



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 12.02.24

CONTENTS:

	Page
Economic Development	3
Planning	9
Water Services	15
Roads & Transportation	18
Capital Housing	28
Capital Projects	34
Housing	46
Community	52
Environment	58
Libraries/Arts/Archives	70
Fire Services	74
Ukrainian Response Update	77
Corporate Activities	80
Finance	87

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local Enterprise Office

Wexford LEO outperforms again in Job Creation

Wexford LEO is delighted to be ranked 2nd nationally in terms of net job creation with total jobs created 328 a net job figure of 177. Key sectors driving employment numbers in Wexford LEO supported businesses (as a % of net jobs) include Food 70%, Engineering 12%, Manufacturing 8%, Life Science/MedTech 4% and Green 2%. The new figures show that the LEO Wexford financially supported 235 small businesses across the county with these businesses employing a total of 1,940 staff.

This is the fourth year running that Wexford LEO has been in the top 3 for job creation in the country. Local Enterprise Offices across the country continues its 10th year of consecutive job growth, contributing to the creation of 6,640 jobs in 2023, which saw a 6% increase in employment from 2022.

Nationally, there was a net employment gain of 2,131 for the year. The figures also show that 82% of new jobs created by LEO client companies were outside of Dublin. The LEOs worked with 7,167 companies throughout 2023 supporting 38,726 jobs

Sean Kehoe of Wexford company MachineLab (centre) joined Minister for State for Business, Employment and Retail, Neale Richmond at the announcement of the Local Enterprise Office Employment results for 2023.



Wexford Key Performance Metrics 2023

As part of the SLA with Enterprise Ireland, LEO Wexford is tasked with the delivery of key performance metrics which encompass the number of jobs created and the delivery of key strategic priorities to support SME's with a focus on...

- Sustainability
- export development
- the integration of digitalisation
- LEAN principles for efficiency

LEO Wexford approved grant aid of just under €884,000 to assist business to realise their ambitions. 174 clients availed of 422 mentor sessions across various disciplines. Over 102 training programmes were delivered including upskills and building capacity around areas such as financial management, digital marketing and technology. Over the course of the year, the LEO proactivity worked with 68 owner/managers to develop their management capability with an emphasis on strategy, leadership and innovation.



SHOWCASE 2024 - Wexford Business Makes the Headlines!

Sully and Juno, a pioneering sensory-inclusive clothing design business supported by LEO Wexford recently won Best Newcomer at the inaugural “Business of Craft Awards” at RDS Showcase 2024. Sully and Juno overcame stiff competition from 105 competing craft and design businesses to come away with the award.

Showcase 2024 is an important event in the annual calendar for Local Enterprise businesses in the craft and design sector as it affords them the opportunity to meet with buyers from all over the world over the three days of the event. LEO Wexford supported 3 client companies Sully & Juno, WeirdWatercolours and Jumbleink to take part this year working closely with them to prepare for the event and maximise networking and sales opportunities from the event.





This award for Sully and Juno coupled with their success at the National Enterprise Award in June 2023 has resulted in significant national coverage for the business across social media over the past 6 months with the latest award resulting in features in the Sunday Business Post and on RTE radio 1's Countrywide and RTE Nationwide, where the promoters credited LEO Wexford for the support and assistance they have received.



Local Enterprise Week 2024 is an annual initiative supported by a national marketing campaign by the LEO Network, Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to highlight the supports available to businesses across the country. **The week runs from March 4th to 8th March** with a full programme of events available for booking online on the LEO Website. The Extensive Schedule of Events is as follows;

Date	Event	Description
Monday 4.03.2024	Introduction To Google Analytics	This course will help participants develop a basic understanding of Google Analytics 4 and how it works.
Monday 4.03.2024	Digitalisation with Scurri	Embark on an Entrepreneurial Journey with Rory founder of Scurri: Unveiling the Founder's Story & Beyond. Rory is joined by his management team for an insightful panel discussion covering pivotal topics such as Marketing, UK Market penetration, Team Building, Cultivating Company Culture, and Scaling Strategies.
Tuesday 05.03.2024	Supper with Blaise Brosnan - Mastering Entrepreneurship: Building Your Own Path to Wealth	A LEO Wexford Alumni event for business owners and managers, hosted by Blaise Brosnan of The Management Resource Institute, who will speak on the theme of Wealth Creation for Business Owners.
Tuesday 05.03.2024	Business Advice Clinic	This FREE service gives entrepreneurs an opportunity to discuss their idea/business confidentially and seek further information on LEO supports and services. Meetings can be arranged with Business Advisors on a one-to-one basis for up to 60 minutes
Tuesday 05.03.2024	Start Your Own Business	A Start Your Own Business course aimed at anyone who is thinking of starting their own business or has recently started a business
Wednesday 06.03.2024	Trading Online Voucher Seminar	This workshop aims to educate the potential Trading Online Voucher applicant as to how the voucher is to be used and how to complete the application form.
Thursday 07.03.2024	Student Enterprise Programme – County Final	The County Wexford finals of the Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) where second level students will showcase their businesses in a bid to reach the national finals of this annual entrepreneurship competition. This programme encourages entrepreneurship and business skills that are necessary to found and run enterprises with the support of teachers and classmates.
Friday 08.03.2024	International Women's Day	A breakfast event in association with Wexford Chamber to celebrate female entrepreneurship and female-led businesses throughout County Wexford on the theme of #InspireInclusion
Friday 08.03.2024	How to Tender Successfully	This workshop will help participants gain an understanding of the public tendering market in Ireland and how it relates to their business.

LEO National Marketing Campaign Promoting Efficiency Supports



Phase 2 of the National Marketing Campaign, titled 'All in a Day's Work,' commenced in January 2024 and will extend over a six-week period, with further activity throughout 2024. The primary objective of this campaign is to increase awareness and adoption of our Lean for Business and Digital for Business support initiatives. Additionally, it focuses on the advantages of sustainability by promoting Green for Business practices, particularly emphasising their role in enhancing competitiveness and productivity.

Channels optimised: The campaign will run across various channels, including social media platforms, digital marketing such as SEO/VOD and display advertising, strategic partnerships, radio broadcasts, and print media.

Local Engagement Initiatives: Wexford LEO is collaborating closely with Enterprise Ireland to showcase Wexford clients within the campaign framework, thus enhancing local participation alongside the overarching national campaign.

South East Offshore Wind Taskforce

Wexford County Council was delighted to host the inaugural meeting of the South East Offshore Wind Taskforce in the Council Chamber on 31st January. Chaired by David Dempsey the taskforce is made up of representatives from industry, education, local authorities and State agencies within the region.



Trinity Wharf

The Trinity Wharf development is a critical step toward activating greater economic activity in Wexford and the wider South East Region. Following a tender process amongst providers on the OGP framework, Deloitte LLP are the successful tenderer and have been appointed to provide financial advisory and project management services to this major urban regeneration and development project. The initial meeting with Deloitte took place at the beginning of February with Wexford County Council to initiate this aspect of the project which will explore financial and business models.

GSU / Adoration Convent

A delegation from GSU consisting of Trip Addison, Vice President, University Advancement; Justin Janney, Associate VP/ Chief Financial Officer; Matthew Shingler, Director, Facilities Planning, Design and Construction and Howard Keeley, Director, Irish Research and Teaching arrived in Wexford on Monday 30th January for technical review and progress meetings in connection with the Adoration Convent student accommodation project. During their visit the delegation were also hosted by Waters Technology for a briefing and site tour. It is hoped to deepen the relationship between GSU and Waters with the opportunity for GSU students to apply for summer internships with the company.



Regeneration Unit

Town Centre First

Enniscorthy Castle was the fitting venue for the official launch of the Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan. The plan sets out a framework for regeneration.



Town Centre First plans are mentioned extensively in the recent RRDF fifth Call for Category 1 funding applications. A strong application is going in for New Ross under the RRDF programme with a deadline for submission of applications set as 8th February. We are currently awaiting the call for the URDF funding application programme and Enniscorthy has been prioritised for submission through this process.

Vacant Homes

To enhance awareness and support for owners of vacant/derelict properties and sites, the Regeneration Unit is planning a series of Roadshows scheduled for March 2024. These informative events will span the 5 Districts, aiming to enlighten the public about various grants and programmes tailored to address vacant and derelict properties, ultimately contributing to the reduction of Vacancy Levels in Co Wexford.

As part of our comprehensive outreach initiative, we are collaborating with the Planning Department to craft a detailed brochure encompassing all essential information. This brochure will not only be distributed during the Roadshow events but will also be made available at our District offices. Additionally, it serves as the cornerstone for our Marketing Package, which will be strategically utilised across various media channels, including an update to our web pages to ensure seamless reflection of the available assistance.

Current Wexford Crói Cónaithe Stats as at 29th January 2024.

Actions	Number
Applications Received	230
Approved	101
Refused	2
Grants paid out	11
Awaiting Inspection	5
Awaiting Information from Applicant	124
Queries received via email to date	Over 2,500
Outstanding Queries	26

Ready to Build.

In relation to Ready to Build we are looking at some possibilities for 2024. Brief details of Ready to Build are as below,

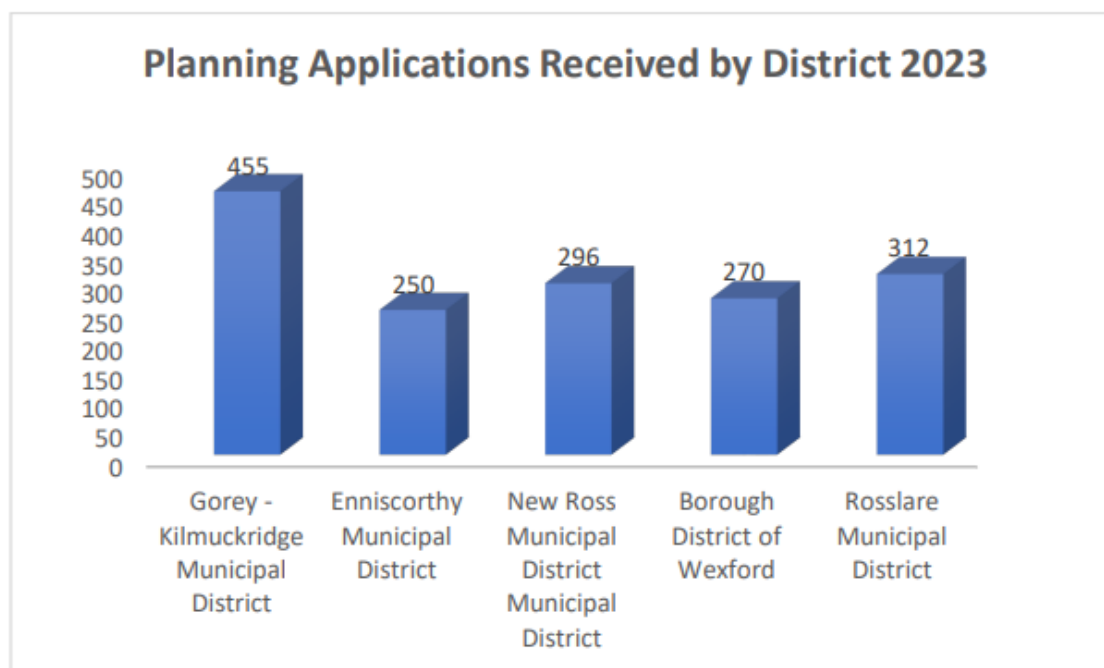
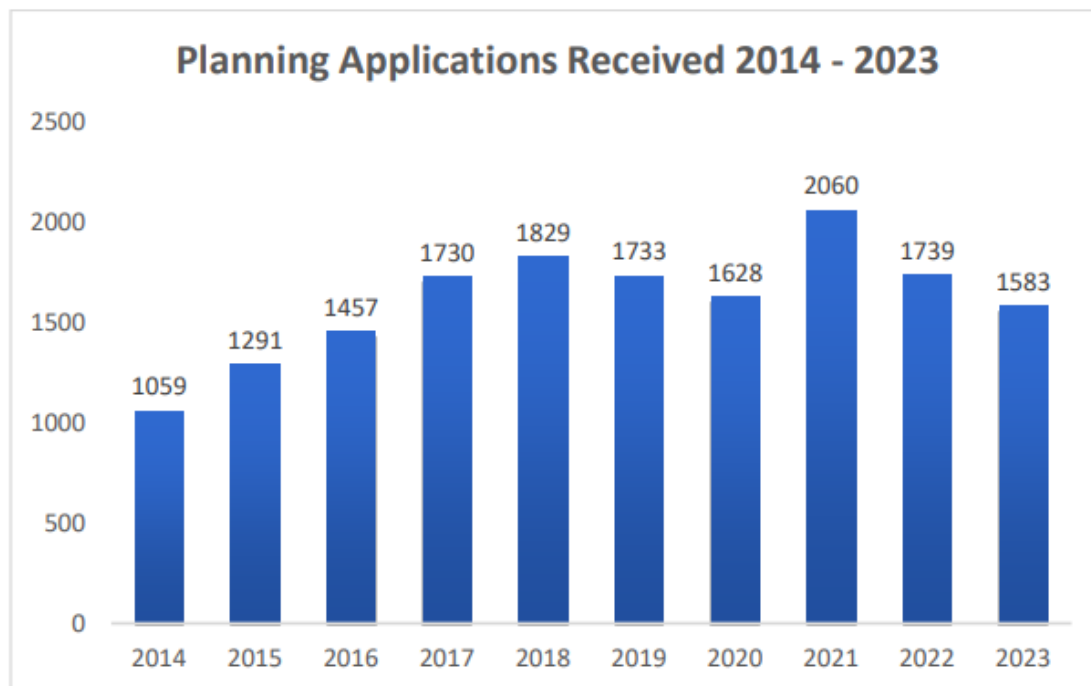
- Local authorities will make available serviced sites at reduced cost to support self-build home ownership.
- The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the LA before the sale of the site but will not exceed €30,000 (being the max amount the Local Authority can claim from Dept to get services to the site).
- Have direct access to adequate mains water supply and mains wastewater disposal infrastructure.
- Local Authorities will manage the prioritisation of applicants in line with the framework of priorities as outlined by Department of Housing LG and Heritage.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 16th of December 2023 until the 26th of January 2024.

No. of valid applications	106
No. of invalid applications	11
Extension of Duration	6
Exempted Development Declaration	4



- 1583 No. Planning Applications received.
(Permission, Permission for Retention, Outline Planning Permission & Permission Consequent on Grant of Outline Planning Permission).
- 73 No. Exempted Development Applications received.
- 29 No. Extension of Duration Applications received.
- 345 No. Pre-planning Applications received.
- 414 No. Pre-planning Applications closed.
- 60 No. Major Pre-planning Meetings held.

