



## **Chief Executive's Report**

**County Council Meeting 14.11.22**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Local Enterprise Office

### Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme

Táiniste Leo Varadkar has announced details of the new €200m Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme. The scheme will be processed by Local Enterprise Office Wexford on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

There will be two streams of funding under the Scheme to assist **viable but vulnerable firms of all sizes in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors**. The first stream will assist firms suffering liquidity problems as a result of Russia's war on Ukraine, and the second stream will also help those impacted by severe rises in energy costs.

- **Stream 1** is a liquidity measure that will help viable manufacturing and Internationally Traded Services companies experiencing trading difficulties to access funding up to €500,000 in grants, repayable advances, equity and/or loans. Businesses must have a reduction of 15% in EBIDTA (Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) and a minimum liquidity shortfall of €20,000 in order to be eligible.
- **Stream 2** is a State aid support for eligible energy intensive companies (energy costs at least 3% of turnover prior to crisis) who are experiencing severe increases in energy costs in 2022.

A dedicated centralised Hub in EI will deal with all queries, issue the application packs and receive back completed packs before referring to LEO Wexford for processing.

For both Streams applicants must submit an energy efficiency plan either planned or underway. Companies without such plans will be directed to SEAI and LEO / Enterprise Ireland climate action measures – particularly consultancy initiatives aimed at preparing an energy efficiency plan. This may increase the number of companies who will prepare energy efficiency plans in the medium to long run.

LEO Wexford will assist in the completion of application documents (via financial mentors). Applications from companies of less than 10 employees and less than €2m turnover will be assessed by LEO staff to confirm their status as a going concern and brought to Evaluation and Approvals Committee for approval.

Current information is that businesses can apply for Stream 1, Stream 2 and TBESS (Revenue Scheme) if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria for each scheme.

Further details of the scheme available at [www.enterprise-ireland.com/ecs](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/ecs)

Cabinet has also approved the publication of legislation to unlock up to €1.2 billion in low-cost loans to SMEs and small mid-caps (up to 500 employees) under the **Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme**. It will open before the end of the year and provide low-cost unsecured working capital for SMEs and primary producers to help them to spread the increased input costs and limit disruption to supply chains.

## National Women's Enterprise Day 2022

On 13<sup>th</sup> October National Women Enterprise Day was celebrated across Ireland with 15 regional events and a total participation of 1,437 female entrepreneurs, women in business and female-led businesses. The Wexford event was held at the Ashdown Park Hotel in Gorey with a total of 103 attendees and a diverse panel of speakers including Wexford local Leading light Laura Sinnott of Wexford Home Preserves, international soccer referee Michelle O'Neill, Trudi Power of Trudies Kitchen, Chupi Sweetman international jewellery designer and MC Joanne Hession of LIFT Ireland. The post event feedback was very positive and showed a clear preference for in-person events (87%) with participants highlighting the greatest benefits – “inspiration by other female entrepreneurs and networking opportunities”. The event was opened by Cllr. Maura Bell, Chair of the Women's Coalition of Wexford Co. Council.



## Tourism

### Visit Wexford Autumn Campaign



## SEPTEMBER SUMMARY

### SEPTEMBER (MOM) SOCIAL KPIS

Profile	Audience	Net Audience Growth	Published Posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Video Views
<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>75,069</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>878,529</b>	<b>23,889</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>32,360</b>
Sep 1, 2022 – Sep 30, 2022	↗ 0.4%	↘ 65.4%	↘ 26%	↘ 22.1%	↘ 30.2%	↘ 10.4%	↘ 49%
<b>Compare to</b>	<b>74,760</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1,127,108</b>	<b>34,206</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>63,513</b>
Aug 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2022							
visitwexford	16,319	76	68	240,743	1,542	0.6%	8,305
@visitwexford	11,225	30	67	28,094	852	3%	458
Visit Wexford	47,525	32	44	609,692	21,495	3.5%	23,597

\* Performance down compared to a very strong August with the Wexford Rose Tour and more content shared throughout the duration of the tour



The Visit Wexford Autumn Campaign took place in September and October and included 2 weeks of daily ad spots on Today FM & RTÉ 2FM plus a week-long giveaway on primetime radio on RTÉ 2FM. The campaign also featured in a full page colour print in VIP Magazine which was published on 12th October and the weekend issues of the Irish Independent on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd October and the bank holiday weekend of Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October.



## AVEA 2022 Annual Conference



The 2022 Annual Conference of AVEA, the Association of Visitor Experiences & Attractions, took place in Wexford Town on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th October. The conference was opened by Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the MC for the event was the journalist and broadcaster Olivia O'Leary. The theme of the 2022 Conference was 'Our People - Our Future.'

The Conference was an engaging and vibrant dialogue on the importance of people in the business of the visitor experiences and attractions sector.

Speakers on Day 1 of the conference included Tom Enright, CEO Wexford County Council, Paul Kelly, CEO Fáilte Ireland, Niall Gibbons, CEO Tourism Ireland, John McGrillen, CEO Tourism Northern Ireland, and Liam Griffin, hotelier.

Day 2 of the conference provided a platform to showcase the tourism product in County Wexford with learning journey visits to Irish National Heritage Park, Johnstown Castle Estate Museum and Gardens and a guided walking tour of Wexford Town.





## PLANNING

### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 until the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

No. of valid applications	169
No. of invalid applications	10
Extension of Duration	5
Exempted Development Declaration	11

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022 until 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

No. of valid applications	1330
No. of invalid applications	119
Extension of Duration	30
Exempted Development Declaration	49

### Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

No. of open pre-planning requests	159
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	241
Average waiting time to meeting	111 days

## **Forward Planning**

### **Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028**

The County Development Plan, which came into effect on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022, is currently being graphically designed and translated. An information session is planned for landscape professionals on the new biodiversity requirements of the plan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. A general information session on the new plan and planning policy and practice will also take place for all agents on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **Wexford Local Area Plan**

Significant desktop research has been completed for Wexford Town Local Area Plan. Field survey work has commenced. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Plan. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is nearing completion and will be circulated to Environmental Authorities in the coming weeks.

### **Enniscorthy Local Area Plan**

Background work has commenced for Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan. Quotations have been sought for the Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for Enniscorthy Town.

### **Building Control (24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022)**

• Validated Commencement Notices:	51
• Number of Building Control Inspections:	36
• Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion:	27
• Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts	02

## **Planning Enforcement**

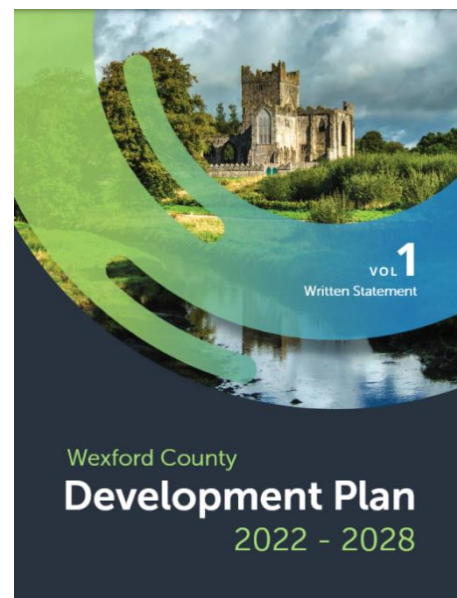
The number of planning enforcement cases as of 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 are as follows:

• Live Cases	<b>342</b>
• Cases Opened from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	<b>214</b>
• Cases Closed from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	<b>230</b>

### **Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting**

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 are as follows: -

• Live Cases	<b>08</b>
• Cases Opened since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	<b>20</b>
• Cases Closed since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	<b>31</b>



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

Report from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website updated on **27/10/2022**
- **17** property inspections/visits conducted.
- **2** properties removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- **1** property owners currently engaged with the County Council to carry out remedial works so that the properties will not be placed on Derelict Site Register.
- **2** Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- **1** Section 8(7) Notices issued.
- **13** Section 22 Notices (Valuations) issued.

## **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**

The Government's *Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland* proposed a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply.

The **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)** was introduced in the *Finance Act 2021*. The process to identify land to which the tax applies is now underway and the tax will be payable from 2024.

The objective of the tax is to activate land that is serviced and zoned for residential use or mixed use, including residential use, in order to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations. These locations have been identified within existing statutory land use plans at Gorey, Courtown, Bunclody and Rosslare/Kilrane.

Wexford County Council has prepared a draft map of the land considered to be in scope for the RZLT. This draft map can be found on <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/>

Any interested individuals or parties may make submissions in respect of land on the draft map.

**Please note that although they are included on the map, residential properties are not subject to RZLT if they are subject to Local Property Tax. It is not necessary to make a submission to remove this type of residential property from the map.**

Submissions can be made by the public on the draft map from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. These submissions can challenge the inclusion of particular lands on the draft map on the basis that those lands do not meet the criteria set out within the [legislation](#); the date on which the land is considered to meet this criteria; or can request a change of zoning. During the draft map stage, submissions can also identify additional land which appears to meet the criteria and so falls into scope, and which may be placed on the supplemental map.

A supplemental map will be published on 1 May 2023 identifying additional land considered to be in scope as a result of a change of zoning, servicing or where the local authority becomes aware of the fact that land, which didn't appear on the draft map, may meet the criteria for being in scope, such as where this has been identified during



submissions. The supplemental map will also be on public display and open to submissions which may challenge the inclusion of additional land on the map.

**Land appearing on both the draft and supplemental maps, as amended to take into account the outcome of submissions made in respect of the land on these maps, will be included on the final map of land in scope for the tax in the local authority area to be published on 1 December 2023.** This land will be subject to the tax unless it is exempt as a residential property, as outlined above.

**The administration of the RZLT is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners.**

Wexford County Council will accept submissions through <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/> or via email to RZLT@wexfordcoco.ie and/or in writing to Planning Department, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford, Co. Wexford, Y35 WY93.

**Disability Access Certificates (DACs):**

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 up to and including 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, totals **58**.

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	7	0	2	5	0
Gorey	11	1	2	6	2
New Ross	8	0	3	4	1
Wexford	19	0	1	16	2
Rosslare	13	0	1	12	0
<b>2022 Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>

**Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity**

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>109</b>

**Access Related Items**

The Access Office Wexford County Council has been shortlisted for the NCBI Vision Awards 2022 in the category "Accessibility in the Built Environment". The Accessibility in the Built Environment Award recognises individuals and companies who are proactive in planning, building, or changing the built environment, transportation network or shared spaces to ensure they are fully accessible to people who are blind or vision impaired. The Awards Ceremony will take place on the 9th of November in Dublin.

## **2021-2023 Disability Participation and Awareness Funding Projects (DPAF)**

### **Innovative Community Engagement (I.C.E.) Project**

#### **Borough District of Wexford**

The Access Section are delighted to inform that Love Redmond Park have recently joined as a participating community group in the '*Innovative Community Engagement*' (ICE) project, and in doing so are the representative group of the Borough District of Wexford in this project.

