residency the artist offered free workshops to the general public led by invited experts who explored Wexford marine and plant life. All workshops were fully booked. They included:

- The Small thing matter workshop, phytoplankton, Stella Maris centre, Kilmore Quay, 29 June
- Seaweed foraging workshop, Baginbun beach, 6 July 2019
- Wild food walk, Tintern Abbey, 13 July 2019

During his residency, the artist also researched and made a short film on the solitary bee unique to Wexford and South Eastern shorelines. As part of his residency with support from the Environment Department, he did a public art intervention, which involved placing posters along 15 of Wexford's Blue Flag beaches, titled MISSING, showcasing this lesser known bee which nest in seashells, that is now on the endangered species listing. The artist will present further public outcomes of his research and residency in Wexford in the autumn along with the artists in the other local authorities. This will include a day long series of workshops for the public in Johnstown Castle on Saturday Sept 26 as part of their inaugural Bee festival www.urgentenquiry.ie

Music Generation

This partnership between Wexford County Council, Waterford Wexford ETB, and the national agency Music Generation promotes access to high quality performance music education for young people in County Wexford working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings. In addition to running singing and instrumental workshops in primary school countywide, additional activities were added for July and August 2019, these included

- Barnyard Sing-a-long children's singing camp based on farming and biodiversity in Wexford in Murphy's Barn from 8-10 July 2019
- Children's Drop in Opera Singing workshops were held in the National Opera House in June and July.
- Cool School of Rock Wexford at Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts took place on 12-16 August for 10 – 18 year olds.
- Taster workshop with musicians Emily Redmond, Justin Cullen, Dylan Tighe, the CAMHS mental health Team working with adolescents team (HSE) and the senior group of young people took place on the 21 August 2019.

Following an open call to all primary school earlier this year, 13 primary schools countywide were selected for a Music Generation Instrumental programme commencing autumn 2019.

Per Cent for Art Commissions, for M11 Enniscorthy & Gorey, three artists have been awarded art commissions valued at €20,000 each. One commission was completed in May 2019 and the other two are underway with communities in Gorey and Enniscorthy. The commissions are being managed by the Arts Office, Wexford County Council.

1. **Dispatch** – Pop-Up Post office- opened in Enniscorthy to coincide with the 'Strawberry Festival' on the June bank holiday weekend.
2. **Christine Mackey**
3. **Maria Mc Kinney**

2. Christine Mackey, 'Safe Hold – Pollinators Pastures', Art Project

Safe Hold involves the artist working with sites, local communities and bee-keeping associations in Gorey and Enniscorthy to raise awareness about the plight of bees or wild pollinators.

An outcome of the project will be the provision of permanent pollinating pastures. These pastures are being developed with local communities, via Tidy Towns Gorey, in collaboration with Wexford County Council Roads Department and the local authority's Biodiversity Planning Office. Fifteen public sites in Gorey town and outskirts were cleared and planted with seeds by the artists and Gorey Tidy Towns in May and June 2019. Sites in Enniscorthy have been identified and will be planted with seeds this autumn.

In July 2019 the artists facilitated a two week work camp with Gorey Youth Reach which focused on biodiversity and flora fauna loss. The camp culminated in a photographic exhibition in Gorey Library that ran for two weeks from 9th July.

3. Maria Mc Kinney Art Project

This project involves the artist working with farmers in the Gorey and Enniscorthy Municipal Districts areas. The project responds to the idea of changing agricultural practices and what is lost and what is gained as we look to the future. Over spring/summer 2019 Maria made contact with farmers and visited eight farms in both districts. There she interviewed each farmer, toured the farms and discussed agricultural practices both past and present.

From June to August 2019 the artist made a series of large wearable sculptures inspired by each participating farm in her studio. In autumn she will return to each farm with a bespoke sculpture inspired by each farm engagement. With the participation of each farmer, the artists will site and photograph each sculpture. Developing sculpture and photograph works out of this engagement will become part of a large scale exhibition to take place in County Hall Wexford and in Gorey, as well as in galleries nationally in 2020 and 2021.