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2024 until the 26th of December 2024

No. of valid applications	54
No. of invalid applications	9
Extension of Duration	6
Exempted Development Declaration	3

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 26th of January 2024

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2024	20
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2024	21
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 26/01/2024	45
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	77 days

Major Pre-Planning Data 2024 (up to 26th January 2024)

- Meetings Held 7 No.
- Proposed Commercial Development 500 sqm. approx.
- Total No. of proposed Housing Units 61 units approx.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures, URDF and Short-Term Letting

Report from 16th December 2023 to 26th January 2024 as follows:

Derelict Sites

- Number of Properties on the Derelict Site Register 85
- Number of Section 8(2) Notices issued 8
- Number of Section 8(7) Notices issued 4
- Number of Section 11 Notices issued 9
- Number of inspections / site visits conducted 38
- Number of Derelict files opened 10
- Number of Derelict files closed 11

Urban Development and Regeneration Fund Call 3 (URDF)

- Number of sites approved on the programme 169.
- Number of sites referred to Property Management Unit for possible CPO (focus list)
 - Enniscorthy 7
 - Gorey 6
 - New Ross 21
 - Wexford 12

Short-Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 26TH January 2024 are as follows:

- Live Cases 11 (2020 - 2024)

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

- Draft maps for 2024 published 1st February 2024 on Wexford County Consultation Portal. Consultation on Draft Maps open until 1st April 2024.

Building Control (16th December 2023 – 26th January 2024)

- Validated Commencement Notices: 40
- Number of Building Control Inspections: 11
- Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: 16

Planning Enforcement

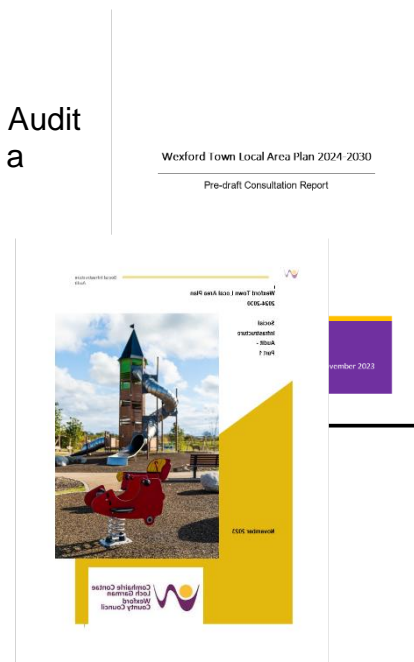
The number of planning enforcement cases as of 26th of January 2024 are as follows:

- Live Cases 359
- Cases Opened from 1st January 2024 16
- Cases Closed from 1st January 2024 17

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The Pre-draft Consultation Report and the Social Infrastructure Audit were presented to the Members of Wexford Borough District at a meeting held on Monday, the 20th of November. The Pre-draft Consultation Report was also considered at the January monthly meeting of Wexford County Council. The report provides an overview of the public and other stakeholder consultation undertaken and a summary of the issues raised in the 73 written submissions and observations that were received. The Social Infrastructure Audit provides the evidence-base to identify where there is a current provision or under provision of social infrastructure. The outputs of the audit will help to determine future social infrastructure requirements and assist in the spatial planning of the town including the implementation of the 10-minute town concept. The Infrastructural Assessment Report is almost complete. As required, all lands in the study area have been examined to determine if the lands are currently serviced or could be serviced during the plan period. The outputs of this assessment will be an important consideration in the land use zoning and phasing in the Draft LAP.



The Local Transport Plan is progressing well with the Baseline and Context Reports almost complete. Work has commenced on the Options Report. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also underway. The consultants have carried out their initial review and walk over of the town.

Initiation meetings have been held with the consultants that will be responsible for Urban Design Strategy (including the Master Planning of the S.E.T.U/Ballynagee area and Town Centre First Strategy) and for the Rainwater Management Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy and work will be getting underway on both strategies in the coming weeks.

Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Local Transport Plan for the LAP.

Section 25A Report on the Implementation of the Objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy of the Southern Region

Section 25A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires that, every two years, a local authority must submit a report to the Regional Assembly setting out progress made in supporting the objectives, relevant to the Council, of the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Work is ongoing on the preparation of the report.

Planning CSO Returns 2023

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

Month	Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	One-off Houses
January	50	3	26
February	15	1	17
March	154	30	33
April	156	89	16
May	65	30	26
June	6	2	25
July	155	16	22
August	14	22	28
September	12	9	19
October	4	9	21
November	138	9	21
December	10	5	13
TOTAL	779	225	267

* Figures to 31 December 2023

- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use.

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2024 up to and including 26th of January 2024, totals **14**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	2	2	0	0	0
Gorey	1	1	0	0	0
New Ross	0	0	0	0	0
Wexford	11	10	1	0	0
Rosslare	0	0	0	0	0
2024 Totals	14	13	1	0	0

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	23
Major Pre-Planning (from 1st January 2024)	1

Access Items

Have Your Say Survey

The Access Section wishes to extend its thanks to the Libraries, Borough and Municipal Districts and to all staff who assisted with our Have Your Say Survey in December.

We have received 55 submissions from across the County highlighting the issues that are affecting people while trying to access local services, and we will be using this information to formulate a work programme for Access for All in 2024.

The Access Office have also met with several local community groups as part of our public consultation process, to increase our awareness of challenges that impact on people with disabilities in County Wexford. We have had great engagement and feedback so far, and hope to be able to build on this in 2024.


Water Services



1. Rural Water Programme

Water Services



1. Rural Water	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<p>➤ Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole. ○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution. ○ Communication has been received from the Dept. regarding reallocate funding to nitrate monitoring. ○ Group Scheme Committee is in discussions with Employer's Representative TJ O'Connor's and Contractor EPS regarding obtaining a detailed quotation for the proposed nitrate monitor installation at the WTP. ○ GWS received a quotation from EPS for the full installation of the Nitrate Removal System. This shall be submitted as part of the next MARWP submissions. WCC has asked the GWS to confirm with EPS as to whether the nitrate monitor can be installed prior to the main nitrate removal system. If so, these works could potentially be carried out under this MARWP cycle.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<p>➤ Blackstairs GWS</p> <p>➤ New Manager appointed in December 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage Tank – WCC received estimate to carry out bypass of tank. ○ Currently drafting drawings and tender documents to take to 5 contractors for quotations. ○ Reservoir Bypass -Contractor broke ground in early January. Estimate works complete by end of Qtr. 1 weather permitting.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<p>➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned. ○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. ○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites. ○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendments were made to scope of SI and project re-tendered; submission closes 2nd June. ○ SI re-tender completed; 3 submissions received are currently being reviewed. ○ IGSL Ltd awarded contract ○ ROL submitted by IGSL, awaiting response from RMO. ○ Landowner negotiations ongoing with Committee.
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MARWP 2024-2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dept. announced new round of programme on 19th January 2024. ○ Dept arranging workshops for RW staff in coming weeks.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Well Grants ➤ Dept. still to announce details of updated well grant programme, not included in MARWP announcement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 22 new well grant applications were registered in January 2024 ○ 24 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €48,045. ○ 59 inspections carried out in January. ○ Workflow prototype has been developed to final stage – due to staff shortages IT have not been able to finalise yet.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 ○ Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme. ○ Awaiting update on programme.
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 applications received to date on revised grant, 5 paid, 2 approved, 1 awaiting further documents.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Ground Investigation on-site works are due to recommence in coming months. Laboratory testing is ongoing. The majority of the laboratory testing has been completed. Draft factual report is expected to be received in coming weeks.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing. Scope for 2024 traffic surveys is being prepared by Technical Advisors. 2024 traffic surveys are needed to update/validate the Traffic Model.
- Archaeological Geophysical Surveys are near completion.
- Additional Topographical Surveys are near completion.
- The design of the development is progressing.
- Departures from standard applications are being dealt with by the Project Team and are expected to be re-submitted to TII's approval in due course.
- Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.
- Slaney Bridge Options Report is completed. Recommendation for the most appropriate bridge type over the River Slaney is expected in coming weeks.
- Preparation of the Periodic Report in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding is near completion and will be submitted to EU Commission by the 9th February 2024.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

- Phase 4 deliverables and processes are completed within reporting period.
- On 12th of January 2024, Phase 4 deliverables including Phase 4 Gate Review Statement, Procurement Strategy and Request for approval to commence Land & Property acquisition has been submitted to TII for formal review and approval.
- Approval to commence Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement is pending and is expected in coming weeks.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2022 Safety Schemes

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,590,000)

This scheme was tendered in November 2021. Works commenced on 23 May 2022. The roundabout is substantially completed.

Works outstanding: Landscaping works to be completed by March (Planting in January and February. Grass seeding in March).

N30 Tominearly

Feasibility and Options report approved by TII. Works will proceed in early 2024 subject to funding.

N25 Tagoat

Consultants have carried out a design work for new bus shelters and traffic calming alterations for here. We will need to forward a feasibility and options report to TII for the bus shelters element of the works initially to allow this to progress.

2023 Pavement Schemes

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 2 - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme has been tendered and awarded. Construction is expected to commence in February.

N25 Orristown to Ashfield Cross Pavement Scheme - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme is being designed at present and we expect to tender it in early February.

HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly Pavement Scheme – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost is €1,000,000).

This has been tendered and the contractor has been appointed.

Construction is expected to commence in April.

Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

- R772 Tinnock to Gorey (1.4km)
- R723 Rosbercon (0.8km).

50% of scheme funding in the sum of €500,000 was received for the R772 Tinnock scheme. A consultant has been appointed to look at the possibility of including a cycle facility as part of the scheme.

The funding was allocated to the R723 Rosbercon and the scheme was tendered and awarded. Works are due to commence in February.

VRS (Vehicle Restraint System – Safety Barrier) Maintenance

This contract commenced in 2023. To date 15 locations on the N11, N80 and N25 are complete under Planned Maintenance. One location was completed as an emergency replacement on the N11. This contract is ongoing.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant 2024 allocations are expected to be announced later this month. Wexford's allocation for 2023 was €22,811,650.

This allocation included €1,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage and €1,500,000 for the Deeps Bridge remediation works.

The Deeps Bridge allocation was increased to €2,500,000 in October 2023. The strengthening programme received an additional €822,816 allocation in July and a further €365,500 in December 2023.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2024 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on the 8 January at Ballynancoran.

The Municipal Districts are assessing roads and preparing their 2024 programmes.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month were:
Ballynancoran; Dunishal; Brideswell Big; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge); Bree Lane; Raheenahoon; Graigue Beg; Corragh; Woodlands; Boolabawn; (All in Enniscorthy District).

Surface Dressing Works

The Municipal Districts are assessing roads and preparing their 2024 programmes.

Community Involvement Schemes

A grant of about €600,000 is anticipated for 2024.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Wexford County Council's application for 22 bridge repairs in 2024 for a grant of €793,000 is under consideration by the Department.

Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. It is hoped work will commence works in Q2/Q3 of 2024.

Specific Improvement Grants

Wexford County Council's application for 3 specific improvement grants in 2024 are under consideration by the Department.

- Owenduff river embankment stabilisation (undermining the R733)
- Grange Beach Coastal Protection (Undermining the L8115)
- Kildavin Bridge & associated retaining walls repairs.

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council's application for 22 projects in 2024 for a grant of €795,500 is under consideration by the Department.

Local Improvement Schemes

A list of applicants is maintained in order of date received. A programme of lane resurfacing will be drafted when Department funding is announced.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance commenced the 16 October 2023 and will continue to 30 April 2024. There have been 39 salt treatments to date.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Active Travel Schemes

Newtown Road (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

Works have progressed on footpath improvements and new protected cycle path on the Newtown Road. Construction began on the southern side of the road between the Maldron Hotel to the Apple Green Service station near Coolcott's Lane. Sections of footpath have been broken out, new in-situ kerbing, cycle path delineator and new footpaths have been poured.

Two new bus stops will be provided outside the Maldron Hotel, one on either side of the road. These are to facilitate passengers alighting and departing from buses and will provide shelter while they wait on the arrival of buses.

At this location there will be a safe crossing provided to assist bus passengers who are currently crossing four lanes of traffic just off a busy roundabout. The works area has been fenced and

clearance begun on the southern elevation. Wexford County Council intend to have the bus stops in place before end of March 2024.

Construction of the footpaths on the northern side of the Newtown Road will commence in early February. Two-way traffic flow is being maintained in so far as possible for the duration of the works to minimise impact on traffic in the vicinity.



New footpaths with delineator kerb and sub base of new cycle paths at Newtown Road

Newtown Road Phases Two and Three

Phases Two and Three of the Newtown Road cycle scheme will involve the continuation of the above-mentioned footpath upgrade and protected cycle way along by the Racecourse to the Hospital Junction and from there towards the town centre to Wygram.

These schemes are at detailed design stage with work commencing on preparation of tender documents. The scheme will pass through the junction at Wexford General Hospital /Carricklawn which will see a major upgrade to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians as they move through the junction. This will be undertaken as part of the connectivity across town on the Beechlawn to Clonard Cycle Scheme.

Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme

Active Travel is currently finalising the options report for the Beechlawn Clonard Cycle scheme focusing particularly on major junctions to get cyclist and pedestrians through safely, also looking at permeability connecting the many residential areas and schools to the scheme. It will commence at the junction at Newtown Road/Carricklawn at Wexford General Hospital where we are exploring options based on the new Cycle Design Manual. From there it traverses through Carricklawn and Beechlawn through Clonard Avenue and terminating at Kennedy Park National School at Whitemill South.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SRTS

Safe Routes to School – Construction outside St. Mary's National School, Rosslare Strand is now complete with enhanced safety for pedestrians and cyclists at the front of the school. Car parking is now further away from the school frontage to discourage engines idling which results in poor air quality. Ample parking is available a very short distance away in front of the community centre. A new footpath at Mauritiustown has also been provide enhancing the link from this residential area to the village centre and to the footpath network offering connectivity to the school and other village facilities.

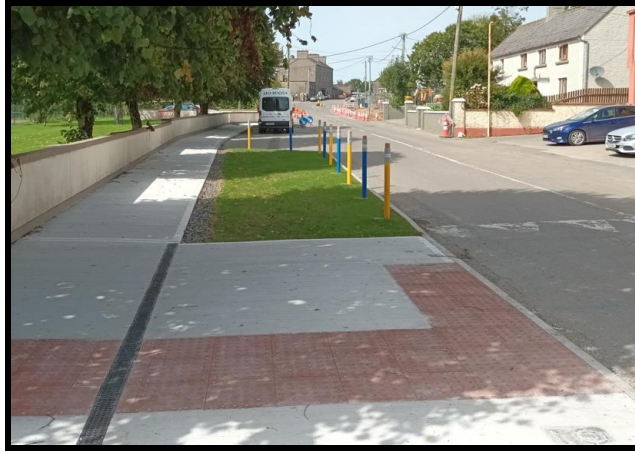


Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare – completed works



Front of school improvements at St. Amry's National School Rosslare Strand and footpaths at Mauritiustown enhancing connectivity back to the village centre

Safe Routes to School - Scoil Naomh Abbáin, Adamstown National School – works are now complete and have enhanced safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists. Significant upgrades to pedestrian crossings serving both the primary school and secondary school have been provided and set back of walls and boundaries to improve sightlines at the main village junction. Additional funding will be allocated in 2024 to complete footpaths outside the petrol station to further enhance pedestrian safety in the village.