A training and awareness workshop - a key requirement of entry to the ICE project - was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October to facilitate their addition.

A number of on-site meetings have also taken place with key stakeholders including staff of NCBI, providing a demonstration of vision impairments, to both inform and assist committee members in determining what actions they could consider, to ensure visual contrast aspects is included

#### **New Ross Municipal District**

The Raheen Family Resource Centre having resubmitted their I.C.E. project proposals were supported by a follow up site visit on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, it is expected further updates to be made available by end of next month.

#### **Enniscorthy Municipal District**

Kiltealy Community Development Association, Kiltealy Wood Hub and Kiltealy Tidy Towns held a local launch of their 'Innovative Community Engagement' (ICE) project on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Mary Browne of Browne's Photography has been engaged to take official photographs of this launch and all I.C.E. project works throughout the county so as to facilitate an overall countywide event aimed to take place January of 2023.

The new concrete surface and walkway installed creates connectivity throughout their facility including to the proposed new polytunnel. This will now enable persons of all ages and abilities to safely participate and access the array of varied services available at the Kiltealy Wood Hub location.

Bunclody Day Care Centre continues to work on their accessible community garden under the I.C.E. project and is expected to be completed by end of November/mid-December.

#### **Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**

Monageer Parish Grotto Group have started their proposed works which are expected to be completed by year end, to include new designs for accessible picnic benches, safety measures and enhances accessibility works to the garden.

The accessibility works within the Grotto featured favourably in the recent Tidy Towns 2022 adjudication.

## **Rosslare Municipal District**

The proposals for Our Lady's Island are ongoing. The linkage with Heathy Wexford and WCC Community Department to provide an enhanced project building on current facilities to pilot an example of accessible intergenerational play, engagement and opportunities details are required.

Rosslare Community & Sports Centre (RCSC) are moving forward with the proposed upgrade works to improve access to facilities. Retrofit works to the external footpath around the facility and to the playground have been completed.

### **Advanced Digital Access Participation Project, (ADAPP)**

As part of *the 'Advanced Digital Access Participation Project'* (ADAPP), virtual tours of our public buildings, five in total, have been created and narration for these tours is almost complete. A launch event for these and the previously featured virtual tours of five Heritage site (one in each District) will be organised in the lead-up to Christmas.

### **Complaints**

The Access Section continues to liaise with all stakeholders, including relevant Districts, on access related complaints received directly to its offices. An end of year review report will be provided in this regard.

# Water Services



**1. Irish Water Asset  
Delivery**

**2. Minor Capital**

**3. Rural Water  
Programme**

**4. Water Conservation**





# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A new gravity main for Mary Street</li> <li>➤ SI is complete and detail Stage 4 design workshop is completed.</li> <li>➤ Next stage is final design.</li> <li>➤ Contractor will be selected from existing framework.</li> <li>➤ Estimated costs €800,000 and €200,000(pipe fix).</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake and Vinegar Hill Upgrade Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Planning decision due shortly</li> <li>➤ SI competed</li> <li>➤ Tenders are being finalised and should be ready within this month.</li> <li>➤ Agreements still required for rail crossing and land purchases.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works complete in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Model verification ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system</li> <li>➤ Tender evaluation January 2022, with start onsite Q2 2022</li> <li>➤ Consultants JB Barry appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Stage 1 commenced July 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Newtown WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including improved raw water treatment, instrumentation and run to waste facility</li> <li>➤ Preliminary design ongoing, IW have appointed Glan Agua as part of their early contractor involvement programme to design and build the new works</li> <li>➤ Onsite work to commence Q1 2023</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.</li> </ul>


<b>Creagh WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment</li> <li>➤ Upgrade works to begin Q2 2023, small accommodation works ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> Plant In operational phase with Glan Agua</li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project is now at commissioning stage. Expect to enter 12-month operational phase with Sisk from start of October 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Main contractor Sisk is on site to build the new wastewater treatment plant in Kilmore Quay.</li> <li>○ Work is progressing to programme to date with the new pump stations and pipe network under construction.</li> <li>○ Main Contractor is due to commence works on the Quay which will involve new traffic management.</li> <li>○ Works on the L3056 road has commenced and is expected to take 9-11 weeks with a road closure in place.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focusing on mains rehabilitation and will revert to Find &amp; Fix as required. We have external finding resources at present with fixes being completed by WCC operational staff.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Dublin Road in Enniscorthy 2.3km of mains rehabilitation is due for completion in mid-October.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Irish Water, Asset Planning section has advised that this project is postponed indefinitely and an update on the timeline will issue in due course. (Confirmed 30.09)</li> </ul>
<b>STVGP – Small towns and villages growth programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IW programme to deliver additional capacity to existing towns and villages serviced by IW. Wellington Bridge and Tagoat are included in national programme</li> <li>➤ Option reports complete for both projects with Irish Water Delivery section now taking control of both</li> </ul>
<b>Coolree Reservoir Rehabilitation works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rehabilitation works to the embankment, spillway and valve tower at Coolree Reservoir</li> <li>➤ Preliminary scope outlined with ongoing feasibility studies to determine best solution</li> </ul>
<b>Bunclody Water supply- Supply Demand Balance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hydrogeological assessment underway</li> <li>➤ Workshop -1 complete for upgrades to the existing plant to aid the current plant operation</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital



<b>IW Minor Water Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Water Plant Generators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To improve resilience of water treatment plants, a number of new generators have been installed, including at Creagh WTP Gorey Town and at Vinegar Hill WTP.</li> <li>○ Additional generators are currently being procured for Fardystown wellfield borehole sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Treated Water storage programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.</li> <li>○ Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; Tender issued to market September 2022.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Minor Wastewater Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pump and control upgrades for Ryland Road WWPS Bunclody, Mauritiustown WWPS Rosslare, and Rosemary Heights WWPS Ferns are well progressed on site.</li> <li>○ An order has been issued for new smart pumps to be installed at Ballygerry WWPS, Rosslare Harbour.</li> <li>○ New smart pumps and controls were installed at The Clovers WWPS Fethard-on-Sea and new pumps installed at Beechfields WWPS Fethard-on-Sea during September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>SCADA Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SCADA upgrades at 3 No. WWTPs (Carrick, Kilmuckridge and Bridgetown) are on order, and expected to start on site in December.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>WWTP Minor Improvement Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade works to improve resilience of the inlet PS at Ballymurn WWTP is currently underway.</li> <li>○ Repairs to the control and dosing buildings at Rosslare WWTP were completed during September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Invest to Save</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with manufacture now complete, and installation is underway.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2022 has been adjusted to €2.35 million</li> <li>➤ The latest available report from Irish Water shows spend to end of September at €2.29 million.</li> </ul>

<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<b>Willows, Wellington Bridge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works are currently underway.</li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021 and 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kyle Close, Oulart-</b> Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in Q4 2022.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mountain View, Ballindaggin-</b> COF received from IW. Survey complete and full design underway.</li> <li>➤ <b>Gleann na gCaor, Monagear-</b> Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>➤ <b>Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Coolballow estate-</b> Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS</li> </ul>

<b>3. Rural Water</b>	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kilanerin GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.</li> <li>○ Group Water Scheme and NFGWS discussing the various options Recommended.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 - Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Storage Tank</b> - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants.</li> <li>○ A report has been provided and assessed.</li> <li>○ Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution.</li> <li>○ GWS reviewing recommendations, discussions are ongoing.</li> <li>○ <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.</li> <li>○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December. Follow up with Dept. March 2022.</li> <li>○ June 2022, spoke to the Dept. awaiting response.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<p>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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</li> <li>○ Stage 2 of the part XI process commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> March when the documents were submitted to Planning.</li> <li>○ Works currently in development are preparation of site investigation works and main contract tender packages.</li> <li>○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval.</li> <li>○ Site visit and meeting took place in June with the committee and landowners regarding pumping station sites.</li> <li>○ New drawings have been completed for the revision of pumping station sites and submitted to committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MARWP 2022-2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<p>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A total of 33 new well grant applications were registered in September 2022.</li> <li>○ 28 Well Grants have been paid in July &amp; August, totalling €54,704</li> <li>○ Paperless system in place for Individual Well Grants. IT are currently designing a further Workflow.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure A8 – Waster Water Collection &amp; Treatment Needs for Villages &amp; Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b></li> <li>○ Submissions requested from all local authorities</li> <li>○ Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022</li> <li>○ Matrix was constructed for Priority funding</li> <li>○ Limited to two applications</li> <li>○ Feasibility studies submitted to the Department for Ramsgrange and Glynn for review by expert panel</li> <li>○ Dept. have requested further information, this is being compiled and returned</li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



### Water Conservation

- **Consumption**  
Current countywide consumption for October 2022 is on average 43.17MLD. Overall consumption is trending high.

### Leak Detection & Repair

- **Leak repairs**  
Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 36nr operational repairs and 9nr Find and Fix leak repairs were recorded for September 2022.
- **Planned Leak Detection (PLD)**
  - Planned leak detection was focused mainly in Carrig, Fardystown, Enniscorthy, Courtown and Camolin during October 2022.

### Water Network Programme

- **Rehab Submissions**
  - Trance 7 rehab and BYS proposals have been submitted for Irish Water for approval of 2023 works. No confirmation of approvals currently for 2023 planned work.
- **Find and Fix**
  - LA Find crews were concentrated in New Ross town.
  - Contractor crews were in Wexford town, Enniscorthy and Gorey in October 2022.
- **BYS Services**
  - Works underway in St John's Villas, Pearse Road, Redmond St and Drumgoold Villas in Enniscorthy by Irish Water's Regional Contractor, Shareridge.
  - St Johns Villas and Pearse Road were scheduled for decommissioning in October 2022 – this is not yet complete but works to 4nr remaining properties should be complete by mid-November, and the back yard schemes will be fully decommissioned.
- **Pressure Management**
  - A PRV was replaced at Colestown on Forth Mountain during October 2022.
- **First Fix**
  - IW Regional Contractor, Shareridge are conducting ongoing First Fix investigations and repairs around the county.

# Roads & Transportation

## MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Appointment of the Ground Investigation Contractor is in progress. It is anticipated that fieldworks could commence in late November.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- The overall design of the development is progressing. Proposed alignment and junction arrangements have been reviewed by the Project Team and in general agreed.
- Engagement with the landowners has commenced. Landowners are being presented with the proposed alignment on the individual bases and this will continue in the coming period.
- Project has been officially approved by the European Commission for the Connecting Europe Facilities funding, which will support completion of Phases 3 and 4 of the Project.

### N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The position on this project remains unchanged, we are still awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála.

- Section 177AE planning application & CPO Maps and Schedules were submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 3 submissions were submitted to An Bord Pleanála which may at its discretion hold an oral hearing on proposed development. Anticipated date for the decision by An Bord Pleanála is 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

### 2022 Pavement Schemes

#### **N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,000,000)**

This scheme is 2 km in length and runs between the R739 Kilmore junction to the L7050 Orristown junction on the N25.