Creative Ireland

Wexford County Council - Craft Scheme 2019

As part of Wexford's 2019 Creative Ireland programme, applications were sought for a grant scheme to strengthen the status of the craft and design sector as a vital part of cultural, social and economic life in county Wexford. The successful projects will develop public awareness of craft mediums, techniques and design processes and work with the community in exploring creativity and developing new skills:

- Friends of Rosslare Community Group Mosaic Project - €3,000
- Doreen Fitzmaurice Textile Craft Skills Project - €3,000
- Tomhaggard Women's Shed Felting Project - €1,900

FIRE SERVICE

News

The Fire Service in Wexford took delivery of a new Citroen van in July. Approval was given by the DHPLG for two new jeeps to service the new roadways due to be opened. These vehicles will hold additional equipment inclusive of cones and directional signage to help deal with road traffic accidents/collisions.

Fire Operations

There were 72 incidents in July as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls July 2019	Calls to date 2019	Calls to this period 2018
Chimney fire	0	79	92
Domestic fire	4	39	56
Road Traffic Accident	9	62	67
Industrial fire	2	7	7
Commercial fire	0	4	3
Assembly fire	0	0	2
Agricultural fire	0	1	4
Motor Vehicles	2	22	35
Forest/bog/grass etc	17	53	148
Rubbish	7	47	41
Non-fire rescues	8	19	20
False alarms – good intent	20	140	164
Malicious false alarms	0	0	3
Miscellaneous	3	46	46
Total	72	519	688

Fire Safety

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

Applications Received	Year to date	July
Fire Safety Certificates	72	9
Planning Referrals	592	120

Number of Inspections	Year to date	July
FSA Inspections	142	18

4. Transportation, Water Services:

COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

N25 New Ross By-Pass:

Progress Update August 2019

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is currently scheduled to be complete in quarter 4 of 2019. It is currently anticipated that the opening will be in November 2019.

Structural works for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge are almost complete and finishing works have commenced. The works monitoring regime identified an issue at one of the bridge deck supports, and corrective actions are currently underway. Upon completion of these corrective works, the final concrete stitch to fully connect the bridge deck will be completed. Preparatory finishing works such as edge parapets and waterproofing have already commenced. Other finishing works such as the installation of barriers, railings, surfacing, lighting, kerbing, lining, and monitoring equipment as well as final inspections will proceed over the coming months up to opening.

Some finishing works remain to be completed on the mainline road and new side roads, particularly elements of landscaping and accommodation works. Road safety audits are being conducted on all roads within the scheme. These audits are undertaken by an independent specialist team to identify and mitigate any potential safety hazards which may affect road users. The snagging of all works is also well advanced. Consultations have commenced with the local authorities and emergency services on emergency procedures, in the event for example of a major incident on the bypass that would require its closure and the operation of diversion routes through New Ross.

Subject to the confirmation of a closure order, the L4026 Stokestown Road will be closed to traffic for two weeks in mid-September to facilitate the completion of tie-in works. A closure notice has been published and diversion routes will be signposted. Local residents, businesses and bus operators have been notified and consulted. Final traffic management operations will be required during the coming two months on the N25 at Ballymacar, N30 at Corcoran's Cross and the L7513 Pink Rock Road to complete finishing works. These operations will be notified to motorists in the days before commencement.

A number of enquiries and requests have been received from local organisations and individuals about the possibility of organising community/charity events associated with the opening of the scheme. Consultations are ongoing with the other major project stakeholders; TII, PPP Co. & NRJV (Construction Contractor), about arrangements for a possible single large community/charity event before opening. Planning for an opening ceremony for the project has also commenced and a bridge dedication ceremony is also proposed for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge.



1. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – View from Stokestown side.



1. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – View from Pink rock side.

	<i>Total No of Landowners</i>	<i>Settled to date</i>
<i>M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>199</i>

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update

Program

M11, N80 Link and N30

The M11, N80 Link and N30 are now open to traffic. Works in relation to fencing, landscaping drainage and general housekeeping will be ongoing until contract completion in November 2019.