St. Aidan's, Enniscorthy, Safe Routes to School scheme. Works are expected to be completed in Feb 2024 after the scheme was extended to include new footpaths in St. Aidan's Villas and new pedestrian crossings at top of Bohreen Hill.

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

Proposals for improvements to active travel facilities at Roxborough, Wexford Town from Drinagh to Maudlintown are being developed. An options report was submitted to the National Transport Authority which received their approval. The next step is to carry out the preliminary design followed thereafter by proceeding to a Part 8 Planning process which is anticipated to commence in April 2024.

As the National Transport Authority have indicated that annual allocation of funding will remain at current levels in the coming years, construction will be subject to available funding.

Wexford County Council have requested that the scheme extends to include the junction at the Faythe.

Wexford Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

A draft Options Development is now complete for the Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment which will help to inform sustainable mobility policy into the future. The draft will be presented to Management in the coming weeks for discussion before presentation to the National Transport Authority and Elected Members.

Enniscorthy Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

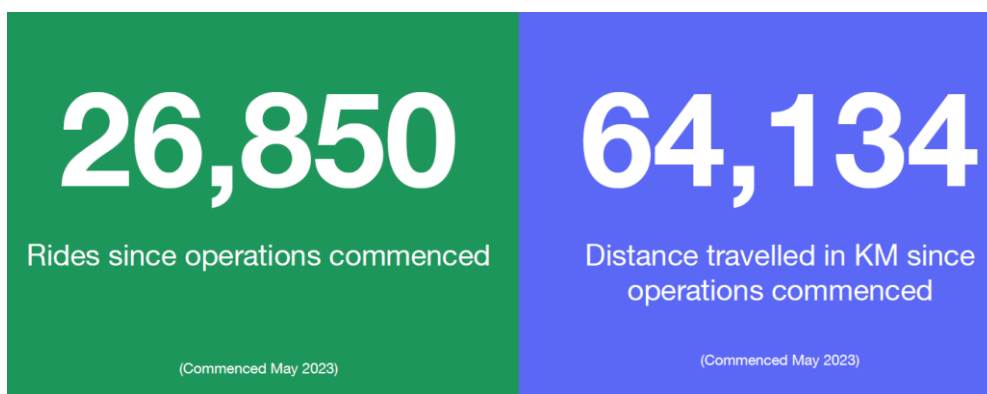
Arup Consulting are currently working with the Active Travel team to develop a Baseline report for the Enniscorthy Area Based Transport Assessment following an initial meeting in Enniscorthy in December 2023. Stakeholders for the study will be agreed in February. The transport assessment will be used to inform sustainable transport policy into the future.

Public eBike sharing scheme

There is currently a fleet of 50 bikes in operation while winter maintenance is ongoing to the larger fleet. This will return to 80 bikes in the coming weeks and subsequently increase to 110 bikes in the spring / summer.

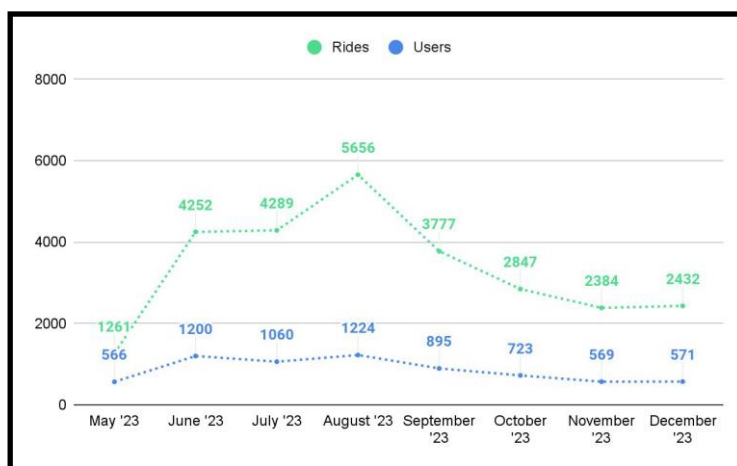
New parking locations have been agreed with Wexford County Council and are being installed at present.

Coordination with the Fleadh committee will be conducted to determine demand management, temporary parking locations and alterations to cycling zones.



Over 64,000 km has been travelled by Bolt bike users in Wexford town since the trial began





Above some interesting statistics showing usage since May 2024. Numbers dropped in November/December

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 12,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

Design works are completed.

92.6% of lanterns have been upgraded to LED to date.

We have applied to TII for funding to upgrade the lights on the 3 roundabouts on the M11 at Scurlocksbush, Templescoby and Milehouse to Led.

We hope to get the remaining non-national road lanterns upgraded to Led by the end of 2025.

Below is a table showing the energy cost savings from the Led programme.

Year	No. of lanterns in charge	Energy Costs	Cost per lantern
2017	14,115	€912,512.70	€64.65
2023	15,805	€593,433.47	€37.55

35% reduction despite increased energy rates since 2017.

2017 equivalent energy costs for 15,805 lanterns would be €1,021,767 giving a real time saving of €428,335 or 47%.

Cost savings are being used to fund the public lighting development programme including infill lighting where required. It will also be required to fund cable repairs on the older cable networks in the towns which cable faults are increasing year on year.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting will be installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund.


- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch. Lighting design completed with tender received. One more price awaited.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – works to commence in early February.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove – works to commence early February.
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road - Lights were energised in January.
- Wexford Town - Kennedy Park - Lights were energised in January.
- Ballymittie – civils and lights erected, ESB connection expected within the next fortnight.
- Redshire Rd, Murrintown – Civils and lights erected, ESB connection expected within the next fortnight.




Housing Supply




Capital Projects


Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings to Complete in 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025	70
Dwellings to complete 2026	132
Dwellings to be funded in HFA	12
Dwellings in Design	260
Affordable Housing	90
Other Preliminary figures	76

Dwellings Complete under Housing for All in 2022				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District		
Carleys Bridge	17	Enniscorthy		Dwellings complete in Feb 2022
Glentire, The Ballagh	7	Gorey		Dwellings complete July 22
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare		Dwellings complete December 22
Rosetown Phase 1				
Glascanny	1	Wexford		TAP Dwelling complete June 22
Total	48			

Dwellings Complete 2023				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Status	Comment
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Complete	Complete Dec 2023.
Whiterock Hill 22 Phase 1				
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Complete	Complete June 23
Total	23			
Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024				
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. To Complete 2024. On Target.
			Womens Refuge 12, Maudlintown	
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	To Complete Q4 2024. On Target.
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction commenced June 23. To Complete Q3 2024. On Target.
Rosetown Phase 2				

Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow) To Complete Q3 2024.
Ballyhine 8, Wexford				
Total	54			
Dwellings to complete in 2025				
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Commenced on site July 23. Progressing to programme. To complete 2025.
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Under Construction	Contracts signed. DB Contract. Re routing ESB overheads and site preparation is underway. To complete 2025
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Commence on site Q1 24. DB Contract. Developer is currently on site undertaking further site analysis. To complete 2025
				
Creagh 22, Gorey				
Total	70			

Funded Projects for delivery 2025 - 2026				
Francis Street	2	Wexford	SS Approved	Tenders due back Feb 24. To Commence on site Q1 2024
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete. Stage 3 and Tender in Q1 2024.
Rosbercon	50 +(est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Invasive Species removal complete. Site Investigations to commence Q1 24. To proceed as a DB contract.
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Delay as proposal was with An Bord Pleanala (ABP) re EIAR. Cost Plan prepared. Part VIII will go to WCC meeting Feb 24. Stage 3 and tender documentation to follow in Q1 24.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A for 2 projects. –Monomolin and Ballygillane. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding application. Part VIII approved Jan 2024. Submit Funding for Bundle A Q1 24. Site clearance Feb 24.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A as above. Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding Q1 24 Demolition of derelict house Q1 24
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle B for 2 projects. – Grogans Road and Adamstown. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Part VIII submitted Dec 23. Consultation with neighbours underway. Funding application Q2 2024
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Bundle B as above. Part VIII submitted Dec 23. Funding application Q2 2024
Adamstown 3 New Ross				
TOTAL	132			

Dwellings yet to be funded in Housing for All Programme				
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Archaeology complete Awaiting conservation decision on wall. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q1 2024
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. SS Submission Q1 2024
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Funding application Q1 24. Q1 2024
TOTAL	12			

Projects in Design

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Clonard	56	Wexford	Pre Preparing 12 Dec 23. Stage Funding Application Q1 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.	
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 35 social dwellings received. Assessment nearing completion. Stage 2 Q1 24	
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Clear site and Pre Planning Q2 24	
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief	
The Lyre	75 est	Enniscorthy	Preliminary master plan, pre planning and site Investigations / surveys in Q1 24.	
Bunclody PPP	65	Enniscorthy	Part of Bundle 7. Team lead Dublin City Council	
TOTAL	260			

Affordable Housing

Transferable Housing			
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tender assessment complete. Sign contracts for DB in Feb 23. Site Start Q2 24

**Ramsfort Park 20,
Gorey**



St Walerans	70	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 70 affordable units received Oct 23. Assessment and recommendation to follow.
TOTAL	90		

Other Projects at Early Stage

Castlemoyle	TBC 55 +	New Ross	Master Plan complete. Awaiting Pre Planning meeting
Cluain Fada	21	New Ross	Pre Planning complete. Submit Single Stage Funding Application Q1 2024.
TOTAL	76		

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Projects at Planning Stages

1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

The Planning Department in collaboration with Special Projects has developed a strategic plan for Enniscorthy town centre, which was adopted at the Enniscorthy MD meeting in December 2022.

Regeneration works to the Market Square, Enniscorthy Castle Quarter and Templeshannon will form part of the Call 4 URDF application expected in Q3 2023.

The Part 8 process for Market Square and town centre street enhancement was commenced on 4th October 2023, which was designed by Moloney O'Beirne Architects & Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. Following a public submission, An Bord Pleanála have requested further information from WCC in relation to the proposed development. This was submitted to ABP on 18th December 2023.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project has now also commenced and it is intended to submit a Part 8 planning application for this in Q1 2024.

ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This masterplan will be completed in time for the forthcoming URDF application.

ILLUSTRATED VIEW 01

VIEW FROM CASTLE STREET INTO MARKET SQUARE SPACE



1.2 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building

Phase 1 – Forth Mountain Activity Park, Trails and Carpark is complete.

The activity centre building is currently on hold.

The Part 8 submission for the proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site was approved by WCC in February 2023. This project is currently on hold pending scope review.

1.3 Gorey District Park

The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public.

The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a contract awarded. The Changing Places unit has been installed with snagging to be completed by the end of February.



1.4 John Street Grainstore, New Ross

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement and the CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are appointed and undertook a preplanning meeting for the building in February, with the Concept Design Report being presented to the New Ross MDC at the May meeting. Preliminary design for the project is now complete, with the Part 8 process for the Grainstore and building extension elements expected to commence in early February. A further development consent application will be made for the public realm area to the rear of the property, in the coming months.



1.5 WEXFORDIA – Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

WCC secured RRDF Category 2 and Category 1 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. The preliminary design has been extended to include a design for a new Visitor Centre in order to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Bord Pleanála in Q3 2024.

Hook Lighthouse

Tandem Design have been appointed to provide Interpretive Design services on a new tourism development at the Hook Lighthouse.

A commencement meeting took place on 6th November and subsequent site visit took place on 22nd November where the Consultants met with the Manager and Board of Hook Heritage and representatives from Irish Lights and Fáilte Ireland. A Preliminary Research report was compiled in December 2023 and the Preliminary design for the Interpretive and Concept Design of the project is expected in Q1 2024.

The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be issued in Q1 2024 as part of the framework created for Architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the full preliminary design including Environmental reports, Interpretative and Architectural Designs will be completed in Q2 2025 and submitted to An Bord Pleanála at that time.



New Ross Tourism Project

Tenders for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience have been received and a contract awarded to EPIC Design, who have completed the detailed design for the development. The works have been procured and contracts will be awarded in early Q1 2024. Installation and fit out works on this project are planned to be completed by Q2 2024.

Tenders for the Interpretive and exhibition design of the Norman Visitor Centre have been completed and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Preliminary Design on this will begin in the coming weeks.

A framework for Architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment now complete. Tenders will be invited from shortlisted candidates in Q1 2024 for the Norman Centre project, with award of contract anticipated in Q2 2024.

1.6 Esmonde Street, Gorey

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans, with works expected to commence on-site in January 2024. €2m of own funds is committed to the Esmonde Street project.

A further redesign of the proposed public realm improvement project, which included an increase in on-street parking from previous proposal and a revised layout for cycling infrastructure, was presented to the members of GKMD in November 2023. The members approved implementing the plan as proposed, with minor amendments. The project will now progress to detailed design and then to tendering for a works contractor with the aim of commencing works on-site in September 2024.



1.7 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

All planning and design work on the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has now been suspended following the publication of the All-Ireland Rail Review. The draft report issued in July 2023 appears to promote reopening of the train line in future.

The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced in parallel with the Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand greenway project.

1.8 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are ongoing. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022. It is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is likely to happen in Q3 2025.

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works that have been carried out over the past two years by Irish Rail. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024, with an expected Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.

A public consultation process for the proposed route options will take place in February 2024



1.9 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

The initial phase 1 works were completed in September 2022 (enhancement and improvement of the footpath streetscape, enhanced gateways and pedestrian safety).

An application for further funding was submitted to the NTA, in conjunction with the Roads & Transportation Section, for the active travel elements of the masterplan. No funding was forthcoming for 2023.

1.10 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

Following a competitive tender process, RPS Ltd was appointed to undertake the Preliminary Design and Statutory Consents Phase of the Courtown coastal protection and beach nourishment scheme.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd. is appointed to carry out the marine and land-based surveys and boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the May 2022 and the site investigation work is complete.

Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited. An application to the Marine Foreshore Dept., was submitted in December 2022, for permission to carry out benthic grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted.

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in 2024.

1.11 Crescent Quay – Dredging

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete and results have been assessed. Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

1.12 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O’Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sports Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. Further ‘top-up’ funding of €150,000 has now been awarded under the LSSIF scheme and it is intended to retender the project in February 2024.

1.13 Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, Wexford:

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tenders received in September. Tenders exceeded the available budget, so a design review for the building is currently being undertaken by the Design Team. This revised design is currently going through detailed design, with the project going back out to tender in March 2024.

Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site, following confirmation of €100,000 in grant funding through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023. Completion is expected in January 2024.