Invitations to tender were issued on 30<sup>th</sup> August with a tender return date of 16<sup>th</sup> September. The contract was awarded on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Pavement works will commence in the first quarter of 2023.

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

The total scheme length is 3.7km. The allocation from TII for 2022 allows for the first 2 km at the southern end to be completed in 2022.

Invitations to tender were issued on 14<sup>th</sup> October with a tender return date of 28<sup>th</sup> October. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded by the end of November.

Pavement works will commence in the first quarter of 2023.

## **2022 Safety Schemes**

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

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

Works commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and should be substantially completed by the end of the year.

## **2022 Additional Maintenance Allocations**

### **N30 Forestwood Pavement Repair: €250,000**

Wexford County Council applied for and received additional maintenance funding from TII to carry out pavement repairs on the N30 at Forestwood. These works were tendered in August. Construction is due to commence in early November.

### **Drainage and Verge Maintenance**

**€110,000**

Wexford County Council applied for and received additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11, N25 and N30. Works were completed during May and June.

A consultant will be appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since the 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### **Former National - R744 Millpark Road Enniscorthy**

**€350,000**

This allocation related to the upgrade of former national roads. It will be used to carry out pavement repairs on Millpark road from Castle Hill to Arnolds Cross.

A contractor was appointed in October. Construction is due to commence in early November.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 15 February 2022. Wexford's allocation was €23,749,787 up €4,529,827 on 2021. This allocation included €4,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage.

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

The 2022 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at Bola Beg, Ballindaggan.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month:

- Kiltilly; (Enniscorthy District);
- Killealy to Mohurry; (Enniscorthy District);
- Clongeen to Loughnageer; (Rosslare District);
- Davitt Road; (Wexford Borough District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The 2022 surface dressing programme (126km) commenced 10 June in Enniscorthy MD and finished in Wexford Borough District 20 September.



### **Community Involvement Schemes**

€614,350 grant has been allocated to County Wexford for 2022. Eight roads are to be resurfaced in 2022. Seven are complete to date.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Wexford County Council was allocated €431,760 grant in May 2022 to resurface 13 private lanes. An additional grant of €349,267 was allocated in August 2022 to resurface 10 additional lanes. The total 2022 grant is €781,027 to resurface 23 lanes.

20 lanes are complete to date.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

There are 19 bridges for repair with a grant of €603,000. This excludes bridges funded under Christmas day 2021 storm damage.

Eight bridges are complete to date with works in progress on the remaining 11.

### **Flood Damaged Bridge Repairs**

Repairs are complete at the following bridges:

- Enniscorthy District: Kilcarbry, Kiltilly, Ballinavary. Kiltrea Bridges
- New Ross District: Garraun, Paisleyhall, Raheen.

Temporary structures in place pending statutory consents:

- Chapel Bridge, Adamstown and Cullenstown Little
- Section 50 consents received from the OPW for 3 structures, the 2 bridges mentioned above and Wilton Bridge.
- Detailed design for permanent reinstatement and rebuild is being finalised prior to Part 8 planning application and tender.
- All 3 reconstructions will commence in 2023/

### **Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge**

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March 2021. An underwater inspection of the bridge structure was carried out in 2021 and no defects were found below the water.

An Bord Pleanála has granted permission for the remediation project to proceed. The design and tender documents are complete. Tenders for construction are due back 8 November 2022. Works are expected to commence in Q1 of 2023.

### **General Maintenance**

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

### **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

A dedicated Active Travel Team of 4 staff is now in place to actively progress National Transport Authority (NTA) approved Active Travel Infrastructure in Wexford. This team is working with the 5 District Engineers to develop a list of schemes for funding allocation for 2023.

The team is also currently managing three large schemes in Wexford town namely,

- Roxborough R730, Wexford which is at Options Appraisal Stage;

- Beechlawn/Clonard, Wexford which is at Preliminary Design Stage;
- Newtown Road, Wexford Segregated Cycle Scheme at detailed design stage.
- R723 Oaklands to Kents Cross, New Ross which is for a Segregated Cycle Scheme, and which is at Preliminary Design Stage

The team is also working on the Safe Routes to School scheme with three schools advancing to design stage in 2022 and due to be on site in 2023. A subsequent list of schools is in place for assessment in 2023 by the NTA.

Cycle Connects, Ireland's Cycle Network is now open for public consultation. This project aims to improve sustainable travel by providing the potential for more trips on a safe and accessible cycling network, connecting more people to more places.

Proposals for cycling links in key cities, towns and villages in each county are included in the plan, in addition to connections between the larger towns, villages and settlements. The plan also incorporates existing and planned cycle routes such as Greenways and Blueways. Submissions or observations can be made up until the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 at the following address: - [Cycle Connects | National Transport Authority Consultation Portal](#)

## **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.

Works are almost complete bar installing Led trays in the Heritage decorative lanterns across the county. It is hoped to complete the upgrade of these remaining lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by early 2023.

A plan will be put in place to upgrade the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years.

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

- Ballygarrett Village – Works completed.
- Balintray, Courtown – Works completed. A single connection was made. Awaiting a second ESB connection.
- Killinick Village - Completed
- Wexford Town – Mulgannon \_ Works underway.
- North Parade Gorey – infill lighting on ESB Network poles. Lights installed. Awaiting ESB connection.
- Clonattin Road Gorey – infill lighting on ESB Network poles. Lights installed. Awaiting ESB connection.

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 being carried out and quotations due in Early November.

- The Ballagh – Church to the school – Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in Early November.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove to regional road. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in Early November.
- Killenagh Village – Lights installed. Awaiting ESB connection.
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in Early November.
- Rathgarogue Village
- Davistown Village

Other locations will follow further to consultations with Municipal District Engineers.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS:

### 1.1 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark

Final snag works and additional works to improve accessibility along some of the existing trails has now been completed.

#### **Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:**

The activity centre building was lodged for Part 8 planning in March by WCC's Architects Department and the period for public comment closed on 20/04/2022. A response to a request from An Bord Pleanála for further information relating to the project has been completed and submitted to the Board. The Part 8 planning application was withdrawn in October.

The proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site have completed pre-planning and the Part 8 planning documents was submitted in first week of November.

### 1.2 Min Ryan Park

**Sole Sports** and Leisure were appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA and skatepark are now both complete and open to the public. Killaree Lighting Services have been instructed to install public lighting to both projects, which is due to commence shortly.





### **1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1**

Phase 1 – the development of three serviced sites is substantially complete and the construction of the first building is nearing completion.

### **1.4 Gorey District Park**

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and the new playground and adult gym equipment is fully installed and in use. The final landscape planting is now virtually complete. Work on the building is broadly complete with final snagging currently ongoing.

### **1.5 South East Greenway**

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glas Civil Engineering and works are now substantially completed on site. Fitting of bridge parapet railings to railway bridges between Glenmore and New Ross is ongoing.

Landowner agreements on accommodation works are progressing. The issuing of tender documentation for works Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) has been delayed and it will now be tendered in November.

Wexford County Council's Arts office in partnership with the South East Greenway Project Team has commissioned designers 'Elements Of Action' with visual artist Aoife Banville, to develop a pilot creative public art project for the Greenway working with local communities in the New Ross and surrounding areas, including South Kilkenny. This work is ongoing.

### **1.6 Trinity Wharf**

Due to significant inflation in the market since tenders were received, the original tender process for the access road undertaken in 2021 was abandoned. A revised tender invitation issued in December 2021 and tenders have been received and have been assessed. It is expected to award the works contract in November 2022.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The pre-qualification process is completed, and the successful design firms have been issued with tender documents. Tender submissions were received on 31/03/2022. Appointment is expected in Q4 2022.

### **1.7 New Ross Fire Station**

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station was awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site in May 2021 and the works are now substantially complete.



## **1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension**

The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site in May 2021. The works are now complete with the Arts Centre having reopened in time for the Opera Festival. The official opening ceremony will be on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **1.9 High Hill, New Ross**

The Contract was awarded to MJS Civil Engineering and works are now substantially completed. The park opened to the public on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.



## **1.10 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme**

The main works contract was awarded Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering Ltd in February 2022 and works commenced on site on 21/03/2022.

The works are now substantially complete.



### **1.11 New Ross Public Realm – Oil Tanks Site**

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 completed in July 2021.

A Part 8 development consent application for the development of the public realm space on the site was confirmed at the Council's meeting in March 2022. A tender competition for the works contract is currently underway with tenders due in November. Works are expected to commence on site in early 2023.

An application for category 1 capital funding under the RRDF scheme was submitted in April 2022.

### **1.12 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:**

The Templeshannon Regeneration Strategy identifies a number of enabling projects required to achieve regeneration, including:

- Improving the public realm and streetscape in Templeshannon area;
- Establishing a new link to the town centre by construction of a new pedestrian bridge;
- The management and progressive transformation of the Leisure Centre Car Park;
- The creation of new urban blocks for infill development.

The site investigation (SI) work for the pedestrian bridge has been completed. The preliminary design and bridge options report has been completed taking account of the results of the SI works and is currently under review.

WCC is engaged with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to a further funding application to support regeneration in Enniscorthy. The planning Department is working in collaboration with Special Projects to develop a strategic plan for Enniscorthy and is currently being drafted.



### **1.13 John Street Building Regeneration Project**

WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross, which will see these buildings converted into a high-quality enterprise hub.

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement. The CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are in the process of finalising survey information to prepare a preliminary design for the scheme. A Part 8 consent process will follow in Q1 2023.

### **1.14 Esmonde Street**

RPS is progressing with the detailed design. Site investigation works are now completed. Irish Water have now approved proceeding with the design of the sewer upgrade and CCTV and survey works has been completed. The detailed design for the sewer upgrade being progressed. Irish Rail has requested additional site investigations to the abutments of the bridge for the sewer upgrade which will take place this month.

WCC submitted an application for category 1 funding under the current call for RRDF for this project.

### **1.15 Gorey Market House**

A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance/exhibition/retail space was approved in May 2018.

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. This tender process was concluded in May 2021 without the award of a contract.

WCC are now considering options to attract private investment for the successful development of the Market House. KPMG has been appointed to advise on this process.

### **1.16 Mechanics Institute**

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. A works contract is expected to be awarded in November 2022 with construction scheduled to take 6 months.

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

**WCC secured** RRDF category 2 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on the preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2023.

The process of negotiation for tourism design services with the preferred tenderer from the 2017 Hook Heritage Ltd competition has closed without an award of contract following the withdrawal of the preferred tenderer in December. WCC

advertised for tourism coordinator services for the project through the existing multi party framework and Tourism Development International Ltd. (in association with John Ruddle) were the successful tenderer and have now been appointed. TDI met with the board of Hook Heritage Ltd. in October and are now progressing the procurement of interpretative design services

The environmental consultant has been appointed and is commencing initial studies and investigative works.

Kantar have been appointed by Failte Ireland to undertake stage 1 and 2 concept testing research for the Norman Centre for tourism concepts/ideas. This work has now completed.