Side Roads

There are still outstanding works in relation to side roads which will involve the installation of Traffic Management on a temporary basis to enable the works to be carried out safely.

R772 (old Enniscorthy to Oilgate Road)

Works are ongoing in relation to the construction of an agriculture underpass on the R772. Once these works are completed the Traffic Management will be removed. These works will be completed before the end of September.

Liaison Office

Wexford County Council is continuing to liaise with the public in relation to any issues that they may have in relation to the scheme.

2019 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

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 Ballynaslaney to Kyle Upper
- N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.

This scheme was tendered in July. A contractor is due to be appointed. This scheme will commence in September with a 12 week works programme.

N11 Ballynaslaney to Kyle Upper

This scheme was tendered in July. A contractor has been appointed. This scheme will commence in September with an 8 week works programme.

N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

This scheme is at design stage. TII Bridge Section has to carry out site investigation works in advance of tendering this scheme. This scheme should be tendered in the third quarter of the year.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2

Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present.

This scheme has been postponed until 2020.

Public Lighting LED Upgrade

Works have commenced on the 2019 upgrade which will involve the replacement of up to 3,400 lanterns in Gorey, Courtown, Riverchapel, Ferns and Enniscorthy.

All the lanterns have been designed and delivered. Over 2,000 lanterns have been installed to date.

Installation of the lanterns should be completed by mid-September.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Resurfacing/Strengthening

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

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last 2 months were: Castlebridge Road and Newtown Road (both in Wexford District); Esmonde Road (Enniscorthy District); Ballyhackbeg to St Leonards and Michael Street (New Ross District)

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 10 June. Roads completed in the last two months: Rathmacknee to Ballykilliane; Libgate to Rickardstown Bridge; Scar Cross to Coolycall Bridge; Ballycogley; Baldwinstown; Kitestown to Newcastle; Killurin; Ardcavan to Ballycrane; Galbally to Curracloe (all in Wexford District). Ramsgrange to Ballysallagh; Fethard to Graigue; Ballyverroge to Tellarought; Newcastle to Newbawn; Pollmounty; and Ballinlug to Glenglass (all in New Ross District). Ballyhighland; Rathfyllane; Kiltealy; Boolamore; Woodbrook; Ballinastraw; Kilmyshal; Monart; Coolcarney; Ballybrennan; Sparrowsland; Tomalosset; Killabeg; Solsborough to Crane; Kilnahanagh to Bolaboy (all in Enniscorthy District)

General Maintenance

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

A. Irish Water – Asset Delivery

Irish Water Capital Schemes

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.

New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.

Planning permission was submitted by Irish Water Consultant, Nicholas O'Dwyer in May, 2019. Additional Information requested from WCC Planning for an additional environmental report. Tender documents being compiled by the Consultant with additional requirements from Irish Rail to be incorporated. New infrastructure expected to be operational in 2022.

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 originally due to be completed in December 2019, but manhole and other surveys deferred by Irish Water from August 2019 to restart in Wexford in January 2020.

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 7,500m³ 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. The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. The contract has been awarded to Glan Agua with works expected to start on site in October/November 2019. Plant expected to be operational in early 2022.

IW Asset Delivery: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon:

The project has been tendered and a preferred contractor has been selected. An application for planning permission has been granted by Wexford County Council. It is envisaged that construction will commence in early 2020 with the new plant operational by 2021.

Kilmore Quay:

The scheme design is complete and ready to tender. Land acquisition is being finalised and planning documentation being prepared.

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 Water Main Rehabilitation Project in Carrigbyrne, approximately 1km long.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan

This project has successfully passed into Phase 2, detailed design which is commencing in Q4 2019.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

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

1. Proposed decommissioning works at Redwood Park WWTP (providing IW with schedule of works and quotation, meeting with Irish Water to be set up on site).
2. WWPS remedial works (snag list) and landscaping works ongoing. Contractor defects liability phase in operation until May 2020.
3. Quotation for installation of SCADA with IW for review.

Somer's Way Rising Main, Ballycullane

1. Contractor in place for rising main, formal contract pending agreement of insurances.
2. Road opening licence application submitted.
3. Issue with private access to plant addressed by Property Management and Wayleave signed by landowner Wednesday 24th April.