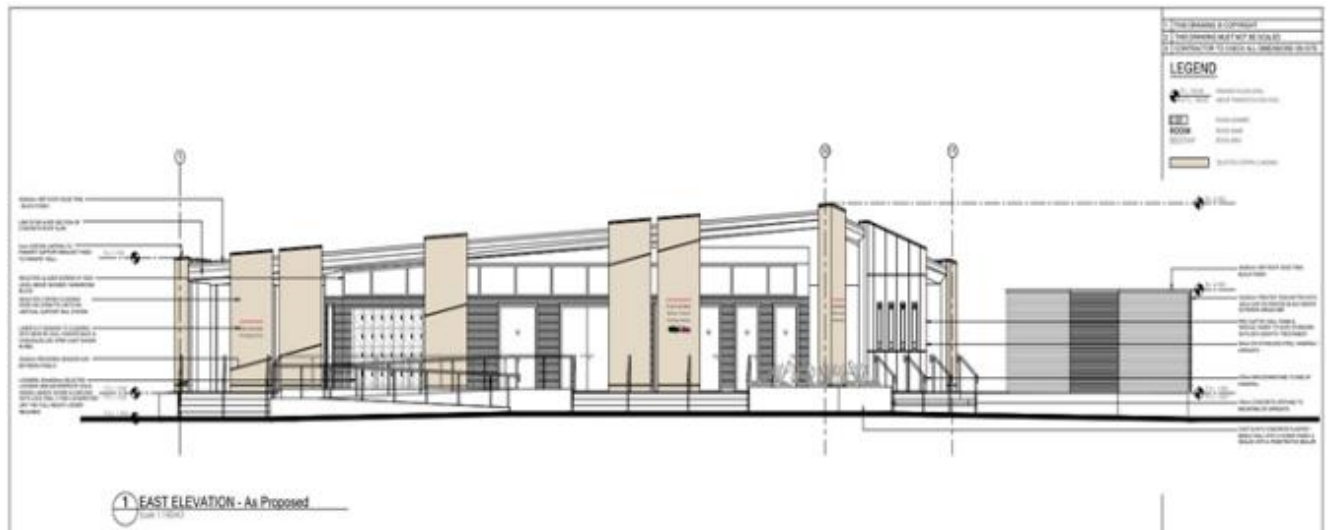
1.14 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

WCC received Stage 2 compliance approval from Fáilte Ireland for the development of facilities to support water sports activities at Whitegap, Curracloe. The project will include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers.

Following the tender process for design services in Jan 2022, Neville Conroy Architects was appointed. Surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023.

Tenders for the enabling works package, published to etenders in December 2023, are currently being assessed.

The tender for the enabling works package was published to etenders in December 2023, these works are expected to commence on-site in March 2024. The tender for the main building is awaiting Failte Ireland approval and is expected to be published to e-tenders in January 2024, with works commencing on-site in April 2024.



1.15 Adoration Convent Wexford

Part 8 approval is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. The appointment of Stephen Carr Architects has been approved by GSU and preliminary design and associated survey works are underway. It is intended to tender out these works out in Q2 2024 with works to commence in Q4 2024.



1.16 New Ross Skate Park

Fehily Timoney and Company (with sub-consultants Brady Shipman Martin) have been engaged to prepare a preliminary design and Part 8 submission documentation for a new skate park for New Ross, to be located adjacent the Greenway car park in Rosbercon. Commencement of the Part 8 process is expected in Q1 2024.

2. Projects Under Construction

2.1 South East Greenway

Phase 1 of the South East Greenway - New Ross to Glenmore was officially opened on the 25th of July 2023. Work on Phase 2, a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore commenced on site on 13 November 2023. Works are progressing on the construction of the Glenmore carpark, the installation of drainage and ducting along with the preparation and upgrading of ballast. Works have commenced on building out verges, the agricultural crossings, the Kilmurry ramp and an agricultural ramp.

The tender to procure design consultants to complete The South East Greenway was published to e-tenders in December 2023, with a consultant to be appointed in February 2024.

The process to procure replacement technical advisors for all remaining components of the Southeast greenway project has commenced.

The first priority for this technical advisor will be for Lot 4 – Mount Elliot. It is planned to issue this service contract for tender in November.

Faite Ireland have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG. Faite Ireland are due to make a presentation on the South East Greenway Interpretation Plan - Public Consultation Findings and Analysis to the four MDs that the greenway runs through in January.



2.2 Trinity Wharf

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2nd March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Surfacing and finishing works are ongoing on site with completion expected in February 2024. Landscaping will follow in February/March 2024.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is complete and Ayesa (formerly ByrneLooby) has been appointed to undertake this work with their design partners.



2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site. The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was complete in July 2021.

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023.



2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

The works contract for essential maintenance works at the Mechanics Institute has been awarded to Roger Doyle Contractors and works commenced on site in January 2023. The main contract work is substantially complete with conservation work to the rear to begin in early March.



2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford

A Part VIII submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site, including the construction of a temporary surface level car park. Part 8 approval was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting. A further Part 8 submission has since been approved for erection of a temporary performance structure and public realm area, instead of a surface carpark.

O'Connor Sutton Cronin consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design and construction related consultancy services for the project.

The demolition contract was awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd, with an extension to the main works contract also agreed for the demolition of the former Dun Mhuire Theatre. All demo works onsite are now complete.

The procurement process is ongoing for the provision of the temporary performance structure at the site. Initial tender submissions were received in late December.



2.6 Murphy Floods Redevelopment

WCC has recently acquired the former Murphy Floods Hotel site, and adjacent derelict properties, in Enniscorthy Town Centre. The Council now seeks to advance a proposal to redevelop this vacant plot, which has previously secured Part 8 consent in July 2022.

O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers were appointed in May 2023 to undertake full stage design services for the demolition and site preparation elements of the scheme.

A tender competition to appoint a works contractor for the demolition works onsite has commenced and tender assessment is underway. Phase 1 works are anticipated to commence on site in Q1 2024.

3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

	Project	Date Delivered
1	Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1: Trails & Carpark	2021
2	Enniscorthy Technological Park, Phase 1	2021
3	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy Active Travel, Phase 1	2022
4	Gorey District Park	2022
5	Min Ryan Park	2022
6	Wexford Arts Centre Extension	2022
7	Monck Street Enhancement Scheme	2022
8	New Ross Fire Station	2022
9	High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross	2022
10	Emigrants Park, New Ross	2023



4. Flood Defence Schemes

4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Statutory Process - The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie. Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy.

Flood Defence Scheme – The project baseline data is to be updated, scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. It will then be necessary to decide on the most appropriate planning route for the scheme. The hydrology and environmental baseline data is currently being updated; ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024.

Phase 1 - New River Slaney Bridge - It is intended to obtain planning consent for the construction of the new bridge as phase 1 of the flood defence scheme. This phase will include the construction of a new road bridge south of the town, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a replacement pedestrian bridge. The baseline data for this phase is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024. The planning application is to be submitted in Q1 2025.

4.2 Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The consultant Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd, has issued the Constraints report for review by the Steering Group. The Draft Hydrological Method Statement was submitted to the Steering Group but has been returned to the consultant due to lack of information as per the design brief. As a result of Hydrology Workshop was (due to be held on the 25/01/24) cancelled and will be rescheduled in the coming weeks.

A surveying company has been appointed to complete checks on the CFRAM models.



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,161 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below.

Housing For All 2022-2026					
1,161 Target	–	(527 Units Delivered	+ 677 Units Projected	= 1,204 Delivery Pipeline) = 43 Shortfall/Over

It is the Councils intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists and Department funding is available.

The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report.

Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. The current Expression of Interest opened on 3rd January 2024 and runs until 9th February, 2024. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Project Address	No of Units	Unit Profile	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	Delivered Q4 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross 2 (includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	Developer has withdrawn application January 2024 – work not commenced on site
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	Delivered Q4 2023
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delivered Q4 2023
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	8 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2 4	2 x 2-bed 4 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	2 units Delivered Q4 2023 An EOI was submitted for an additional 4 units which delivered Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q2 2024

Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Mangan, Hollyfort	2	2 x 3-Bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To Deliver Q4 2024
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	164			

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	4 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd	12	6 x 3-bed 6 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	6 delivered Q4 2023, 2 to deliver Q2 2024, 2 to Deliver Q4 2024 2 to Deliver Q2 2025
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 x 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	4 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units Delivered Q3 2023 2 units to deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered Q4 2022, 2 units to be delivered Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 x 2-bed 2 x 2-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units to deliver Q2 2024 2 units to Deliver Q2 2025
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	2 x 3-bed 7 x 3-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. To deliver on phased basis from Q1 2024.
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delays on site To deliver Q3 2024
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	2	2 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	2 units to deliver Q3 2024
TOTAL	64			

Approved Housing Body Delivery

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
	Cluid			
Bridgemeadows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q3 2025

Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q3 2023
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	86	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q2 2026
Beechfield, Clonard	50	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2025
Tuath				
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q2 2023
Ramstown, Gorey	74	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units Delivered Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q2 2024. An additional 6 units will also deliver Q2 2024
Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)				
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units delivered Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delivered Q4 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2024
Forth View, Murrintown	23	7 X 2-bed 14 X 3-bed	Rosslare	To deliver Q3 2024
Focus				
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6	6 X 1-bed apts	Gorey	To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	415			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 404 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	99
Gorey	48
New Ross	11
Rosslare	83
Wexford	163
Total	404

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st to 25th January 2024:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 st – 25 th January 2024)	222	122	177	173	103	898
Repair Requests Year to Date	222	122	177	173	103	898
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 25 th January 2024)	163	91	129	173	103	659
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	163	91	129	173	103	659
CLOSED Repair Requests (1 st – 25 th January 2024)	112	54	103	110	75	454
CLOSED Repairs Requests Year to Date	112	54	103	110	75	454

Note: The housing maintenance requests do not include duplicate calls for the same job, the ihouse system only records individual repair jobs.

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022 was the second year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets set by the Department for Wexford to date.

Department Targets for County Wexford	
Year	No of Properties
2021	54
2022	68
2023	51
Total	173

The range of works undertaken in the properties include external wall and attic insulation, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting, high efficiency boilers, and upgraded heating system and controls. All properties received a minimum of a B2 BER rating after the works were completed.

Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 147 properties in 2023. Completing the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value of the grant funded works for 2023 was €3.99 million.

The 2024 allocation has not been received from the department with an initial approval given of 65% of 2023 target (51 units): circa 33 units, 19 of which have been completed.

Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Status update January to October 2023	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	Complete
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – Windows and Doors	Complete
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	50% Complete
Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford District 1offs	Contract awarded Works to commence Q1 2024
Doors Only Tender – Countywide	Contract awarded Works to commence Q1 2024

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

The figures below represent the total number of calls to the HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.

There were 145 calls to the HSSU up to 29 th January the following is the breakdown of same:-	
123 (84.8%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
9 (6.2%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
12 (8.3%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
1 (0.7%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

Affordable Housing



Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Fleming and Chair. of the Housing & Community SPC - Cllr. Joe Sullivan, launching the Affordable Housing Survey with Claude Clancy, Affordable Housing Officer and Carolyne Godkin, Director of Housing Services, Wexford County Council.



Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Fleming and Chair. of the Housing & Community SPC - Cllr. Joe Sullivan, launching the Affordable Housing Survey with Anita McLoughlin SEO, Housing Section and Carolyne Godkin, Director of Housing Services, Wexford County Council.

Online Survey to assess level of interest in Affordable Housing

Wexford County Council is progressing plans for the supply of affordable housing in County Wexford for the coming years under the 'Housing for All' Plan. The process involves establishing the level of interest in the County from households to acquire affordable dwellings from the Council.

A survey of interest in affordable housing has been developed for the purpose of gathering the required information e.g., income levels, family size, housing type and location preferences. The information will be used to inform the Council on the level of demand, locations preferred, and the house prices that people might be able to afford. It will help the Council to formulate its plans for Affordable Housing Options.

Any affordable housing schemes progressed by the Council in the future will be advertised separately, and a formal application process will apply in accordance with the legislation in place at that time.

Complete the survey

The online survey will open Wednesday, 14th February and will close on 10th April. You can view and complete the survey on Wexford County Councils website, click the link – [Affordable Housing Survey](#) or scan the QR code below.



For all queries, please contact affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie

Choice Based Letting

12 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website to **31/12/24**.

As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of **22 properties** were available for allocation.

The following table shows the number of properties advertised on the Choice Based Letting website, to **31/01/24**, together with Number of Views & Expressions of Interest.

Municipal District	Number of Properties Advertised	Properties Available for Allocation	Number of Views	Number of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	1	1	250	38
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	1	1	81	14
New Ross	4	4	773	109
Rosslare	0	0	0	0
Wexford	6	16	1456	314
TOTAL	12	22	2560	475

Number of Properties

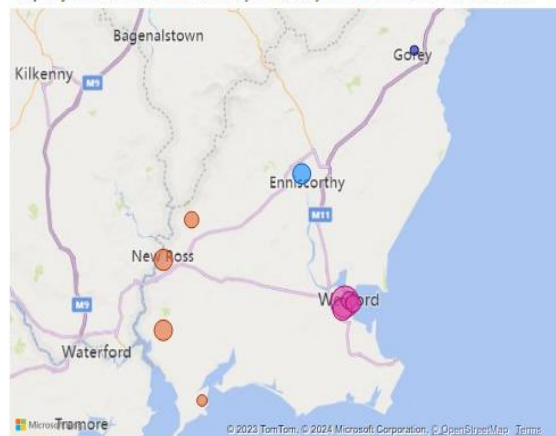
12

Average of Time to Allocate

12.00

Eol by PropertyAreaOfChoice, Latitude and Longitude

PropertyAreaOfChoice... Enniscorthy ... Gorey-Kil... New Ross ... Wexford ...



Properties by Number of Bedrooms



213.33
Avg. Views
39.58
Avg. Eols
2560
Views
475
Eols

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

The Local Economic and Community Plan and associated 2-year Implementation Plan were presented to the LCDC, Economic SPC, and Municipal Districts in January. All approved subject to minor revisions, which have been incorporated.

The Local Economic and Community Plan will now be put before the Council meeting in February for adoption.

2014 – 2022 LEADER PROJECT CLAIMS

From the 15/12/2023 to 29/01/2024 the Article 48 team processed **7** claims in December under the 2014 – 2022 LEADER Programme.

The value of these claims was **€206,824.71** which will support **6** enterprises and **1** community group throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid:

Visit Wexford Tourism	€44,000.00
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Payment Processed:

Bean and Goose Ltd	€38,098.11
JTW Engineering Ltd t/a The Southeast Greenway Bike Hire	€44,085.19
Horetown House Hotel Ltd	€16,500.00
Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns	€18,667.91
O'Neill Foods Ltd t/a O'Neills Dry Cure Bacon Co	€9,833.50
Tergiversation Ltd	€35,640.00

GARDA YOUTH AWARDS 2024

The Wexford Garda Youth Awards 2024 will be launched in County Hall on the 12th of February. The Garda Youth Awards celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age and recognises the good work being done by young people throughout the communities. The awards acknowledge the young people who by their presence make their communities and society in general, a better place in which to live. They also acknowledge the endeavours of young people who have faced and overcome challenges in their life. An Garda Síochána administer the Garda Youth Awards in County Wexford in association with Wexford County Council. Nominations can be made online further details to follow after the launch.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Fund	Projects
€1,509,869.00	27

€240K of CRF Fund claimed to date. Further €229K projected to be claimed by end of January 2024. Target of **70%** of fund spend projected by end Q1 2024. Fund closes **October 2024**.