The contract for tourism co-ordination and management services for the New Ross Tourism project was awarded to Alan Sherwood & Associates in November 2021 and they are currently reviewing the outline interpretive design and developing a plan for procurement of detailed design services of the Norman Centre. The tender for the works on the Dunbrody Centre will be advertised in November 2022 with an appointment expected in Q1 2023.

#### **1.18 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:**

This project provides for the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on Enniscorthy Castle that will have the capacity to significantly increase tourism visitor numbers to the town. The proposed project will link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross.

The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC in July 2021.

Tenders for preliminary design and planning consent services have been received for Phase 1 of the project and are currently being assessed.

#### **1.19 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. have been appointed to carry out the Marine and Land based surveys and Boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May and the site investigation work was completed.

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 earlier this month, to get permission to carry out Benthic Grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted.

#### **1.20 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway**

The Economic SPC of Wexford County Council and the Transportation SPC of Waterford City & County Council have written to the Minister for Transport seeking inclusion of the out-of-service Rosslare to Waterford railway line in the up-coming national rail review. The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to



Waterford greenway project has been paused, pending a decision from the DOT on the future of the rail corridor.

The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced as part of the Wexford Town to Rosslare greenway project.

#### **1.21 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway**

Fehily Timoney and Company 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 on-going.

The scoping and route options process is ongoing and a presentation was given to the joint Wexford and Rosslare MDCs in late March on this project. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with the window for receipt of submissions closing on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Fehily Timoney and Company 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 which has been carried out over the past two years by Irish rail. An ecological survey is on-going.

#### **1.22 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford**

A Part 8 submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site and for construction of a temporary surface level car park. The Part 8 was confirmed at the March 28<sup>th</sup> full Council meeting.

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

A tender competition for the demolition works contract is currently underway with tenders due in November. Works are expected to commence onsite in early 2023. The main car park works contract will follow.

#### **1.23 Crescent Quay – Dredging**

An award of contract was made to RPS Consulting Engineers in June 2021 for design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications in respect of this project. RPS are currently specifying and procuring investigative works to inform the dredging strategy.

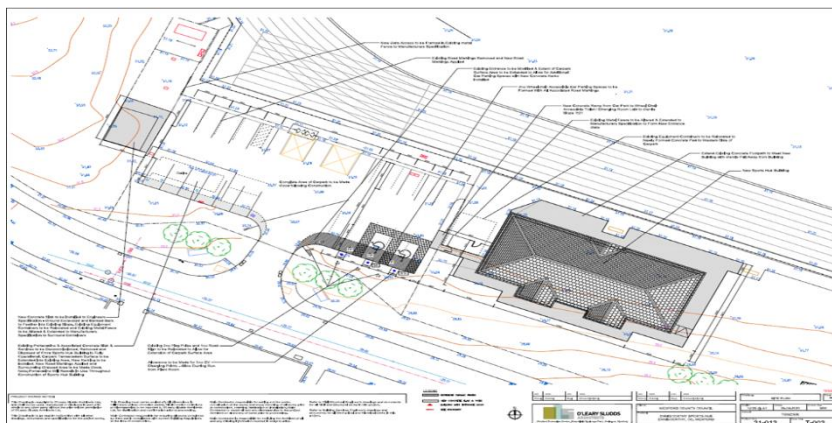
#### **1.24 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy**

The final masterplan has now been completed and presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October 2021 meeting. A contract for the initial phase 1 works was advertised in January 2022, these works include new footpath, pedestrian crossings, new entry signage and landscaping. The Phase 1 works contract has been awarded to Hughes and Hennessy. Works which commenced in July is almost complete. We are waiting for delivery of the new signage and ESB connection to crossing beacons.

A further application for funding of the masterplan has been made for 2023 under the NTA's active travel scheme

## 1.25 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 Sport Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. Tenders have now been received and tender assessment is currently ongoing.



## 1.26 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

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

The tender for design services was advertised in Jan 2022, the tender evaluation process is now complete and an appointment of a consultant will be made in November.

# 2. Flood Defence Schemes

## 2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

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

The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme. The minister supported a WCC proposal to progress the new River Slaney Bridge and the Flood Defence Scheme as two separate standalone projects.

Flood Defence Scheme - The hydrology and ecology baseline data is currently being updated. The scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. MMD have issued a programme of work – the preferred option report & environmental assessment reports are scheduled to be completed in Q3 2023. At that stage planning options will be reviewed, and the preferred planning route selected.

New River Slaney Bridge - The ecology baseline data is currently being updated and the traffic surveys have been completed. ROD have issued a programme of work – planning is expected to be submitted in Q3 2023.”

## **2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:**

The project brief for design services for Wexford Flood Relief Project was advertised on e-tenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process has been advertised with tenders received on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. A new tender assessment board was set up and the tender assessment is proceeding. We expect to have a tender recommendation report complete for OPW approval in the coming weeks.

# HOUSING

## Housing Supply

### Capital Projects

All completed housing units to date in 2022 have been removed from the table below.

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Due to complete in Q1 2023
Marconi Park	1 TAP	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete in Q2 2023
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete in Q2 2023.
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Stage 3	5 Tenders received 28 <sup>th</sup> October. Appoint Contractor Q4 2022
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Stage 3	Tender approval Q4 2022 Commence construction Q1 2023
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 3	Contract Approval expected Nov 22. Commence Construction Q1 2023
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Tenders due 5 Dec 2022 Construction to Commence Q1 2023
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Enabling Works to Commence Q4 2022 Tender Construction Q1 2023
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 3 Dept approved tenders in Q4 2022
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Enabling Works tenders received 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2022. Appoint Contractor Q4 2022
Francis St.	2	Wexford	Stage 1	Review Funding Q4 2022
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 1	Pre Planning complete. Reviewing densities. Part VIII Q1 2023
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	Issue Tender for Project Consultants November 2022. Part VIII approved October 2022
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	IW have confirmed feasibility. Tender / Appoint consultants in Q1 2023.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Stage 1	Pe Planning approved. Tender / Appoint consultants for project in Q1 2023.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>264</b>			

### Pre-Development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Demolitions complete in July 2022. Levels Survey complete, Funding application to DHLGH Q4 2022.
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Part VIII approved October 2022. Tender for Consultants and Funding Application in Q4 2022.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>		

### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Decision on cost and procurement of the main road pending. A proposal has been submitted by a neighbouring developer.
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Part VIII to submit Nov 22.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>		

### Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken	1	New Ross	Funding approval received. Design underway for new dwelling.
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Site made safe for asbestos removal. Funding Application Q4 22. Complete demolitions Q4 2022
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal Q4 2022
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys.
Grogan's Road	4	Wexford	Pre planning approved. Funding Application in Q1 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>		



## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cluid</b>			
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To close 3 <sup>rd</sup> November , 2022
Tobar Muire Place	17	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver late 2022
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	New Ross	DHLGH Approval in Principle received June 2022. Awaiting Planning decision.
<b>Tuath</b>			
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Remainder to deliver 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2022/Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	10	Enniscorthy	All units delivered
<b>Peter Mc Verry Trust</b>			
The Quay, New Ross	6	New Ross	DHLGH Approval received May 2022. CAS Acquisition of 6x1 bed Apt
<b>Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)</b>			
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received June 2022. To deliver 2023
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received June 2022. To deliver 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received Sept 2022. To deliver 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>327</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	18 units complete. Remaining units to deliver Q4 2022.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	Expected to deliver Q4 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023.
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered, 2 to be delivered by end of 2022/early 2023
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. Amendment to planning permission being sought. To deliver on phased basis from 2023.
Ard na hAbhann, Newtown Rd	2	Wexford	Under Construction. Funding approval received May 2022. To deliver late 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	4 units delivered. Remaining units expected to deliver in Q4 2022
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder to deliver by end of 2022/early 2023
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	10 units delivered. Remaining units to deliver Q3 2022.
Ard Uisce (Ph 3)	8	Wexford	All units delivered
Castlelands, Ferns	20	Enniscorthy	DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Under Construction. Expected to deliver Q4 2022
Haughton Place, New Ross	13	New Ross	Expected to deliver 2023/2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>		

The Housing Dept. continue to periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey acquisition. Future calls will be targeted at smaller unit types in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) and will include proposals for land. All proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

### **Housing Maintenance**

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022:

<b>Repairs</b>	<b>Enniscorthy</b>	<b>Gorey / Kilmuckridge</b>	<b>New Ross</b>	<b>Wexford</b>	<b>Rosslare</b>	<b>Total</b>
Repair Requests <i>(1st – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022)</i>	169	108	142	129	69	617
Repair Requests Year to Date	1203	829	1295	1255	648	5230
Accommodation Units Repaired <i>(1st – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022)</i>	118	80	105	96	49	448
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	625	437	601	676	328	2667

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER PROGRAMME

The Article 48 team processed 3 LEADER claims in October. The value of these claims were €99,985.55 which will support **1** x enterprise and **2** x community groups throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
1. Horeswood Community Centre	€22,383.03
2. Ceadogan Rugs	€10,672.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 33,055.67</b>

Payments Processed	Claim Payment
1. Wexford Local Development – Personal Development Training for Young People	€68,929.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 68,929.88</b>

### 2023-2027 LEADER FUNDING PROGRAMME

27<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys TD, announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for 2023-2027.

The major investment will support thousands of locally-led rural development and enterprise projects over the next five years with an funding allocation of €7.3m to County Wexford. The Minister also confirmed that this funding will be allocated to Local Action Groups who are appointed to deliver the new programme.

Further information on the funding programme will be provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development who will host an information webinar on 10th November 2022.

## JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING -

*County Wexford Joint Policing Committee*

A hybrid meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The agenda included all statutory agenda items including –



- *Garda Division Update, Preventative & Operational Policing from the Chief Superintendent,*
- *Community Policing presentation from Inspector Liam Kavanagh,*
- *CCTV Update from County Secretary*
- *Guidelines for Joint Policing Committee Meetings and*
- *Gardaí interaction with the Municipal Districts.*



The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is to be agreed.

## WEXFORD GARDA YOUTH AWARDS 2022 Ceremony – Monday 10th October 2022

Wexford County Council in association with An Garda Síochána held the 6th Annual Wexford Garda Youth Awards on 10th October in the 'Street' of County Hall.

The annual awards which acknowledge the achievements of young people who are making a difference in their own lives and in their communities within County Wexford.



The awards were presented in four categories:

- Individual Award - *Making a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live.*
- Group Award - *Group of two or more, making a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live.*



- Special Achievement Award - *Overcome difficult circumstances, defied all the odds and whose commitment deserves recognition.*
- Community Safety Award - *Through a crime prevention or safety initiative/innovation, have made their community a safer place to live.*

17 applications were received with over 100 people attending the awards ceremony the night was a great success celebrating the work done by young people in the community. Two of the applications received were nominated by the selection panel for the National Garda Youth Awards. Both applications were successful a rarity for one county and will receive National Awards in recognition for their work in the community on 12th November 2022.



## COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The Annual AGM of Wexford Comhairle na nÓg was held on 14th October in Council Chambers of County Hall with over 100 young people from secondary schools across county Wexford attending the event.

Comhairle na nÓg, which provides young people a forum to discuss issues that affect them and to elect their own representatives to act as a voice for the youth of County Wexford.



The AGM which also included elections for new members in 2023. The Community Development department look forward to working again with Wexford Comhairle na nÓg in 2023.



## LCD/LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)



06<sup>th</sup> October, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, officially opened numerous rural projects across County Wexford which have received funding of over €6 million from her Department.

The visit which included projects as approved by the Wexford LAG under the Leader Funding Programme including Clongeen Community Development Centre, High Meadows Community Hub and Our Lady's Island Community Centre.





## COMMUNITY CENTRE INVESTMENT FUND

12<sup>th</sup> October, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding of over €12.5 million for the upgrade and development of almost 600 Community Centres nationwide.

16 Community Groups across County Wexford were awarded approx. €338k under Category 1 of the new Community Centre Investment Fund. The major investment will see grants of between €10,000 and €25,000 provided for the upgrades of community centres, GAA clubs, parish halls and youth facilities.

The funding will see improvements to community centres, GAA clubs, parish halls, youth centres, men's sheds and facilities used by our elderly. Category One of the Community Centre Fund covers applications for projects of up to €25,000, further funding announcements for larger scale projects is expected in the coming weeks.

## Wexford PPN

Wexford PPN held a Secretariat Meeting, Reps Roundtable Meeting and a Strategic Planning Meeting in October.

Information bulletins were emailed to all PPN members on 6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.



Monica Gaynor & Philip Hickey at the Volunteer Centre Expo

In October Wexford PPN was represented at the Comhairle na nOg AGM, Volunteer Centre Expo in St. Peter's College, SHAFE EU Project Citizen Science Consultation in Wexford Library and the Coffee Morning in Wexford Volunteer Centre as well as the National PPN Conference in Portlaoise.



Patrick Rochford, Monica Gaynor, Philip Hickey, Minister

Linda Sinnott and Breda Cahill at the Breda Cahill

National PPN Conference in Portlaoise



Monica Gaynor, Patrick Rochford,

Joe O'Brien, Linda Sinnott and

at the National PPN Conference in

## Age Friendly Business Recognition Awards

Wexford County Council as part of their Age Friendly Ireland Programme was delighted to award 10 leading Enniscorthy businesses for their successful completion of Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme Training.

At a ceremony at Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Councillor Aidan Browne, Cathaoirleach, Enniscorthy Municipal District, presented The Age Friendly Business Charters to the ten businesses who had committed to Age Friendly practices, enabling a more comfortable and welcoming retail experience for the Older Person.



The businesses can now display their Age Friendly Charter and an accreditation sticker at their premises and will also be listed on the [agefriendlyireland.ie](http://agefriendlyireland.ie) website.

## **Wexford Festival Opera - Pop Up's - Day Care Centre**

In conjunction with Wexford Festival Opera and the Wexford County Council Age Friendly Programme, musicians from Wexford Festival Opera volunteered their time to perform a recital at Castlebridge Nursing Home on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>. featuring a Soprano and 3 Classical Musicians. The performance was enthusiastically received by both Patrons and Staff of Castlebridge Nursing Home and is an example of a successful partnership between Wexford Festival Opera and the Wexford County Council Age Friendly programme.

## **Dementia Awareness Training for Wexford County Council, Wexford Gardaí, Wexford Fire Services and Local Link**

Wexford County Council, Wexford Gardaí, Wexford Fire Services and Local Link took a significant step in supporting people living with dementia in the county by providing training to many of their customer facing staff. The training course was organised by Wexford Gardaí and Wexford County Council (as part of their Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and Age Friendly Programme) . The training helps to raise awareness of dementia, but it also identifies how we can best support those living with dementia that we come across on a daily basis in our professional capacities.



A total of 39 participants attended the training which was run over 3 separate sessions in the Council Chamber in County Hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October.



## **Wexford Telehealth Pilot wins the Active and Healthy Ageing Award at Age Friendly Recognition Awards 2022**

Wexford County Council have won the Active and Healthy Ageing Award at the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2022 on 27th October at a ceremony hosted by Clare County Council. These awards recognise and reward achievement in age friendly initiatives around Ireland. The Wexford Telehealth project was undertaken in County Wexford in 2021, in partnership with a number of agencies including Wexford's Older Peoples Council, Age Friendly Ireland, HSE, Wexford General Hospital and Tunstall Emergency Response. It set out to provide patients with chronic illnesses including Chronic Heart Disease, COPD & Diabetes with technology to manage their conditions at home with back up support and monitoring from Tunstall and clinical staff at Wexford General Hospital. A report carried out by SETU after the intervention found that participants engaged well with the technology and there were many health-related benefits. WCC are now participating in Phase 2 of this project.



## **Pilot Park & Ride Service for older people for GAA match in Wexford Park**

Wexford County Council in partnership with Wexford GAA, Local Link, An Garda Síochana and Wexford Bus piloted a park and ride service from County Hall to Wexford Park for the football semi-final matches on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October. The purpose was to explore how the service would work and interest from older people in such a service. Feedback from those travelling on the day was very positive. A review will be carried out with the possibility of looking to run a similar service in future for a bigger event.





## **Dementia Awareness Training for Wexford County Council CSU, An Garda Síochana, Wexford Fire Services and Local Link**

Wexford County Council, Wexford Gardaí, Wexford Fire Services and Local Link took a significant step in supporting people living with dementia in the county by providing training to many of their customer facing staff. The training course was organised by Wexford Gardaí and Wexford County Council (as part of the Sláintecate Healthy Communities and Age Friendly Programmes). A total of 39 participants attended the training which was run over 3 separate sessions in the Council Chamber in County Hall on Thursday 13th October. This training enables those living with dementia in our communities to easily access our services and to be met by friendly, trained staff who understand the condition and can provide an experience that is inclusive and caters for their needs.



## Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to provide increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. This programme is being delivered locally in Wexford by Wexford County Council, in partnership with the HSE, statutory, voluntary and community groups as well as the local community. The areas included in Co. Wexford are Wexford Town, Enniscorthy Town, Edermine and Taghmon. A collaborative approach has allowed Wexford County Council to work alongside local communities to identify and support projects that will build lasting improvements in health and wellbeing for the local population.

As part of the Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Wexford County Council has signed contracts for a number of playground and outdoor exercise equipment projects. Projects supported include:

- Outdoor calisthenics equipment in The Rocks, Maudlintown, Wexford Town
- New playground in Oilgate
- Resurfacing, cleaning and painting of play equipment and new accessible carousel at Taghmon Playground
- Access works and new accessible carousel at Ferndale Playground
- New accessible carousel at Fair Green playground, Enniscorthy

Work on these projects is expected to be completed early in 2023.



## Healthy Ireland Round Four Funding

Forward Planning for the 2023-2025 Healthy Ireland Funding Programme Application is underway. The online Needs Analysis Survey closed at the end of September and is currently being analysed. A Facilitated Forward Planning Workshop is scheduled for early November and analysis of profile and health data sources will continue to help inform the Local Strategy which is required to be provided with the application.

Work is underway on 2022 funded activity, with all activity to be completed by year end.

## Recent Healthy Wexford Activity



Supporting Mental Health Month, Healthy Wexford provided a display of Mental Health & Wellbeing supports from a range of partners in the main hall in County Hall, Carricklawn.





This display has seen a lot of resources being picked up and so it will remain in place for the moment.

Other activity to support Mental Health Month included:

Our Healthy County Coordinator attended the Connect Café at Wexford Mental Health Association on 12<sup>th</sup> October

A number of the Mental Wellbeing Working Group met at County Hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October to mark World Mental Health Day.



Healthy Wexford was delighted to support the CFR Training Event which was organised by Wexford Civil Defence and held at County Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The day saw 60 people receive CFR training through a collaborative initiative with a range of voluntary organisations supporting the event.

Our Healthy County Coordinator attended the AGM of Wexford Comhairle na nÓg, held at County Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October. This event saw the young people discuss the topics of concern for them and choose their area of focus for the next two years.

Outgoing members gave feedback on their experience and activity over the time and highlighted the collaboration with Healthy Wexford around the 'Not Around Us' initiative.



### **Celtic Routes**

Thematic Groups and Learning Journeys are being planned and cross county and border connections being facilitated and organised.

Through the work of our media contracts, 140 million people have had an opportunity to view Celtic Routes content.

Activity is progressing exceptionally well, with another major virtual stakeholder event having taken place in October. This meeting has led to the scheduling of smaller thematic focused in-person meetings for mid-November.

The TV Series filming is almost complete and already in the editing phase.

The Photography contract has been completed with many more assets available on our asset library via our website.

The drone and 360 degree contract is at the editing stage and will soon be available.

New videos are being edited for our YouTube channel and all social media platforms. Work on the legacy of the Project is continuing.

## SPORTS ACTIVE

**Men on the Move** – We currently have a Men on the Move running in New Ross with plans to commence in Wexford in November.

**Playground Leaders-** Was delivered to Ballymurn National School on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October which included children from their ASD unit. Training was also delivered in Kilmuckridge NS on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of October.

Total participants: 22 Male 23 Female

**Schools Badminton Programme** – 19 teachers from 12 schools around Wexford received Shuttle Time teacher training on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. These 12 schools have received Badminton kitbags with Badminton Rackets, shuttle cocks and nets. There will be a participation event now organised for the children in these schools to come together to play Badminton. This is a collaboration programme with Badminton Ireland.

**Breathing & Posture-** A taster session was delivered to Wexford County Council staff on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Total participants: 13 females.

We currently have two **Activator programmes** running, one in Min Ryan park Wexford and one in New Ross Library park.

Total Participants: 1 Male 23 Female

**The Exercise Effect-** A new IEP Co-Ordinator has been appointed. Recruitment for two part-time IEP roles will soon be advertised.

**Activator Poles-** A 4-week activator pole programme was delivered in Min Ryan Park on Thursdays at 11am for Ard Aoibhinn (Intellectual Disability Day Service, Wexford Town). Total participants were 12.

**Table Cricket-** SAW in partnership with Cricket Leinster delivered a taster session to Ballycanew N.S and Craanford N.S. on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Table cricket sets have been left with the national schools. A blitz between the two schools is being organised for next month.

**World Mental Health Day-** A 'Walk and Talk' took place in Tintern Abbey on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October for World Mental Health Day. Three women from the public participated along with 4 service users from Windmill Therapeutic Training Centre (Intellectual Disability Service, Wexford Town).

**Inclusive Golf-** The inclusive golf programme on Tuesdays at 12pm in Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club has been extended for an additional 4 weeks. Total participants: 1 Adult from the BEAM services and 4 male adults from Havenview.