Somer's Way WWTP, Ballycullane

1. MEICA works (pumps and associated equipment) for conversion of WWTP to a pumping station out for pricing.
2. Associated civils works out for pricing.

Fairgreen WWTP, Ballycullane

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

Ravenswood WWTP, Glynn

1. Site fencing and entrance gate works completed.
2. Percolation area and concrete works completed – snagging to be carried out.
3. MEICA upgrade works completed – snagging to be carried out.

Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station

1. Contractors on site in July/August to re-commission odour filter, and removing redundant RBI.
2. HSQE works in foul sump being priced.

3. Generator defective switch-gear, fuel line and engine heater (identified by scheduled service) replacement works required. Procurement of fuel line and engine heater complete, expected on site in September. Generator switch-gear out for pricing.

Sinnottstown Lane Wastewater Pumping Station

1. New pump design and PS review completed based on actual current on-site flows including current on-going developments upstream. Quotations received from contractors, and assets needs brief currently being prepared for consideration by Irish Water under both capital maintenance and growth budgets.

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: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Disinfection works at Chestnut Grove, Woodview Drive, Raheen, Edermine, Monagear, Davidstown, Ballinellard, Boolavogue Camolin, Terrerath, Clonroche, Bree, Kilmuckridge Coolgreaney, Camolin, Castledockrell and Ballindaggin commissioned but require process proving.

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

ESB to attend site at Killagoley and instrumentation required.

Works partially complete at Creagh and Carrigbyrne .

IW Asset Planning: Treated Water Storage

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

Water Network Program

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

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

Capital Maintenance Budget

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

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

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

Blackstairs Group Water Scheme

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

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Awaiting confirmation on allocations from the DHPLG.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Responses forwarded to Irish Water on queries in regard to takeover applications.

5. Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2018 - Audit

The 2018 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) will formally commence on 30th August and this is expected to be concluded over the coming months. The statutory Audit Report will be brought to members and the Audit Committee once the audit is complete.

Finance Report Q2 – To 30th June 2019

The quarterly Finance Report for the period to the end of June 2019 has been prepared and is included on the CPG Agenda for consideration and discussion by members. The report sets out the overall financial position of the Revenue and Capital Account, Debtors and Housing Loans Activity at the midway point of the financial year.

Audit Committee

Nominees for the posts of external members for the new Audit Committee are the subject of a report to members for the September meeting. Once the formal approval of the council to the membership arrangements will be made to facilitate the first meeting of the new Audit Committee to be scheduled in October. A date will be agreed with the incoming members.

Rates Revaluation

The Rates Revaluation process being completed by the Commissioner of Valuation is due to be completed in mid September. Final certificates are to be issued to all rated occupiers and will involve a 28 day appeal period for those wishing to appeal the final result to the Valuation Tribunal. The Council must wait for the final outcome of the Revaluation process to formally determine the final ARV (Annual Rate on Valuation) to be applied in the county for 2020, using the provision of the Rates Limitation Order. One of the principles associated with the process is that the local authority cannot increase the total Rates Value in the year immediately following the Revaluation except by criteria as determined by the Rates Limitation Order associated with the Valuation Acts governing the process. Therefore, once the final ARV is determined by the Rates Limitation Order the council cannot approve any additional increase/decrease the ARV as part of the Budget process.

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

Representatives from the Valuation Office will be updating members in advance of the final certificates being issued to provide information on the outcomes of the Revaluation etc and to facilitate this they will be in attendance at the start of the September meeting.

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

Rebuilding Housing Loan (RIHL) Allocation

The formal allocation for the RIHL housing loans has been received from the DHPLG and the associated borrowing requirement is included for discussion and approval of members at the September meeting.

Local Property Tax

The public consultation to seek submission in advance of the members decision on the LPT local variation factor commenced in early July is now complete and will form part of the LPT discussions listed on the agenda for the September Council meeting. The LPT variation factor must be decided before the end of September to meet DHPLG and Revenue timelines.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

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

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**