Municipal District Projects (complete/commenced)

- Enniscorthy District - Special Needs Bicycles €12K - complete
- Enniscorthy District – Bellefield Amenity €110K – commenced
- New Ross District – Pearse Park Sensory Garden €30K – commenced
- Wexford County Council (Special Projects) - Ferndale MUGA €100K – commenced

Community Group Projects supported (amounts this period)

Group	Amount
36th Ramsgrange Scouts	€5,000.00
St. Aidan's Hall (Bunclody)	€1,845.00
The Killinick Project	€9,730.64



Gorey Family Resource Centre – office refurb



Templeudigan Parish Park – repair of playground

Healthy Ireland Fund Round Four

Work continues on the agreed Round Four projects, with partners planning for 2024 activity. January was a period for report gathering and collation for the financial and progress reports required under the Healthy Ireland Fund which are due for submission in February.

Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

Following a request for expression of interest from Community Groups to host Meet Your Neighbour events, our Healthy County Coordinator is engaging with groups to agree dates and locations for Feb-Apr 2024. Planned dates will be shared through Healthy Wexford social media and via Wexford PPN.

In January our Healthy County Coordinator collated reports for Department of Health on the 2023 Period Dignity Project and has made a submission for funding for 2024 to continue the programme.



2024 plans, subject to funding, include further promotion of the initiative.

Our '**Not Around Us**' working group finalised the 2024 workplan in early January. 2024 will have four main growth strands:

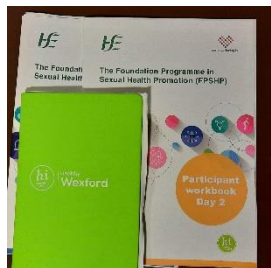
1. Continuing the push for Supporters
2. Developing an Affiliation opportunity
3. Embedding Supporting Events
4. Engaging Supporters



Following discussion among our Healthy County Committee our Chair and Healthy County Coordinator met with a representative of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Executive Committee. This meeting was to discuss how Healthy Wexford could support the upcoming Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann from a Healthy County perspective. A range of supports and initiatives were discussed.



We are currently reviewing the feedback from the pilot Healthy Home Environments project and we will look to engage another community to undertake a similar project in the first half of 2024.



As Sexual Health is one of our strategic priority areas for a Healthy County, our Healthy County Coordinator has begun the HSE Foundation Course in Sexual Health Promotion to help inform our work and activity.

Enniscorthy Interagency Group Place Standard Walkability Audits in Gimont Ave/Clain Dara and Forgeland's Housing Estates

As part of the work of the Enniscorthy Interagency Group representatives from Wexford County Council and a number of other agencies including An Garda Síochána, WWETB, Wexford Local Development, Creative Enniscorthy, Slaintecare Healthy Communities National Office, Approved Housing Bodies and residents from Gimont Ave/Clain Dara and Forgeland's undertook a walkaround and assessment of these estates and surrounding areas using the Place Standard tool <https://www.ourplace.scot/tool> on 24th January. This tool focuses on key areas including public transport, traffic and parking, housing, green spaces, play and recreation and safety and security. The results of the audits are currently being assessed and will be presented back to the interagency group in February and to local residents. The interagency group will then focus on the results and identify actions that can be planned and implemented. A large number of residents and members of community groups took part in the walkability audits which made it extremely valuable and we wish to express our thanks for their assistance.

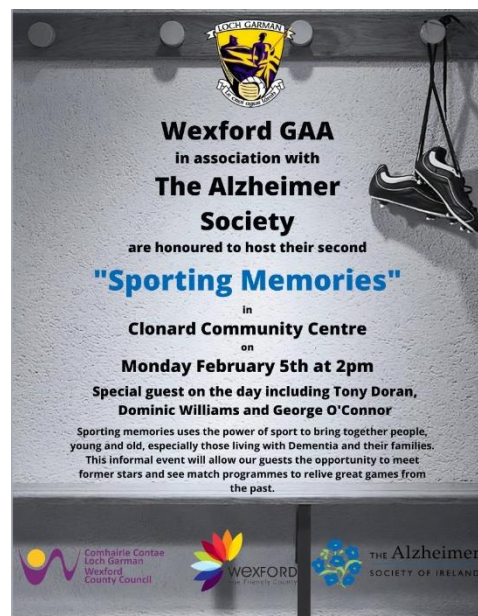


Sporting Memories

The 2nd “Sporting Memories” event is taking place on Bank Holiday Monday, February 5th at 2pm in Clonard Community Centre. This is a joint event organised by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Wexford GAA and Wexford County Council. Sporting Memories provides an opportunity for the public to come along in person and chat over a cup of tea about their old sporting memories with many former greats of Wexford GAA.

This free event is for people of all ages and we welcome especially those living with dementia and their carers and family members. There will be opportunities to reminisce about some of the county’s greatest sporting moments. Tony Dempsey, Age Friendly Ambassador for Wexford, will mc the event and All-Ireland winning hurler Tony Doran and All-Star midfielder George O’Connor will be among the many sports stars in attendance on the day. There will also be an exhibition of sports memorabilia.

Sporting Memories is an awareness and support programme that allows people with dementia to re-engage in the community which once played a huge role in their lives. Reminiscence is particularly important for people living with dementia, as remembering can instil a sense of competence and confidence which can make them feel empowered and connected.



COUNTY WEXFORD PPN

Wexford PPN will host our first training event of the year on 7th February. This is an online grant writing webinar delivered by Dr Yvonne Byrne. Following on from the success of our previous training in 2023, this is another great opportunity for our members to develop the skills to complete successful funding applications for their projects.

- 458 Community Groups now registered with the PPN.
- Vacant PPN Representative roles due to be advertised soon.
- 2024 Workplan is drafted and at review stage.
- Climate Action events at planning stage.
- Website redesign substantially complete.

Wexford PPN has set out a highly ambitious Workplan for 2024 and we hope that we can build on the strong work completed in 2023. This year will see an opportunity for new Representatives to join the PPN and play key roles in shaping policy at local level. Our Climate Action thematic group has been launched and we have some great events planned to bring this group together to tackle common issues that affects us all. We look forward to supporting and developing our member groups throughout the year.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Intro to Fitness

Intro to fitness four-week online programme started on Tuesday the 23rd of January. This programme consisted of a yoga, pilates, zumba and body conditioning. 15 women registered for the programme.

Get Ireland Walking

Operation Transformation/Ireland Lights Up in conjunction with GAA clubs (Geraldine O'Hanrahan's – New Ross) – 6 weeks walking initiative commenced 14th January. Week 1 had 38 participants – 18 women, 20 men.

Play Volley

Play-Volley Coaching Programme with Gorey Training Initiative started in Naomh Eanna, Gorey on Tuesday the 16th of January. This 4-week programme is in collaboration with Volleyball Ireland. 14 participated, 10 males & 4 females.

Staff Pilates

Staff Pilates started back on Wednesday the 10th of January in County Hall at 5pm. 11 women have participated so far.

Residential Nursing Home Exercise Classes

Exercise classes in 4 nursing homes (Kerlogue, Knockeen, Castlegarden and Cherrygrove) came to an end with 75 (average) participants engaged with the programme.

Activator Poles Wexford Library

A 6-week activator pole programme started on the 9th of January. 12 females have registered for the programme.

Activator Poles Enniscorthy Library

SAW Staff conducted an Activator Pole Demonstration as part of the Wexford Walking Trails talk in Enniscorthy Library on Thursday the 25th of January at 6.30pm.

Pickleball

SAW delivered a 4-week Pickleball Programme in St. Joseph's Community Centre in collaboration with Hook Pickleball. 36 participants attended. 22 females and 14 males.

Safeguarding

3 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2024 with a total of 50 participants.

1 x Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2024 with a total of 8 participants.



We were delighted to have nearly 40 people attend on the first night of our 4 week Pickleball programme in St. Joseph's Community Centre, Wexford.

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Operations -

The regularization of the public lighting system on the Barrow is ongoing, new lights have been fitted to Marshmeadows access road and Jetty. Further lighting upgrades on the site have been completed in October to facilitate new business activities.

A new traffic management system and weighbridge upgrade commenced in October and is expected to be completed in early 2024. Further clearing of the site has been completed.

KIMO AGM was held in Falkenburg Sweden 4th – 6th October, Wexford County Council was represented. We have agreed to host the next international board meeting in May 2024 in Wexford.

Beaches –

Applications for 6 blue flag beaches, 2 blue flag marinas and 10 green coast beaches were submitted to An Taisce in November 2023. The awards will be announced by An Taisce in May 2024.

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works. Public convenience completed. Design and tender works for the access path are being finalised, with the works expected to go to tender in early 2024.

Coast -

The Environment Dept monitors the coastline regularly, focussing on erosion risk areas.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being finalised. The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries. Public consultation day will be held later in Q2 2024.

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council is seeking agreement on landownership issues; this will enable a planning application to be submitted over the coming weeks.

Further correspondence was issued to OPW to progress the funding of the scheme.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The application is under consideration by the DHLGH.

The level of the lake was reduced in December 2023 by cutting a channel to sea; this reduced the risk of flooding in Lady's Island.

Kilmannock Drainage Scheme – this is a land reclamation and drainage scheme dating from mid 1800s, draining approx 1,000 acres of land near the Great Island Power Station. Maintenance works including the installation of new outlet valves on the drainage channel were installed in early August 2023. Site inspections have confirmed that the operation of the drainage scheme has improved significantly since the valves were installed. This will be monitored closely over the coming months.

B. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

Under the Water Framework Directive every catchment in the county must be assessed to identify required actions to maintain and improve water quality. This work which is being carried out by Wexford Co. Co. in conjunction of LAWPRO is being supervised by the Sub-Catchment Unit of the EPA.

2. Water Sampling:

A Total of 344 water quality samples were taken by Wexford County Council staff from 78 sampling sites in the county for 2023 with analysis carried out by the EPA. 8 surveillance sites were sampled 8 times per year in 2023. In 2024 a total of 340 river water samples will be taken from 76 sampling sites on 36 rivers by Wexford County Council staff. 7 surveillance sites will be sampled in 2024 with analysis of all samples carried out by the EPA lab in Kilkenny.

3. Septic Tank Inspections:

123 inspections under the National Inspection Plan were carried out in 2023. Wexford had a minimum of 130 inspections to carry out in 2023, which will result in a shortfall of 7. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. Of the 123 inspections carried out in Wexford, 54 were passes and 69 fails. Due to time constraints, the remaining 7 inspections will have to be carried over till 2024. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2024 plus the 7 carried from 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 75 files were closed during 2023. 39 extensions of time were granted in 2023. There are currently 55 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 44 open for 2023, a total of 99 open cases at the end of 2023.

Twenty-three applications for grant assistance have been received during 2023 of which twenty have been processed/ have been sent for payment.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2023
2019	156	48	108	10	4
2020	111	38	73	6	4
2021	91	24	67	17	9
2022	139	50	89	13	28
2023	123	54	69	44	25

There are currently 17 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 3 of these are for hearing and 14 are currently for mention.

25 verification inspections were carried out in April 2023 on sites which have Advisory Notices open over 2 years. In total 72 verification inspections were carried out in 2023.

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 5 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 4 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange. 2018 has 4 open files with good progress on 2 of these, 2 are in court. A public sewer for Ramsgrange has been approved with a connection to Duncannon. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above.

The Minister announced the following changes to the Domestic Wastewater Treatment System grant scheme on 11th November 2023, following a recently completed review of the grants:

- an increase in the maximum grant available to €12,000, up from €5,000; (Up to 85% of cost of work up to max. of €12,000) and
- removal of the requirement to register the system before prescribed date of 1st February 2013 in order to be eligible for a grant. The applicant must register before applying for the grant.

These changes will apply to the following 3 DWWTS grants:

- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) (under the National Inspection Plan)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance for Prioritised Areas for Action)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance in High Status Objective Catchment Areas)

The Department is in the process of finalising the new regulations, which will be published in the coming weeks. A circular and terms and conditions are also being finalised for local authorities.

The new regulations and grant will be effective from 1 January 2024. Where a grant process has commenced under the previous scheme, but has not been concluded, the Department has no objection to it being concluded under the new scheme, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 92 active Discharge Licences. Six applications were received in 2023 five are currently under review to date, one has been added to the live register in January 2024. Seven discharge licences were revoked during 2023 and a few more are under currently review.

5. Planning

The Environment Section makes an assessment and recommendations on planning applications relating to the environmental aspects of the application.

The main issues regarding the impact of planning on the environment which have arisen in recent years are as follows:

- 1) Density of housing.
- 2) Applications for extensions and upgrades of existing houses on sites where the soil is unsuitable for discharge of wastewater via a domestic wastewater treatment system.
- 3) Applications for detached granny flats and other detached ancillary accommodation.

As of the 31st December 2023, 1146 files were referred to Environment from the Planning Department.

Q1. Breakdown of planning applications referred from Planning Section to Environment

	Single dwellings	Commercial	Discharge/ glamping	Housing estates	Schools	Solar Farms	Sports	Agricultural	Compliance assessments
Q1	145	21	2	9	9	3	3	17	39
Q2	206	29	1	14	6	0	1	33	36
Q3	116	24	0	7	2	0	3	27	15
Q4	163	20	1	12	0	3	9	27	31

C. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. New Recycling

Re-turn Scheme. Irelands new deposit return scheme. In February 2024 a new deposit return scheme will operate throughout Ireland. When you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that feature the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full. The deposit will typically be 15c to 20c. For more information, please see www.MyWaste.ie

2. Food Waste

From 1 January 2024 every household in Ireland, regardless of location, will be entitled to a brown bin collection service. No matter how remote your home is, you can organise your brown bin collection service through your current waste collector. Visit mywaste.ie to learn more. Food waste inspections without notification are currently being carried out with householders and commercial businesses.

3. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites December 2023	Recycling out (End December) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End December) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles	108	3772	3572
Aluminium Cans		95	91
Total		3867	3667

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan-Dec2022	Recycling out Jan -Dec 2023	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2022	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2023
Total Recycling out	588	609	650	657	860	793	506	496
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22513	3235	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Dec	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	71	81	112	117	99	124	80	82

4. Rapid Response Crew

Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with one two-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts and a second servicing Wexford, Rosslare and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	To end Dec 2022	Dec 2023	To end Dec 2023	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	2,270	179	2,359	+3.9%
Gorey *		35		
Enniscorthy *		66		
Wexford *		38		
New Ross*		29		
Rosslare		11		
Total Bring Site Inspections	9,077	719	9,851	+8.5%
Gorey		150		
Enniscorthy		177		
Wexford		215		
New Ross		110		
Rosslare		67		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	18,158	1,584	18,105	-0.2%
Gorey	North	598		

<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>1,086</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	<i>5,494</i>	758	8,418	+53%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>96</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>260</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>207</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>153</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>42</i>		

Other Works are as follows.

- 1- Beach and lifeguard work
- 2- Black spot checks
- 3- Town inspections every morning
- 4- Trails maintenance
- 5- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep

5. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have sufficient permitted facilities throughout the county, such as Clean Soil and Stone, construction and demolition sites, ATF's / End of Life Vehicles and Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council's website.

Altogether there are 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits(43) and Certificates of Registration (25) for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

6. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as submitted to the EPA on 28 February 2023. The 2023 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,597 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, Mercury etc.

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three-year target and they are.