**Inclusive Physical Activity Classes-** Another 3-week block of physical activity classes for the senior students in Lady of Fatima takes place on Wednesday's at 10am. Total participants: 5.

**Walking Rugby-** A 6-week walking rugby programme in collaboration with Leinster Rugby began on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> in St. Joseph's Community Centre in Wexford Town. Total participants: 24 Adults; 14 males and 10 females. Services included in attendance; Windmill Therapeutic Training Centre, Ard Aobhinn and Wexford Mental Health Services. A second walking rugby programme is being delivered in Astro Active in Enniscorthy. Total participants; 30. 19 males and 11 females from the Community Workshop and Wexford Mental Health Services.

**Social Soccer-** A 6-week social soccer programme for the Direct Provision in Rosslare Harbour began on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October in Rosslare Rangers. Total Participants: 10 males.

**RAG Tree Equine Assisted Therapy-** Has now finished. All 13 participants have successfully passed their QQI accreditation.

**Nature Walk Augmented Reality-** Through dormant accounts. The MOU has been signed by both partners SAW and Walton Institute. Next meeting is scheduled in Tintern Abbey on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of October to meet more partners. Another meeting with Occupational Therapists in the Wexford Mental Health Services will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to explore the customer discovery piece.

12 x **Safeguarding** 1 Courses have been completed in 2022 with a total of 169 participants.

2 x **Safeguarding** 2 Course has been completed in 2022 with a total of 18 participants

Together with **Badminton Ireland** Sports Active are setting down plans to try re-establish a Badminton club in Wexford town. A Badminton tutor has entered Kennedy Park National School and Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts during October to give taster sessions to the children. Following these taster sessions we have organised 3 come and try badminton mornings in Coolcotts school on Saturday mornings in November to gauge the interest in Badminton. If there is further interest we will work with Badminton Ireland and the parents to establish a club for these children to continue playing Badminton.



Primary school teachers from 12 schools across Wexford who took part in Badminton Training with Badminton Ireland on 4<sup>th</sup> October



Service users from Ard Aobhinn, Windmill Therapeutic Training Centre and Wexford Mental Health Services taking part in the first session walking rugby in St. Joseph's Community Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> October

## ENVIRONMENT

### A. COASTAL MATTERS

#### Harbours -

Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) announced funding approval for projects under a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 23 projects with a total construction cost of €1.4m in Co. Wexford; works are now underway to progress these projects.

Wexford County Council submitted a further application under the second tranche for 13 projects with a total estimated cost of €890,000.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Part XI planning was submitted to Planning Department on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The public planning notice was in the local newspaper on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022. This scheme was included in the above DAFM approved projects. Following submissions received during the planning process, An Bord Pleanála had to determine the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment report. ABP directed on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept that an EIA is not required. The Part 8 planning process can now resume.

Ports Past and Present: the Project Team. There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists and our project partners in University College Cork and two Welsh universities. Regular updates and further information is available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

#### Beaches –

The final routine sampling of bathing waters will be taken on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 18 bathing waters in Wexford. All bathing water results are shown on [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie) website.

Ballymoney – consulting engineers were appointed to do a feasibility report on improving accessibility on the path to the blue flag beach. A draft report was submitted in Sept 2022 outlining a number of options with associated costings. Environment Dept is looking at securing funding for accessibility and age friendly improvement works which include the beach access and accessible toilets.

#### Coast -

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers was appointed on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Steering meetings with WCC, OPW and the consultants are now underway and are held on a monthly basis. Topographic surveys are nearing completion. Wintering bird survey is getting underway. The project website and project email is now live and can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

Seaview, Kilmore: emergency works to protect the access road were completed in Jan 2022.

Ecological, bathymetric and seabed surveys on the overall coastal protection scheme are complete. University College Cork is undertaking coastal modelling. A planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála Q4 2022 which will include coastal protection works and a new beach access.



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.

Morriscastle Dune Restoration: The project involves installation of fencing and maram grass planting to restore and manage the dune system at main beach entrance. All works under phase 1 of this scheme are complete. Additional grant monies were received to extend the dune restoration works and these will be completed over coming weeks.

St Helen's Bay Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: this report looked at the risk to 23 properties and golf course at St Helen's. Consulting engineers submitted the report to Wexford County Council at the end August 2022. The contents of the report was presented to the Sept meeting of Rosslare MD. A meeting was held with OPW on 13<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the report.

Ballyhealy Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: This project involves assessing the erosion risk of 5 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk. Consulting engineers submitted a draft report in October 2022 which is being reviewed by Environment Dept. A meeting was held with OPW on 13th October to discuss the draft report.

Grange, Fethard on Sea: works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion went to tender. Roads Department is reviewing funding arrangements to confirm funding is in place to carry out the works.

Dune Restoration: funding received for dune works at Morriscastle, Ballinesker, Rosslare and Booley Bay. Fencing works to be carried out over the coming weeks with maram grass planting for spring 2023.

## **B. WATER, AIR & NOISE**

### **1. Septic Tank Inspections:**

92 inspections have been carried out to date this year. Wexford have a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on a number of sites in order to close outstanding Advisory Notices. A further 36 inspections have been booked in for October/November.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 60 files were closed for 2022. 48 extension of time have been granted in 2022. There are currently 74 open files for the years 2017-2021 and 24 open for 2022.

Twenty six new applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date, twenty of which are paid and six are currently under review.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2022
2019	156	48	108	17	5
2020	111	38	73	13	8
2021	91	24	67	28	25
2022	92 to date	25	67	24	43

There are currently 17 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 6 of these are for hearing and 12 are for mention. 5 cases have been closed with the work completed.

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 7 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 5 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange and 1 case is in court. 2018 have 9 open files with good progress on 7 of these, 2 are in court. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above.

## 2. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 98 active Discharge Licences. Four new applications have been received and are currently under review. One discharge licence was revoked in September 2022.

Invoicing for outstanding bad debt was issued in March 2022 and accounts adjusted where applicable. Invoicing for 2022 was issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2022 and reminders were sent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 for payment of Annual fees due. A full review of discharge licences is ongoing between the administrative and Technical teams.

## 3. Air Quality:

**Vehicle Refinishers:** At end of 2021, 52 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is the second largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues “On the Spot Fines” of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below.

**Dry Cleaners:** At end of 2021, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

**Petrol Stations:** At end of 2021, 80 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

**No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:**

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2020	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued (to end Sept. 2022)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end Sept. 2022)
Vehicle Refinishers	21	19	14	3
Petrol Vapour Emissions	28	22	19	N/A
Solvents	2	3	5	N/A

A national working group was established in January 2021, to develop Guidance Documents for Local Authorities to assist with the implementation of new certifications to Petrol Stations under Stage 2 Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 2011.

Wexford County Council is co-chair of this group, along with Waterford County Council. The WG also has members from the EPA and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The WG produced two separate Guidance Documents for Local Authorities, including specific guidance on processing certifications for Petrol Stations under Stage 1b Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 1997. Both documents were formally approved by the Niece Steering Committee in February 2022, and are now available to all Local Authorities on the Niece portal. A new Petroleum Vapour Emissions Training Programme which will start on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 is being run for LA staff. The training is being provided on foot of a recommendation from this WG.

**Low Smoke Fuel Areas**

The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 2022), provided for the introduction of the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of specified fuels in the specified area of Rep of Ireland from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. This is to be signed into law on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 by the Minister.

**4. Climate Action**

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Local Authority to prepare their own Climate Action Plan (CAP). The plan must cover both mitigation and adaptation measures and must be updated once every five years. The plan will also include the development of a decarbonisation zone (DZ). The DZ will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the proposed Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford. Preparatory work has commenced on the preparation of the CAP ahead of the official direction by the minister to prepare the plan which will be made by end 2022. Wexford will then have 12 months to prepare and fully adopt the plan. Information webinars on the preparation and implementation of the CAP are scheduled for Senior management and separately the Climate Action teams.

The Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan 2021 sets an ambitious target of 50% energy efficiency by 2030 and an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51%. In terms of Energy efficiency, there has been an increase of the organisation performance in 2021 with 42% improvement in energy against 39% in 2020. WCC is ahead of the target glidepath to 2030. The increase of performance is mainly due to a reduction of the public lighting consumption. Carbon emissions in 2021 are 28% below baseline level.

Wexford County Council has registered for the Reduce you Use campaign. This mandatory initiative through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) aims to reduce the public sector's energy consumption over the winter period by 15% to help combat rising energy costs and reduce emissions. Actions proposed to achieve energy savings include setting the temperatures at a guideline 19°C, turning off heating 1-2 hours before buildings close and no non security/safety lighting in use after 8pm. Awareness and behavioural change are a key element to the campaign and can lead to 10% reduction. This will be promoted through Posters and promotional materials for activities, mentoring and advice and live webinar. The campaign plans to deliver 5-10% savings in the public sector, and 15% in buildings.

## 5. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 78 farm inspections undertaken as a result of pollution incidents or complaints, 45 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon on nine individuals.

A total of 120 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed and a further two planning permissions were queried to assess if the applicant had complied with the conditions of planning permissions granted.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0

## 6. Duncannon EIP Project

Wexford County Council is currently lead partner in the Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Communities Scheme. We were successful in receiving funding of €550,000 to run this project for 3 years. We were successful in a 12 month extension to the project for 2022.

The project is now engaging with 35 farmers covering over 950ha of the 1300ha catchment. To date, engagement with all farmers continue with approximately 4 visits to each farm every year where baseline and final "Pollution Potential Zone" surveys are carried out.

The project runs a results based reward scheme where an annual payment is made to each farmer based on their PPZ survey which ranges from €1,000 & €4,000. The farmer can also avail of a water protection improvement works grant which can be used to carry out like fencing watercourses, establishing arable grass margins, resurfacing clean yard areas, hedgerow establishment, riparian margins etc. To date, the EIP project has paid

€220,000 in annual payments to farmers while funding of approx. €29,000 has being paid to farmers that have completed works.

No. of farmers	35
No. of visits/ engagement	620
Area signed up to EIP	955HA/1300HA
Km's fencing of watercourses	5.4km
Establishment of arable grass margins	1200m

## C. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites September 2022	Recycling out (End September) 2021 (t)	Recycling out (End September)2022 (t)
Glass bottles		3365	2922
Aluminium Cans		90	73
Total	109	3455	2995

#### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2022(t)	Recycling out Jan- Sept 2021	Recycling out Jan - Sept 2022	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2021	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2022
Total Recycling out	499	462	546	502	688	669	448	389
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2083	1894	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Sep	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	74	78	118	112	135	108	89	82

Due to net operating costs increases, an entry charge of €2 was introduced to all household recycling centres on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

## 2. 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:

<b>Activity</b>	<i>To end Sept 2021</i>	<i>September 2022</i>	<i>To end Sept 2022</i>	<b>% +/-</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>-26%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		39		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		90		
<i>Wexford *</i>		28		
<i>New Ross*</i>		22		
<i>Rosslare</i>		17		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>6,647</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>6,736</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		187		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		184		
<i>Wexford</i>		243		
<i>New Ross</i>		111		
<i>Rosslare</i>		23		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>12,042</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>13,248</b>	<b>+10%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	456		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	1,098		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>3,563</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>4,440</b>	<b>+24.6%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		69		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		141		
<i>Wexford</i>		81		
<i>New Ross</i>		85		
<i>Rosslare</i>		43		



### 3. New Recycling Items

From September, soft plastics can be recycled through the domestic waste collection service. Soft plastic may include bubble wrap, plastic bags and similar wrapping are included in the new items that may be recycled. As with any other plastics, these should be clean and dry and loose. For a full list of plastics that may be recycled please see.