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

D. LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-DECEMBER 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	212
Fines Paid in Full●	111	55
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	56
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	28
Legal Proceedings in Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	41
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€9,648.00 litter / €3,375.00 Waste – total €13,023
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€6,210.00

* Other fines may be paid prior to the hearing or withdrawn for evidential or legal reasons.

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices
- Fines paid in full- data excludes fines partly paid.
- Amount collected in fines- includes part payments.

October 2023

Two successful cases were heard in Wexford District Court under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2018, the council were awarded a fine of €300.00 and €100 in costs for one case and a fine of €250.00 and €50 in costs for the second case. Wexford County Council also had one successful litter fine whereby a fine of €160.00 was awarded.

November 2023

Wexford County Council obtained six prosecutions during hearings in November 2023. Two cases were successful under the Waste Presentation Bye Laws 2018 and four cases under the Litter Pollution Act. The Council were awarded a total of €1,050.00 in fines and €1,417.00 in costs.

December 2023

No court listings were in place for December.

Wexford Co. Council – National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys 2004-2020 Percentage of County Littered (Litter Pollution Surveys)

Year	Litter free	Slightly litt	Moderately litt	Seriously litt	Grossly litt
2022	24.2%	63.4%	11.3%	1.1%	0%
2021	6.9%	74.1%	15.5%	3.4%	0%
2020	9.4%	68.8%	18.8%	3.4%	0%
2019	9.8%	67.9%	18.8%	1.5%	0%
2018	10%	70.5%	17.7%	17.7%	0%
2017	18.3%	67%	14.7%	0%	0%
2016	12.10%	65.9%	21.9%	0.4%	0%
2015	10.60%	65.90%	18.43%	5.07%	0%
2014	37.40%	50.41%	12.30%	0%	0%
2013	51.92%	39.43%	7.69%	0.96%	0%
2012	26.79%	60.71%	12.50%	0%	0%

2011	7.5%	82.5%	10%	0%	0%
2010	13.2%	53.9%	28.9%	3.9%	0%
2009	0%	75.3%	21.0%	3.7%	0%
2008	9.4%	55.2%	26%	9.4%	0%
2007	5.4%	60.9%	17.4%	16%	0%
2006	0%	53%	23%	20%	3%
2004	0%	23%	56%	21%	0%

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2019	2,925		741	
2020	3,187	Up 9%	628	Down 15%
2021	2,721	Down 15%	1,331	Up 112%
2022	2,188	Down 20%	1,023	Down 23%
2023			566	

The reduction in reported dumping incidents is also reflected in a similar decline in attendances by the Environment Clean Up Crew to incidents.

Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2023(December)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2023	212	28	2284
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

E. CLIMATE ACTION

All local authorities are required to prepare a plan under the “The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.” Preparation work on the development on the Local Authority Climate Action plan continued. The plan incorporates both mitigation and adaptation measures and includes the development of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ). Enniscorthy is the Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford. The DZ will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. Minister Eamon Ryan requested Wexford County Council to commence its Climate Action plan on 24th February 2023 with 12 months to prepare, complete and fully adopt the plan.

The Plan will set an ambitious target of an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% and 50% energy efficiency by 2030. Wexford County Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing, facilitating and advocating others to meet their own targets.

The plan is being presented to Council for adoption in February 2024.

The Climate Action team held Information Drop-in sessions on the Draft Climate Action Plan across the 5 municipal districts between 23rd and 25th October 2023. These were held at the libraries in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross and the Stella Maris centre in Kilmore.

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme funding scheme **is now open** to support and build low carbon communities across County Wexford. The fund is open to not-for-profit community groups and clubs. The closing date will be 6th March 2024.

Funding for 100% of the cost of a climate action project is available through this scheme, up to a maximum of €100,000. Project examples could be insulation of community buildings, solar panels, bicycle parking, rainwater harvesting, community gardens / allotments, etc.

Site meetings with interested groups are ongoing, with a total of 42 groups visited to date.

Further details on the programme are available [here](#)

F. GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system.

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – Dec 2023
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	4235
Closed	4709	4865	5024	3467	3456
Closure Rate	99%	97%	98%	89%	82%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden and one part-time Dog Warden. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023 (February) – December)
Dogs collected	532	429	546	575
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117	128
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370	404
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51	38
Dog Fines	5	18	21	14

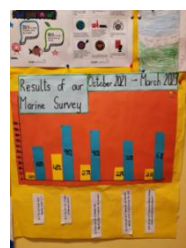
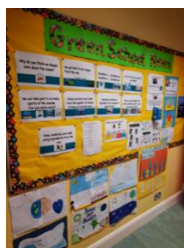
There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

In 2023 five horses were rehomed and one reclaimed.

Environment Education and Awareness:

Our aim is to promote awareness and active participation in a range of environmental initiatives.

Green Schools: St Patricks School, Enniscorthy and Gorey Educate Together Secondary School have both applied for their first green flag. Both these schools will receive an assessment visit before 15th March. Communication is ongoing with schools due to renew their green flag. All renewal visits must be completed by 15th March 2024.



School Workshops: Workshops for both primary and secondary schools covered topics on climate action, fast fashion, biodiversity, and waste management. Rubbish Film Festival workshops took place in November in Selskar College, Gorey Community School, St Peters College and Meanscoil Gharman. The workshop for Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge will take place in January. St Marys New Ross will be scheduled for January 2024.

Christmas Decoration Competition: 171 decorations were received and displayed in County Hall. Prizes were presented to winners by An Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Fleming on Thursday 21st December. The overall winning decoration entitled 'The White Angel' was created by Niamh O' Connor, St Fintan's National School, Taghmon.



Composting in Schools Programme: 9 secondary schools are participating in the Composting for schools Programme. The schools participating are Bunclody Vocational School: CBS Secondary School New Ross: Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy: Colaiste Eamonn Ris (Wexford CBS): Gorey Community School: Meanscoil Gharman, Enniscorthy: Ramsgrange Community School: St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross: Selskar College, Wexford. The programme gives schools the opportunity to explore and improve waste management in school via waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

As part of the programme teachers from each school will participate in online zoom training 1 hour per week over 5 weeks. After the training participating schools will receive 2 site visits which will.

- review waste management practices at the school
- discuss options related to waste prevention, reuse, recycling, on-site composting, and brown bin collection of bio waste
- create an action plan.

After the initial site visit and the creation of action plans by the schools, another site visit will be conducted to assist with implementing plans and provide additional tailored training for students, green school committees, teachers, caretakers, parent committees or other school staff. All teachers would be given access to BaseCamp to avail of the resources developed for the programme including booklets, guides, instructional fact sheets, videos as well as learning resources. In addition, schools receive a €300 voucher for bins, tools, and supplies to help carry out their action plans.

Picker Pal Programme: 10 primary schools will be funded to participate in the picker pal programme, Schools will be sent Picker Packs which will contain supplies, safety card, the Picker Pals reader Picker Power and the Picker Pals Funbook for every child. Schools also receive teacher resource materials, ongoing teacher support, access to online interactive resources, 6 Picker Pals TV episodes links sent directly to all classrooms and access to all Picker Pals competitions and projects run throughout the 2023/24 academic year.




Trees for Wexford: 150 applications have been approved under the Trees for Wexford Scheme. Delivery of trees is expected early February. All approved groups will be notified of collection dates in early January. 8957 trees/saplings will be distributed which will include a variety of native tree saplings, hedgerow species and fruit trees.

100 Million Trees Project: On 15th December, The Rocks Mauldintown, Wexford was planted with 1325 native trees as part of 'The 100 Million Trees Project'. Huge thanks must go to the local community volunteers from St Mary's GAA, Mauldintown, The Rocks Walking Trails and Southend Family Resource Centre who carried out trojan work in planting the 1325 trees.

Ocean Hero Award: Tomhaggard Clean Coasts group has received national acclaim after it was named Group of the Year at the Clean Coasts Ocean Hero awards ceremony on Dec 7th in Dublin. The Ocean Hero Awards celebrate groups and individuals who make a difference to our marine environment and work to protect our local coastline and environment.



Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups continue.

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/12/23 – 31/12/23	30
	01/01/23 – 31/12/23	1054

Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: Promotion of the 'Bag It Bin It' campaign continues. Stencils have been provided to Enniscorthy Tidy Towns to support their dog fouling awareness campaign.



Green Dog Walker: The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website. Packs are provided to community groups for promotion at events.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Community and Culture

My Open Library

My Open Library Service is operational at New Ross and Gorey Libraries.

After an induction, members of this enhanced service can access the library on a self-service basis from 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Fully staffed library opening hours remain in place Monday to Saturday. During My Open Library hours, all library services are available. My Open Library users can use the study space, a public PC or laptop, printing services, the internet, the library Wi-Fi. They can also borrow and return items and collect requests. New Ross has 283 members signed up for My Open Library and Gorey has 533.

Sensory Hour

Saturday afternoon from 4.00pm-5.00pm. Sensory Hour supports library users, both adults and children, who have sensory and/or extra needs. It offers a calm and sensory friendly environment for members and their families.

Happy to Chat

"Happy to Chat" the new pilot initiative organised to increase social engagement and reduce loneliness and isolation in the community, continued in Wexford and Enniscorthy branches this month. 'Happy to Chat' is supported by Healthy Wexford and Wexford County Council.

Dementia Focus Group

Wexford Branch provided a space for two Early Onset Dementia Focus Group meetings in January with the Memory Technology Resource Room, New Ross who are putting together a pilot programme for young onset dementia clients. The aim was to meet clients in a space that is non clinical and easily accessible while also showing clients what the library has to offer.

BEAM and Reach Ability - Providing training to adults with special needs.

Trainees from BEAM Services and Reach Ability (County Wexford Community Workshop) returned to Bunclody Library after their Christmas break to borrow books and use the public pcs and hublets.

Learning and Information

Heritage

North Wexford Historical Society Lecture: "History of Uilleann Piping in County Wexford from the 18th Century to recent times"

Gorey Library hosted the North Wexford Historical Society's lecture this month on the "History of Uilleann Piping in County Wexford from the 18th Century to recent times". The speaker, Gorey native Mark Redmond, covered the history of renowned players of the uilleann pipes throughout County Wexford since the 1700's and included musical samples on an array of uilleann pipes during the lecture.

GHOST HOUSE! Wexford

Artists Spooky Beore attended Gorey Library to compile tales for their folklore project GHOST HOUSE! Tapping into oral folklore and storytelling traditions, GHOST HOUSE records and archives personal stories of domestic hauntings from people who have experienced them.

GHOST HOUSE (Wexford edition) is kindly supported by the Creative Communities Award from Creative Ireland Wexford.

An Introduction to Lámh

A demonstration session, with Speech and Language Therapist Caroline Nolan, on Lámh was held in New Ross Library this month. Lámh is the manual sign system used by children and adults with intellectual disability and communication needs in Ireland.

Youth New Ross Info Session

The Youth New Ross Youth Project was in New Ross Library on Wednesday the 31st of January from 11am - 12.30pm with an information stand offering information for people interested in volunteering and gaining skills in youth work.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Ukraine English Classes with Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine and outreach to Ukrainian families continued weekly in Wexford Branch over January. Outreach for Ukrainian Nationals also continued weekly in New Ross Library.

IT Literacy

Digital Literacy

The Digital Help Hub continued in Enniscorthy Library every second week in January and on the 11th of January in Wexford Branch. WWETB Tutors were available to help members of the public use their own devices (phone, tablet, laptop), get online and use apps. Tutors also gave guidance on how to fill in online forms, how to use egov.ie, mywelfare.ie, the National Childcare Scheme, Revenue, SUSI, Choice Based Letting for those on the housing list, and much more. The Digital Help Hub will continue until May 2024. It is a free service, confidential and one-to-one. An initiative of the ALL Adult Literacy for Life national strategy, the WWETB, WLD, and Wexford County Council Library Service have all worked together to bring this to County Wexford.

The Digital Skills Group, run by WWETB resumed their weekly classes in January in Enniscorthy Branch.

Digital Ambassador Drop In Clinic

This clinic was held by library staff in Bunclody Library to help participants learn how to familiarise themselves with digital devices (phone, tablet, laptop etc.).

Age Friendly Services

There were four Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly classes for the over-55s facilitated by WWETB in New Ross Library this month.

Computer Training Suit Upgrade

The IT Computer Training Suite in Wexford Branch is currently being upgraded to enhance meeting, training and activity space.

Local History

A total number of 19 local studies enquiries were responded to and a total of 11 genealogy enquiries were completed in Wexford Branch in January.

Environment and Climate Action

A “Library of Things” – Circular Economy

A **biodiversity kit** is available to borrow from Wexford Library. The kit can be borrowed for up to three weeks and is free to borrow with a library membership card.

The **Home Energy Saving Kit** is available to borrow for two weeks with a library membership card. **Digital Radon Monitors** are currently available free to library members in all five library branches in the county.

Health and Well Being

Beginners Level Pilates Classes were held in Enniscorthy Library. Bunclody Library held Yoga and Mindfulness workshops.

Wexford Walking Trails

The Chairperson of Wexford Walking Trails presented an overview of Sport Ireland accredited walking trails throughout County Wexford in Enniscorthy Library. Several walking trails are in and around Enniscorthy town, and trail group representatives from Ringwood, Enniscorthy Riverside, Ferns, Kiltealy, and Oulart Hill were also present to speak on the night.

Activator Poles

An activator pole demonstration with the Community Sports Development Officer for Sports Active Wexford, was held in January in conjunction with the event on Wexford Walking Trails in Enniscorthy Library. Activator poles can be borrowed from the library by library members. Four of six Activator Poles Sessions scheduled for Wexford Branch were provided by Sports Active Wexford during January.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

Gorey Library held two book launches in January; **Distant Summers: Remembering Philip Casey- Writer, Fabulist, Friend** edited by Eamonn Wall, Katie Donovan and Michael Considine and **The Hidden World of a Foster- Girl**, by Sadie Harpur with Jackie Hayden launched by author Shane Dunphy.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 39 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 7 researchers visited the Archive during January. Research topics included appraisal of artefacts and archival material relating to all forms of sport played in the county for a forthcoming exhibition (1880s-1990s); research through council minutes and private collections on the proposal for a nuclear power facility at Carnsore (1968-82); research on the ‘Pomona’ vessel for a forthcoming lecture (1859) and research through the Archive’s GAA holdings for a history of Gaelic games played in the parish of Templetown, Fethard-on-Sea for the period 1888-1988.

Acquisition

An important Church of Ireland family collection was deposited in the Archive in late January. Comprising property deeds and family correspondence from the early 19th century onwards, the collection pertains to the Boyces of Clonhaston Manor, Enniscorthy.

Outreach

The Archivist delivered a short talk on Ellen ‘Nell’ Ryan, Tomcoole, Taghmon on 31st January for the Women for Election introductory event in County Hall, Carricklawn, which was held to

encourage the involvement of women in local politics and elections as part of the national programme to achieve gender balance in local government. Nell Ryan was the first female elected to Wexford County Council in June 1928 and retained her seat until her retirement in 1954. One of the longest serving female prisoners of the 1916 period, she was immersed in all aspects of local government and civic affairs in County Wexford up to her death in December 1959.

ARTS

Information Café for Artists and Community

An Open Invitation to this initiative was sent to all artists and creatives from County Wexford in early January. Sessions are taking place in each municipal district in February. The Arts Office will be giving information at these sessions on ongoing and future open calls from the Arts Office. The Information Café is also an opportunity for creatives to meet fellow creatives in their area.

Artlinks Bursary Award 2024

The deadline for applications was Monday 22nd January. These Awards are designed to support artists to develop their practice by providing artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and critically engage with their art. The art forms which Artlinks support are Architecture, Circus, Dance, Film, Literature, Music, Opera, Street Arts, Theatre, Traditional Arts and Visual Arts.

ArtLinks 'Breaking the Patterns'

This is a three month artist residency and work placement programme for emerging visual artists set in Seville, Spain. Call for applications and Submissions opened on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Cow House Parents Residency Award 2024

Supported by the Arts Office, the Parenting Artist Residency is designed specifically for parenting artists with dependents between two and twelve years old; children and partners are welcome. Through an open call, this residency will make it possible for participating artists to develop new work, progress existing projects, or get back to their practice after taking time out to have children. The residency will offer childcare, a stipend of €500, accommodation, and meals. Shortlisting is to take place in February, the deadline was Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

Small Arts Festival and Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant Scheme 2024

This scheme opened Wednesday 10th January and has two strands:

Strand 1 – Small Arts Festival Grant

This Strand aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals or experimental artistic events throughout Wexford County. The focus is on festivals of artistic quality that have a strong emphasis on public engagement. We also welcome applications promoting cross disciplinary artistic collaborations and experimentation.

Strand 2 – Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant

This new strand supported by Fáilte Ireland aims to support festivals and events that will drive domestic tourism, help to improve the visitor experience in County Wexford and promote Ireland's Ancient East as the most personally engaging cultural destination in Europe.

Creative Communities 2024

The Creative Communities Group Call out opened on 29th January. The scheme is open to all community groups that are members of Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) and/or communities that are interested in working on an arts project with an artist from our Creative Communities Artists Panel. The Artists Panel has a total of 29 creatives from County Wexford.

Screen Wexford

New Voices 2024: Applications were open for New Voices 2024 until Monday 29th January.

Tara Studios - Tara Studios is now open both as a location and for use as film production offices. Location photos are going up on the Screen Wexford website along with information on the studios.

Fleadhcheoil

Suzanne McKenzie, the Screen Wexford Co-ordinator, has arranged meetings to offer help with permits and other information that will be needed by film crews for the Fleadhcheoil.

Fundamentals in Funding Workshop

With a budget of €2,500, this initiative will bring together personnel from Creative Ireland, The Arts Council, Screen Ireland and Wexford County Council Arts Department, to talk about the strategies needed to apply for funding and to give information on what funding opportunities are available in 2024. Help will be given with written applications and verbal pitches. Plans are being put together for speakers, a venue and a date to run this workshop for local crew in February.

Stakeholders Fund

This initiative will see Screen Wexford start prepping a series of webinars and workshops.

Carlow Institute of Further Education

Screen Wexford will provide supervision over 2 days of work experience by students creating their own short films as part of their curriculum.

Wexford Fire Service Report December 2023

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls December 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	4 (2/2)	64	72
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	9 (1/8)	63	57
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	3	6
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	2	3
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	7	5
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	2	0
School	0	3	0
Other Institution	1	4	3
Factory	0	4	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	11	5
Shop/Supermarket	0	2	3
Office	0	1	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	1	2	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	1
Restaurant	0	1	2
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1

Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	4	51	47
Unoccupied Building	0	2	8
Agriculture Business	0	6	4
Forest/Bog/Grass	0	46	112
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1	13	22
Outdoor Storage	0	8	4
Outdoor Rubbish	2	35	41
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	1	14	11
Gas/Chemicals	0	7	4
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	1	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	4	39	51
Other rescue	10	91	74
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	7	7
Road traffic accident	21	181	182
Water pumping/flooding	1	17	21
Incident Type	Calls December 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	27	334	296
Malicious	0	5	1
Total	87	1028	1047

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	27	11	14	8	4	64
Other Fire in House	11	19	16	11	6	63
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	2	0	0	0	3
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	0	0	1	0	2
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	1	1	2	0	7
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	0	1	0	0	2
School	0	0	3	0	0	3
Other Institution	4	0	0	0	0	4
Factory	2	0	1	1	0	4
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	5	2	4	0	11
Shop/Supermarket	1	0	0	1	0	2
Office	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	1	1	0	2
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall,	0	0	0	0	0	0

Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall						
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	18	13	9	9	2	51
Unoccupied Building	1	0	1	0	0	2
Agriculture Business	1	3	1	0	1	6
Forest/Bog/Grass	11	13	7	5	10	46
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	6	1	1	4	1	13
Outdoor Storage	2	2	2	2	0	8
Outdoor Rubbish	18	3	8	5	1	35

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	4	4	5	1	0	14
Gas/Chemicals	4	2	1	0	0	7
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	6	8	14	9	2	39
Other rescue	37	19	24	10	1	91
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	3	1	3	0	0	7
Road traffic accident	53	45	48	25	10	181
Water pumping/flooding	8	4	3	2	0	17
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	134	65	76	44	15	334
Malicious	4	0	1	0	0	5
Total	362	221	246	146	53	1028

Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in December 2023:	14
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	178
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	130

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE & INTEGRATION TEAM UPDATE

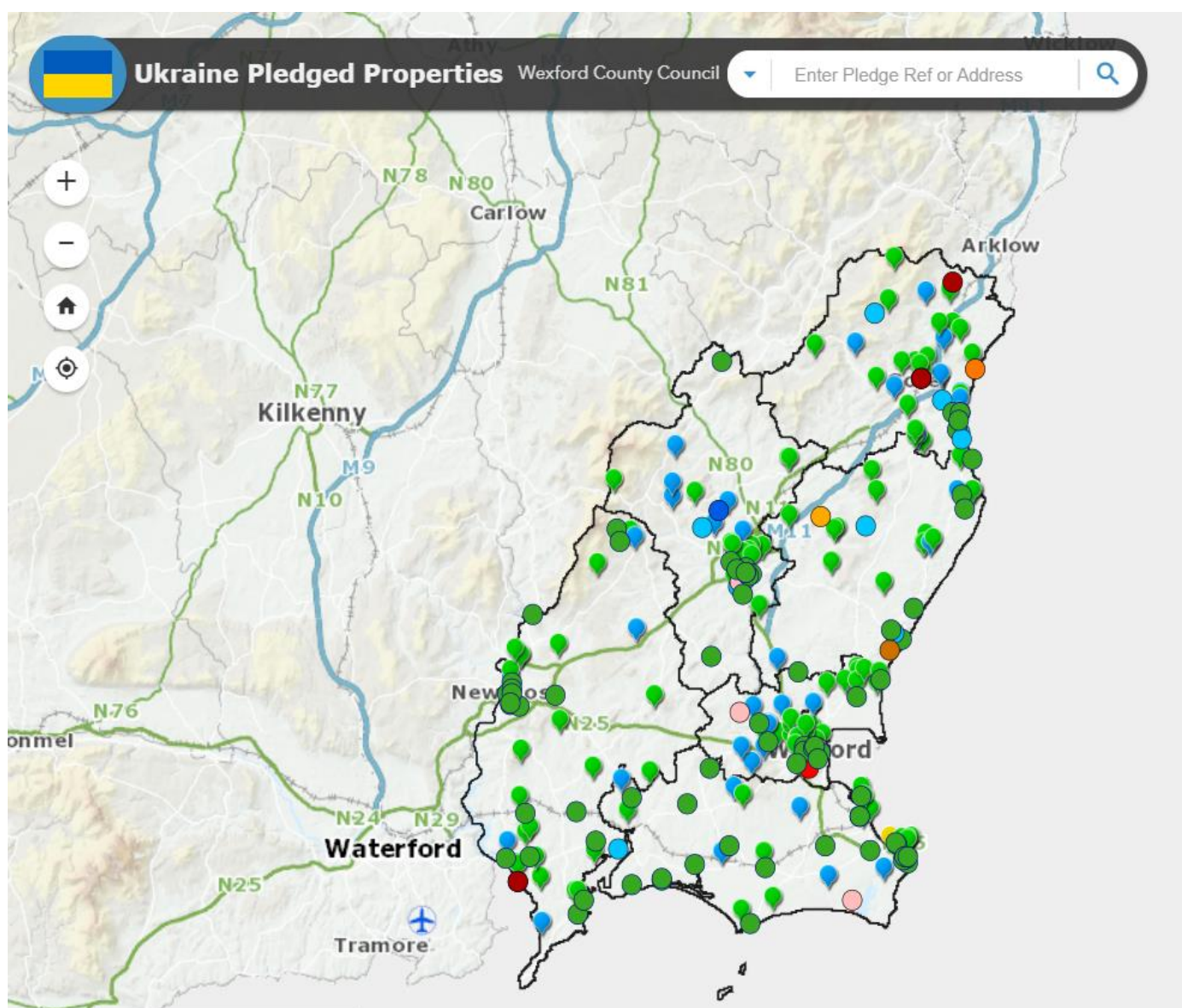
Accommodation

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTP's) in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas.

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	189	645
Irish Red Cross	55	185

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 31/01/24 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

Fig. No. 1 is an infographic showing the location of both Offer a Home and Irish Red Cross pledged properties currently housing Ukrainian people (BOTP's) in Wexford.



Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Letters of Intent have issued for 6 properties with a further 6 properties undergoing the early stages of assessment.

Integration Support Forum

The Integration Support Forum (formerly Ukraine Community Response Forum) will meet Q1 of 2024. It was agreed that the next meeting of the forum would be in person with a facilitated session(s) to consider the revised remit.

Accommodation Breakdown for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders.

Fig. No. 2 Numbers in accommodation by type

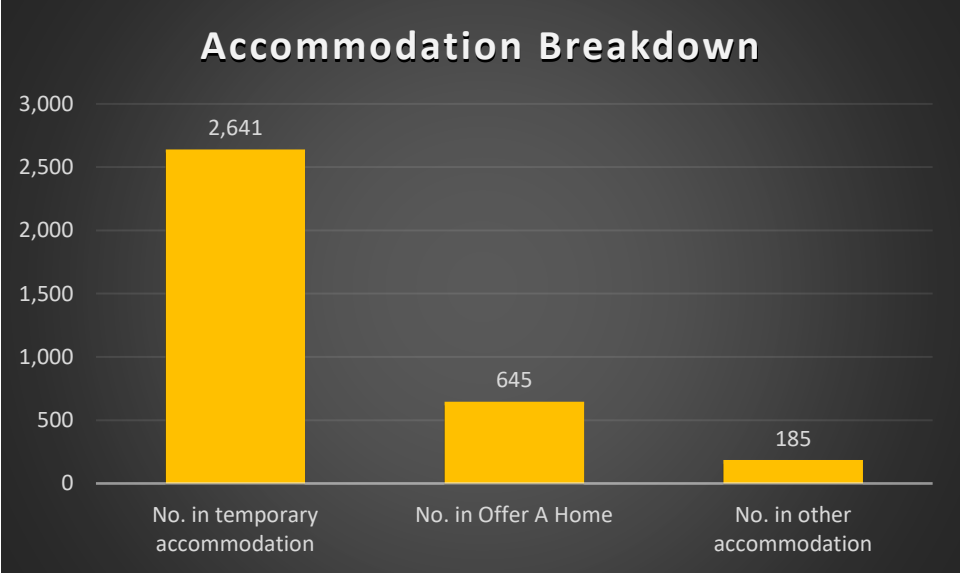


Fig. No. 3 Numbers in accommodation by district

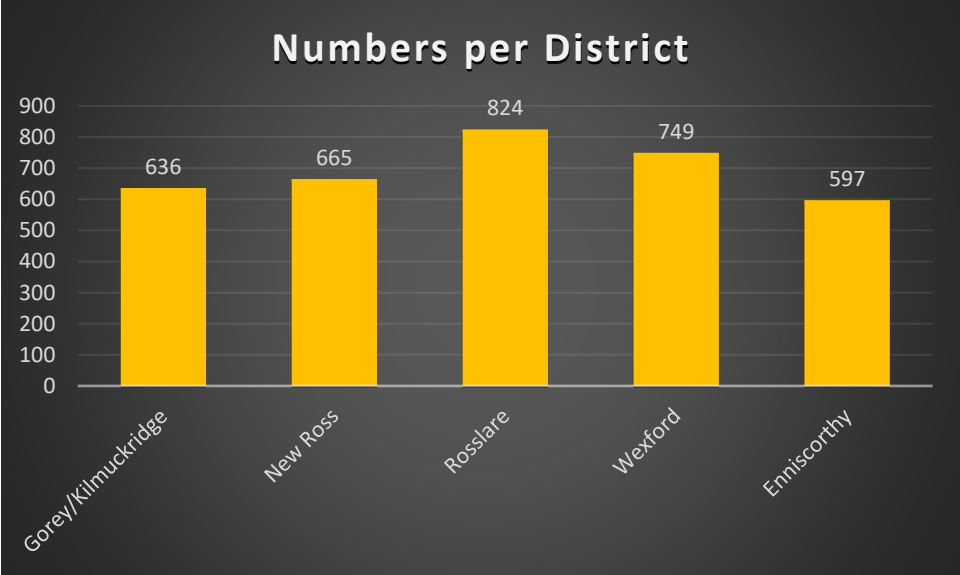


Fig. No. 4 Accommodation Dashboard for BOPT’s and IPA’s

Total Arrivals from
Ukraine

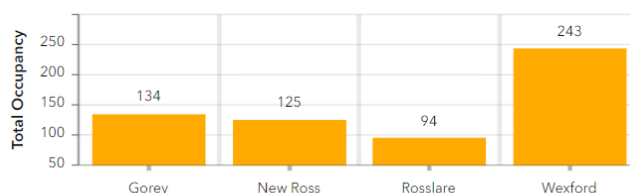
 **3,471**

Wexford accounts for
3.79%
of State total (91,576)

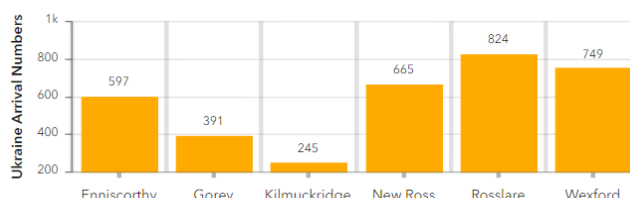
9th

highest number of arrivals in State (26 Counties)

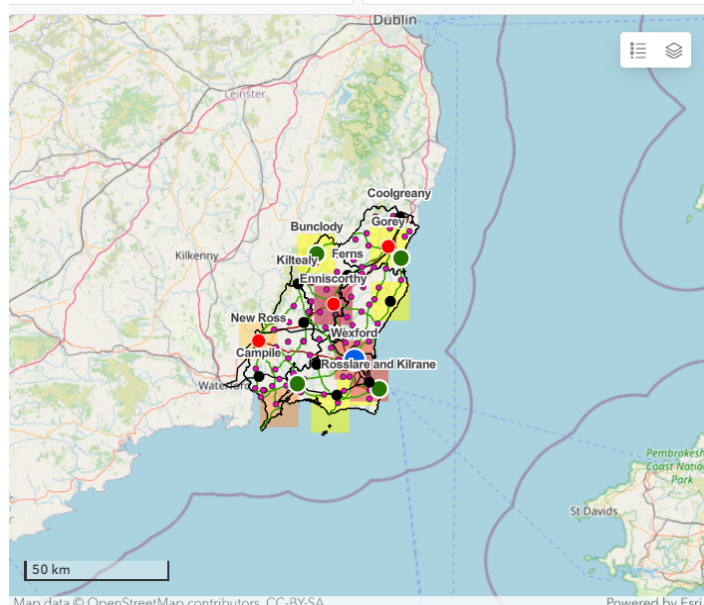
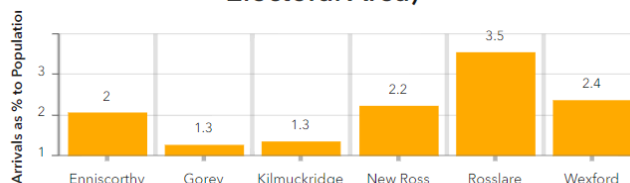
Total IPAS Occupancy (Local Electoral Area)



of Arrivals from Ukraine (Local Electoral Area)



Arrivals from Ukraine as % of Population (Local Electoral Area)



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA

Powered by Esri

** 33 IPAS Accommodation Centres in Wexford

For confidentiality reasons, current IPAS capacity is aggregated and grouped by settlement.