### 4. 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 required by the EPA. The 2022 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,698 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff member. 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, 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.

## 1 LITTER MANAGEMENT

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 the public can now pay environmental fines online relating to litter fines, waste bye laws fixed payment notices and waste collection permit fixed payment notices. Two fines to date have been paid since go live.

A payment option courtesy slip has also been created to send with fines issued to encourage the public to pay by providing them with the three options to pay; online, in person or over the phone.

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2021	TOTAL FOR 2022-TO SEPTEMBER
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	199	182
Fines Paid in Full●	69	102
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	71	60
Successful Prosecutions**	15	38
Legal Proceedings In Progress	61	40
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€10,220	€12,573

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

**June 2022:**

Due to COVID-19 Gorey District Court was cancelled this month, new dates for hearing are being determined on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. Wexford District Court proceeded as normal on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June where cases listed for mention were provided with hearing dates for July and September 2022.

**August 2022:**

There was no court held during the month of August.

**September 2022:**

Wexford County Council had 13 successful prosecutions in September 2022. One under the Air Pollution Act, a fine of €500 and legal costs of €1200 awarded. Four Littering cases with fines of €990 and Legal costs of €1000 awarded and seven successful prosecutions under the Waste Management Act in relation to Waste Presentation Bye-Law 2018 cases whereby €1200 in fines and €2388 in legal costs were awarded.

**Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2022(August)**

	<b>Fines Issued</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>2022</b>	182	23	1510 (down 32%)
<b>2021</b>	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
<b>2020</b>	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
<b>2019</b>	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
<b>2018</b>	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
<b>2017</b>	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
<b>2016</b>	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
<b>2015</b>	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
<b>2014</b>	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
<b>2013</b>	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
<b>2012</b>	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
<b>2011</b>	209	17	1,329
<b>2010</b>	370	27	1,338

## **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:**

	<b>Jan – Dec 2017</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 2018</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2020</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2021</b>	<b>Jan- September 2022</b>
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>4609</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>3180</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>3526</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>4395</b>	<b>4449</b>	<b>4368</b>	<b>2238</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>70%</b>

### **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.

<b>Control of dogs</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021 (to 31-12-21)</b>	<b>2022</b>
Dogs collected	532	429	376
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	75
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	263
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	33
Dog Fines	5	18	10

There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with a number of applications on hand awaiting inspection.

To date in 2022 18 horses have been in-pounded and all have been rehomed or reclaimed.

## Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** An online Green Schools teacher seminar was held on 5<sup>th</sup> October covering all themes. Schools applying for their first Green Flag, Litter & Waste theme, must submit an application by Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the 2022/2023 academic year. In total 92 primary schools and 18 secondary schools have been awarded the green flag.

**School Workshops:** Classes from Kilrane National School, Tagoat national School and Scoil Mhuire, Our Ladys Island participated in a Marine Workshop & Seashore Safari in September. The workshop involved a classroom based talk and a visit to the seashore. It allowed children the opportunity to learn through discovery and exploration, as well as being able to benefit from engaging group work and hands on activities in the field.

## Climate Literacy Programme:

The Environment Section are funding 5 schools to participate in a Pilot Climate Literacy Programme. Expressions of interest was sought from all secondary schools. This 10 week course includes in-school teacher training, resources, lesson plans and an interactive student workbook. The costs of the 10 week course are covered by the Environment Section and a different topic is explored each week including climate change, sustainable development, climate justice, biodiversity loss, taking action, fast fashion, sustainable transportation, food, soil and plastic pollution. Students run an action project on the last two weeks of the course. The facilitator leaves the school at the end of the course and the teacher continues to teach the course with a new group of students. This course can be run in schools for many years once the teachers are trained.

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

### LIBRARY SERVICE

#### Kind Hearts A book about our lives by children from Syrian families living in County Wexford: Book Launch

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 'Kind Hearts, a book about our lives', written by a group of children from the Syrian families living in County Wexford was formally launched by An Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council, Cllr. George Lawlor.

In autumn 2021 the children took part in a writing project supported by Wexford Local Development and Kids' Own publishing, Irelands only dedicated publisher of books by children, for children. The book was commissioned by Wexford County Council Library Service and supported by Dormant Accounts Funds from the Department of Rural and Community Development. Written by 23 children, it tells of their life experience as they left Syria for Lebanon and then travelled on to Ireland.

Kind Hearts was drafted over eight weeks through a creative process with the children to uniquely capture their personal experience. This book is a valuable resource for the library collection. It gives our new communities a voice to enable them to tell their neighbours and friends in Ireland about their Syrian culture, faith, and life and their experiences of displacement and loss. In the book they explain what Ireland means to them and we hope that, in turn, Kind Hearts will enable the reader to understand and respect diversity. The Library Service also held a mini launch in New Ross Library to facilitate families in the local

community there. Kind Hearts will be available in all schools and libraries in County Wexford.

### **The Art of Reading for Book Clubs: Colm Tóibín in conversation with Martina Devlin**

The Art of Reading book club is curated and hosted by Colm Tóibín, Laureate for Irish Fiction. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October Wexford Town Library was delighted to host the October book club for his conversation with the writer Martina Devlin about her book 'Edith'. Book Clubs from across Co Wexford were invited to participate in this special event for book club members. Sixty adults attended and took part in the discussion. The event was recorded and is available to watch online or listen to as a podcast at <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Literature/Laureate-for-Irish-Fiction/The-Art-of-Reading-Book-Club/>

The Art of Reading Book Club is an initiative of the Art Council and the laureate for Irish Fiction and in partnership with Libraries Ireland.

### **Children's Book Festival (CBF)**

Children's Book Festival 2022 took place throughout the month of October. This was hugely successful with staff very busy catering for over 40 events in the libraries throughout the county. A high number of schools visited libraries over CBF. Authors Shane Hegarty, Sinead Moriarty, Eve McDonnell, Siobhan Daffy, Nick Sheridan, Dave Rudden and Emer Conlon gave workshops, readings, and story times to primary and secondary school pupils in every branch. Special CBF Family Events, Halloween craft and story times, for younger children, were also held in the branches as part of CBF.

### **Library Services for Children**

**Bunclody Library** included a visit from the Public Health Nurse for National Breast-Feeding Week in pre-school story time this month.

**Enniscorthy Library** provided a Saturday Cinema experience for families.

**Wexford Branch** did four outreach visits to Kennedy Park NS, CBS NS, Ballymittie NS and Taghmon NS to sign up students, give out Little Library Bags and deliver story time. Almost 100 children signed up to new accounts.

**New Ross Library** staff visited Catherine McAuley Special Needs Unit to present information on the range of sensory toys and services available in New Ross library. A series of Creative Writing Workshops for Children was provided. Red King Chess Workshops for children were organised.

### **Sensory Friendly Quiet Hour**

The Sensory-friendly Quiet Hour commenced in October and is now in place in all libraries across County Wexford, each Saturday from 4-5pm. Library users can visit and relax in the calm friendly environment of the library, enjoy quiet time, and use some of the sensory equipment available.

### **Adult Events**

- **Wexford Library:** There was a large programme of events to coincide with Wexford Festival Opera which included author events, lectures, a scientific presentation, a walking tour of the town, a musical recital, and an exhibition. In total 250 people attended the October programme of events.

- **Bunclody Library** hosted Renaissance Florentine Art: A discussion of famous art works and sculptures created in Florence during the Renaissance.
- **Enniscorthy Library**, "Slings & Arrows" is the first of five films scheduled to be shown in Enniscorthy Library. The films are from Wexford Film Workshop presented by Dubhtíre Films, written and directed by Dick Donoghue and produced by Jer Ennis.
- **New Ross Library, Wexford Library:** Talk in Arts Appreciation with Síle Daly, (oboe) and **Gorey Library** with Susan Doyle (flute): As part of the National Opera House Education & Community Programme
- **Gorey Library**, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct Healthy Ireland Programme: Physiotherapist Colette O'Flynn, a talk on staying well over the winter months, advice on exercise, eating well, keeping warm, good posture and sleep.

## Environment

Wexford Library Service is a provider of important public information on the environment and climate change. The following events took place during October.

- **Wexford Library**, Science Café. Lecture: Below Ground – Soil Life in a Changing Climate.
- **Bunclody Library:** The Autumn/Winter Garden with Maria from Bell Meadow Flowers: a flower arranging demonstration incorporating foraged items from hedgerows and late blooms from the garden.
- **Gorey Library:** Carla King delivered a talk and workshop on How To Get Started Growing Your Own Herbs & Vegetables.
- **Enniscorthy Library:** Enniscorthy Library staff attended a Sustainability Exhibition organised by "Sustainable Enniscorthy" to promote the Home Energy Kit available to borrow from all libraries in County Wexford. A talk on Moving from brown to green – a new future for the boglands of Ireland with Dr. Jonathan Derham took place.
- **New Ross Library** Radon Citizen Science Pilot Study EPA. Remediation Workshop was hosted.

Home Energy Kits and Radon Monitors are available for loan to the public from all Library branches.

## IT Literacy

- **Wexford Library:** Age Action computer classes continued with 4 classes over the month.
- **New Ross Library: Dormant Account Fund (DAF)**Adult: Online in no Time. Training for 55's+: an age-friendly over 55s programme which helps participants learn how to get the most from their technology device.
- **Gorey Library**, Gorey Active Retired Association continued weekly computer classes in Gorey Library.
- **Enniscorthy Library**, Dormant Accounts Fund A series of 1:1 IT tuition for older people commenced in October. Six adults will receive digital literacy support through six 20-minute classes.



## Services to Ukrainian Nationals

**Wexford Library:** held 4 English language classes for members of the Ukrainian community over the month.

**Bunclody Library:** Ukrainian adults together with a representative from WWETB visited the library to sign up as members and learn about the resources and services available to them.

### Decade of Centenaries

**Wexford Library Oct 4<sup>th</sup>** Barry Lacey: Walking tour of Wexford town exploring the sites associated with The War of Independence and Civil War.

**Bunclody Library, Enniscorthy Library and Gorey Library:** Revolutionary period: Sources and Information with Historian in residence Barry Lacey who discussed resources available relating to the to the War of Independence and Civil War in County Wexford.