*Source: CSO - Number of arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland based on PPSN allocations



(The above figure of 33 IPAS centres includes BOPT's and IPA's)

School Enrolments

There are 558 Ukrainian primary school enrolments and 301 secondary school enrolments for the academic year 2023/2024 in County Wexford. CSO Series 11.

Employment

As of 29 January 2024, there were 599 active employments of Ukrainians in County Wexford, source CSO.

Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT Co-ordinator Ms. Stephanie Warner and Support Worker Ms. Pauline Gallagher commenced employment on the 18th December 2023. The service is under development and the initial service planning meeting took place on the 31.01.24. The second support worker Mr. John Caulfield, Social Care Worker, Wexford County Council will start with the team on the 14th February.

An initial report to on their work for the members of the Council will be prepared in Q1.



Gorey Family Resource Centre, recipients of the Community Recognition Fund celebrating the refurbishment of their centre.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	10
Customer Complaint	15
Ombudsman Complaint	3
Access to Information on the Environment	2
Data Access Request	4
Total	34

PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

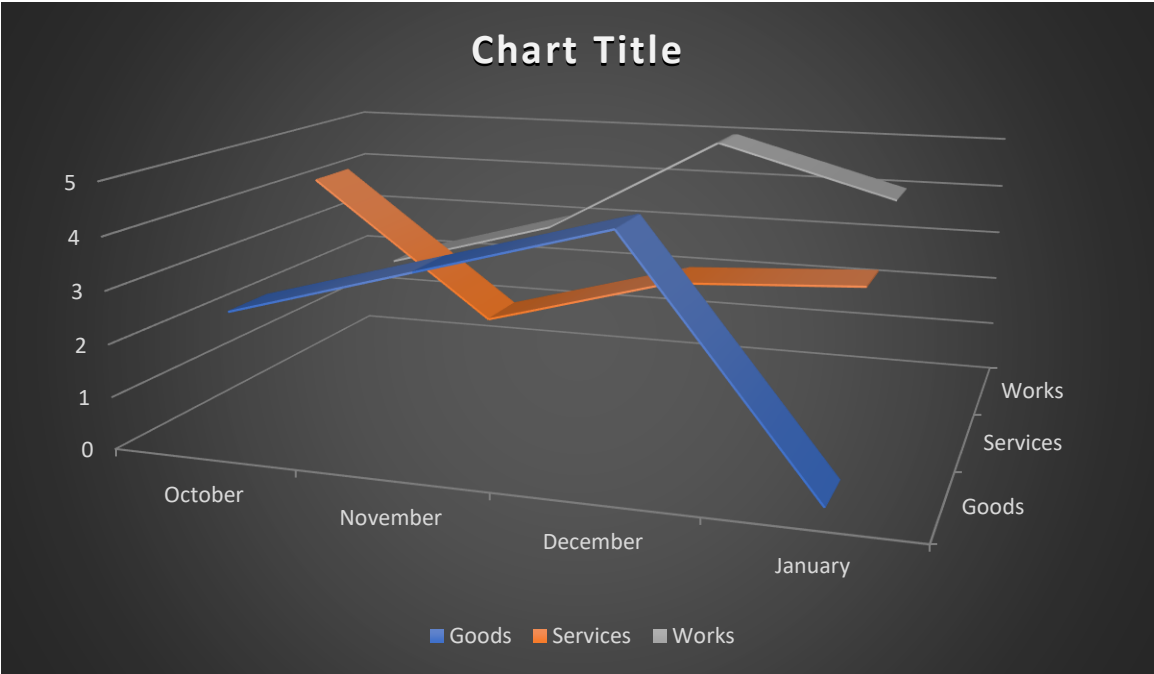
Tenders from 1st January 2024 to 31st January 2024

No. of Tenders Uploaded

Type	
Goods	0
Services	3
Works	4
TOTAL	7
Total Estimated Value	€2,690,000.0

No. of Tenders Received

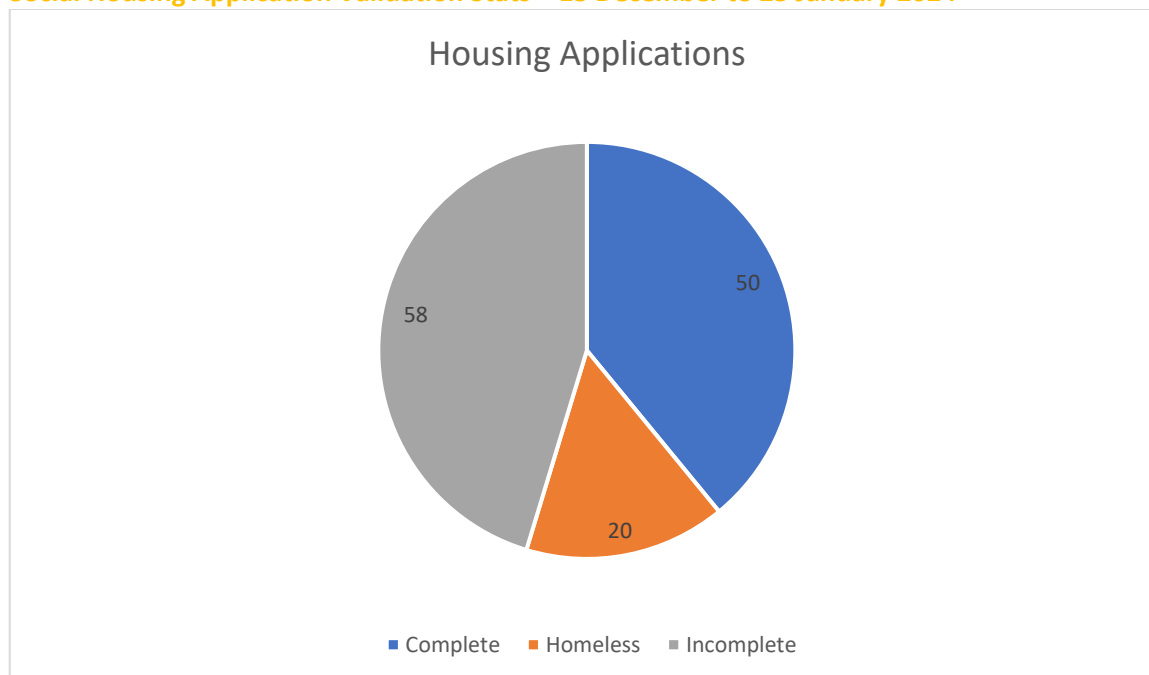
TOTAL	11
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CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 15 December to 25 January 2024

Area	15 December to 25 January 2024
Phone Calls	5642
Environmental Complaints	467
Change of Circumstances	31
Housing Validation	128
Quick Calls	3614
Roads Fault Log	85
Emails (Received & Sent)	3339
Web Updates / Consultations	106
Newspaper Adverts	257

Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 15 December to 25 January 2024



Members Portal Queries by Section – 15 December to 25 January 2024

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Environment	2	7	9
Finance	0	1	1
Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District	2	5	7
Housing	9	69	78
Planning	1	3	4
Roads	0	3	3
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	2	8	10
Roads – Gorey- Kilmuckridge MD	0	16	16
Roads – New Ross MD	0	2	2
Roads – Rosslare MD	0	2	2
Roads – Wexford MD	0	3	3
Wexford Municipal District	0	1	1
TOTAL	16	120	136

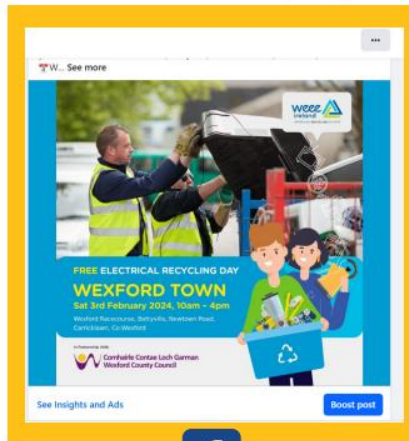
COMMUNICATIONS

Month: 23rd Dec 2023 to 31st Jan 2024

Top Performing Posts

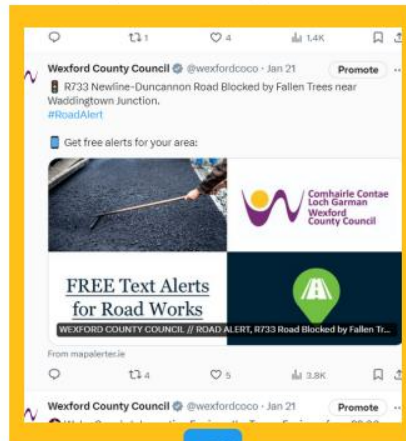


Free Electrical Recycling



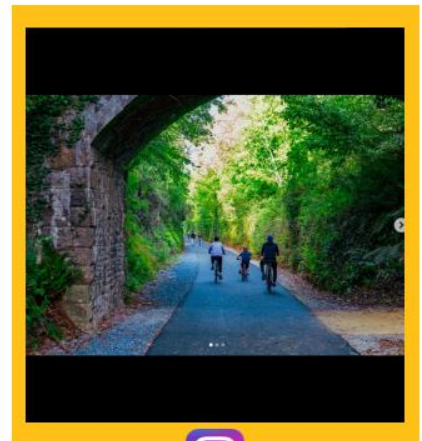
18K views

Map Alert during Storm



3.8K Impressions

Christmas Break - Visit Greenway



1.5K views

Top Performing Posts



Christmas Tree Shredding



13.1K views

Phone Line Issues



3.3K impressions

Weather Warning



1.2K Views

Monthly Social Media Stats



PAGE REACH

49,200

PAGE VISITS

13,722

PAGE FOLLOWS

8,435

NEW PAGE LIKES

96

NUM OF POSTS

43



PAGE REACH

3,300

PAGE VISITS

606

PAGE FOLLOWS

2975

NEW PAGE LIKES

131

NUM OF POSTS

35



IMPRESSIONS

110K

PAGE FOLLOWERS

14,357

NEW FOLLOWERS

40

We're working on improvements to analytics.twitter.com. In the meantime, you may see some metrics are missing. You can access your Tweet Analytics and download reports [here](#). You can try the new version of account analytics beta [here](#).

Monthly Social Media Content

- Exhibition launch in Wexford Library
- Expressions of Interest - Supply of Social Housing
- 2024 Rate Demand
- Recruitment
- Phone line issues at County Hall
- Sporting Memories Event
- Register to Vote
- Weather Warnings
- Free Electrical Recycling
- Road Closed - Storm Isha
- Curracloe named as Ireland's Best Beach
- Wexford County Council & Women for Election Event
- St. Patricks Day Committee - Enniscorthy
- Local Enhancement Programme 2024
- Design Team Appointed - Trinity Wharf
- County Rate Statutory Notice
- Fire Fighter Recruitment Video

- Screen Wexford - Open Call
- Elected Members approve planning for Housing - Monamolin
- Be Winter Ready
- Keep Your Chimney Cleaned
- Christmas Tree Shredding
- Happy New Year Post
- Window Display Competition - Enniscorthy
- Wexford Walking Trails
- Visit the Greenway at Christmas
- Merry Christmas Post
- Christmas Video from Wexford County Council



Monthly Engagements

TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.



Heads up @wexfordcoco there is no diversion signage whatsoever in place at any of the road junctions after you take the initial diversion turn on the R733 at Ballymitty. Extremely frustrating when you don't know the back roads around Taghmon.

10:46 AM · Jan 31, 2024 · 262 Views



Came across 2 dead dolphins today 🐬 Carnivan Beach, Wexford. Female one is more recently washed up, white underbelly-Common bottlenose? Logging it with @IWDGnews @Irishwildlife @AnTaisce



You and Hook Rural Tourism Ltd

2:05 PM · Jan 29, 2024 from Wexford, Ireland · 295 Views

Press Releases January 2024

10.01.24 Wexford Co. Council and Wexford Local Development sign Framework Agreement worth up to 15.5 million euro Community
12.01.24 Design Team Appointed for next phases of Trinity Wharf project_ Special Projects
18.01.24 Enniscorthy Technology Park planted as part of The 100 Million Tree Project Environment
18.01.24 Local Enterprise Office Wexford created over 328 Jobs in 2023 LEO
22.01.24 Local Enterprise Showcase Winners Sully & Juno LEO

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexford-county-council-press-releases-2024>

Press Queries January 2024

7 Press Queries received in January.

Queries:

- Coastal Erosion
- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant
- Slurry Spreading
- Solar Farms & Farm Inspections
- Leased Properties
- Councillor Expenses
- Leased Properties



6 responses issued.

Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2023

Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2023 Accounts. The preparation of the annual accounts will take a number of months to complete but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

Rate Accounts 2024

Rate Demands for 2024 have been issued. The Council continues to promote the use of the portal for eBilling for all Rate Customers and communications were issued to advise that they can access their Rates Bill through the new Payment Portal which also provides additional payment options and other features. To date almost 1200 ratepayers have registered on the Payment portal.

Capital Programme 2024 – 2026

Work has commenced on the preparation of the next 3 Year Capital Programme, 2024 - 2026 and it is planned to have this ready for consideration of members in the first quarter of 2024.

Audit Committee/Audit

The annual reports to the council prepared by the Audit Committee, in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Regulation 15 (1) of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 are included on the agenda as separate item for consideration by members. The reports include the Audit Committee's consideration of the 2022 Audited Financial Statement (AFS) and the Local Government Auditor's Statutory Report on the accounts of Wexford County Council for 2022 together with the committee's report on their activities during 2023 and their annual work programme for 2024.

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 20th March 2024.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m to 31st December 2024.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**