**Gorey Library Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>:** World-renowned lecturer and historian Dr. Ruan O'Donnell delivered a talk in Gorey Library ahead of the centenary of Liam Mellows. Dr Ruan O'Donnell is a Senior Lecturer in History at UL, was Visiting Chair of Irish Studies at Notre Dame (2010-11) and is a graduate of UCD and the Australian National University.

### ARCHIVES

#### Collections management

In addition to 68 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 12 researchers visited the Archive during October. Research topics included: planning matters through county council minute books (2009-12) and borough council minute books (2009-13); assessment of the Billy Colfer archive for items relevant to a forthcoming exhibition on his career; research through extant minute books of Cushinstown Guild, ICA (1967-85); research in the Wexford Festival Opera archive for the formative years of the opera train (1951-70).

In addition, three generations of the Roe family visited the Archive in late October to view the Edward Roe collection. Edward from Begerin Loftus, New Ross was captain of Cushinstown Company of the IRA and in late 1921, escaped from Kilworth Camp near Fermoy, Co. Cork along with 18 other internees by digging a tunnel from inside their hut to a spot outside the camp fence. He worked as a rate collector and later as an overseer for Wexford County Council. Members of his family were delighted to look through the correspondence, photographs and artefacts in Edward's collection.

The final 20 volumes of minutes for County Wexford Board of Health & Public Assistance were digitised by Datagroup during the month. This collection (1921-42) has now been fully digitised and will greatly enhance ongoing and future enquiries relating to boarded-out and fostered children, industrial school applicants, county home residents, and mother and baby home research.

#### Acquisition

An original minute book for New Ross Town and Country Club was deposited in the county archive during the month. The volume, covering the period 1954-65 provides an interesting insight into the preoccupations and social interactions of local business owners in the town. The county archive also holds a collection of minute books from New Ross Commercial Club (1885-2001) which was established for the intellectual improvement of

the commercial young men employed in the town – the two collections provide a unique look into both sides of commercial and social life in New Ross during the period.

### **Outreach**

A display case featuring items from the Wexford Festival Opera archive was organised on the Street in County Hall to coincide with the 71<sup>st</sup> opera festival.

## **ARTS**

### **WIDE OPEN SPACE Landscapes from the Wexford County Council and Mairead Furlong Collections Exhibition**

opened in County Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Curated by Eamonn Maxwell, this exhibition hosts more than 50 works by leading Irish artists from the Wexford County Council Art Collection, exploring the enduring influence of the environment around us. The exhibition also features a selection of artworks recently gifted to Wexford County Council collection by the Estate of Mairead Furlong. The Exhibition is open to the public from 20<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 Open Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm. Free public and school tours offered with good interest, over 5 schools have registered for tours.

**Wex-Art** – a visual arts festival to coincide with Wexford Opera Festival was launched on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct coinciding with Stonebridge pop up gallery exhibition opening in Wexford town. Wex Art is coordinated by Tom Mooney and supported by Wexford County Council. The Wex-Art Map features over 20 exhibitions in Wexford town representing over 80 artists. In addition, the Wex Arts Festival guide highlights arts and cultural events taking place over the run of the festival until Nov 6.

**Local Live Performance Scheme: Round 4** of the Local Live Performance Scheme (LLPPS) funded by the Department and managed by the Arts office is currently being delivered around the 5 districts. In October, the Rosslare District hosted Paddy Casey and special guest Rachel Grace in Rathangan Church. Rosslare District also held a Country and Western event, culminating in an evening concert with headline artist Mike Denver, support act “The John Denver Story” by Terry Byrne and Mark Roberts and local support acts. This event was held in St. Mary’s GAA ground in Tagoat. The Enniscorthy District also held their event in October welcoming Phelim Drew and the Dublin Gospel Choir to St. Aidan’s Church in Ferns.

**Art Ability Arts Programme, 2023-2025** an open call was advertised inviting tenders from suitable, qualified and experienced artists in creative and visual art forms and/or companies for positions of 4 x Lead Artists to deliver the Art Ability Arts Programme. Arts Ability is an inclusive, participatory arts programme which celebrates the artistic and creative imagination of people who experience mental health problems and/or intellectual, physical, or sensory disabilities. Closing date for receipt of e-tender 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**The Eugene O’Neill International Festival** – “Welded” is a recipient of the Small Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2022 and took place in St. Michael’s Theatre, New Ross on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes, this is one of O’Neill’s most overtly autobiographical works, based on the love-hate relationship between the playwright and his second wife Agnes Boulton. A midnight tiff escalates into a conflict of mock tragic dimension. This niche festival is very well attended by local and national audiences.

**Screen Wexford** is funded by Arts & Economic departments of WCC to develop film industry in Wexford. In October it held an Introduction to Video Production workshop was held 29th October in St. Michael's Theatre New Ross. In addition, Screen Wexford convened a selection panel in October to review the applicants for the New Voices award and awardees selected.

**Creative Communities:** Over the last couple of months, artists Sonya Weston and Deirdre Buggy have been working with young people in the South Wexford Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service CAMHS. The young people's artwork will be exhibited at the Wexford Mental Health Association 'Creativity Counts' art exhibition during the Opera Festival. Their work has been compiled into a publication which was launched with the young people and their families last Thursday 20th October.

**Cultural Companions:** The Cultural Companions Group attended their monthly Coffee & Chat in Kelly's Café on 6th October. Last week the group enjoyed a lunch time music recital with Roy Dunne and Jade Phoenix in St. Iberius Church. They have also attended a show in the newly renovated Wexford Arts Centre which was presented by Wexford Drama Group – 'Women on the Verge of HRT'. In the coming weeks the Cultural Companions will attend a tour of the 'Wide Open Space' exhibition in the Street which includes Landscapes from the Wexford County Council and Mairead Furlong Collections.

## Creative Ireland

**Creative Ireland: Southeast Greenway Art project** Wexford County Council commissioned a team of artists and designers (Esther Gerrard, Aoife Banville and Ed Coveney) to work with local communities on a public art commission along the new South East Greenway, specifically the 5km stretch from New Ross town centre to Shanbog. The focus of this commission is to explore themes of **Connections biodiversity, place names** and the many **bridges** along the 5km stretch of the Greenway. In October a series of workshops took place with the public, 2 schools and Cumas day care service. The last workshop explored potential locations for the paintings and mono-prints created by the groups and school children to go along the Greenway in addition to exploring use of some of the original railway tracks as part of final public art installation in Nov – December.

## FIRE SERVICES

### Wexford Fire Service Report September 2022

#### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls September 2022	Calls to date 2022	Calls to this period 2021
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 2 (3)	54	85
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 2 (3)	60	49
Road Traffic Accident	25	136	67
Industrial fire	0	7	8
Commercial fire	1	4	1

<b>Assembly fire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Agricultural fire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Forest/bog/grass etc</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Rubbish</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Non-fire rescues</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>False alarms – good intent</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>Malicious false alarms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>636</b>

### Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLOUDY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	14	11	11	14	4	54
DOMESTIC FIRE	25	13	8	12	2	60
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	41	23	44	17	11	136
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	3	1	1	2	0	7
COMMERCIAL FIRE	0	1	3	0	0	4
ASSEMBLY FIRE	4	1	0	0	0	5
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	0	2	2	0	0	4
MOTOR VEHICLES	7	15	9	8	1	40
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	26	38	22	7	14	107
RUBBISH	11	8	7	4	0	30
NON-FIRE RESCUES	22	12	14	12	1	61
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	85	33	34	31	11	194
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	31	14	20	14	2	81
TOTALS	269	172	176	121	46	784

### Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in September 2022: 8

Number of Applications received to date: 93

Number of Applications to this period 2021: 90

# UKRANIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

## Ukraine Update October 2022

The most recent arrival figures indicate 55,800, BOTP's (Beneficiary of Temporary Protection Order) have arrived in Ireland as of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with latest data indicating 1997 individuals in Wexford. Nationally women aged 20 and over account for 46% of the arrivals to-date, with individuals from 0-19 (both male and female) comprise 35% of arrivals. Recent data shows that Wexford has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest number of BOPT's, and this would approximately correlate with the population of the county.

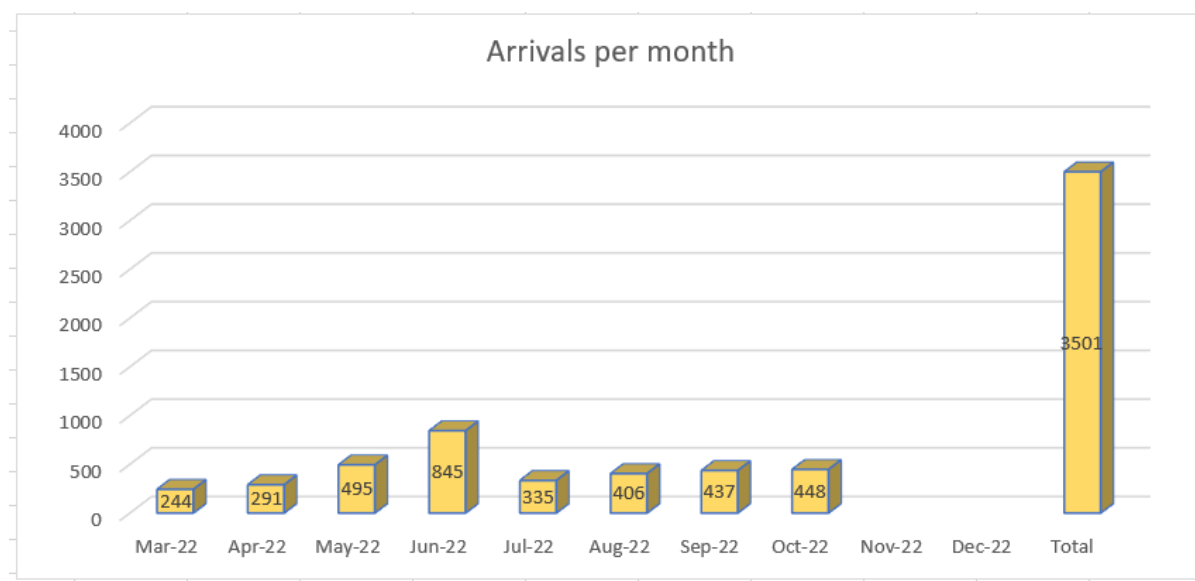
The table below indicates distribution of beneficiaries across Municipal District areas. As information comes from multiple sources and is collated at different points in time exact number will not tally.

**Number and Location (based on PPSN allocations data) of Arrivals from Ukraine in Co. Wexford by Municipal District, source CSO, September 2022.**

Local Electoral Area (LEA)	Numbers arrived as of September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Gorey	210
Kilmuckridge	119
New Ross	547
Rosslare	390
Wexford	217
Enniscorthy	331
Total	1814

Dublin Airport is the main point of entry followed by Rosslare and Dublin Ports. Two Wexford County Council staff members continue to support IPAS (International Protection Accommodation Services) at Rosslare Port.

**Arrivals at Rosslare Europort as of 01/11/2022, source Wexford County Council**



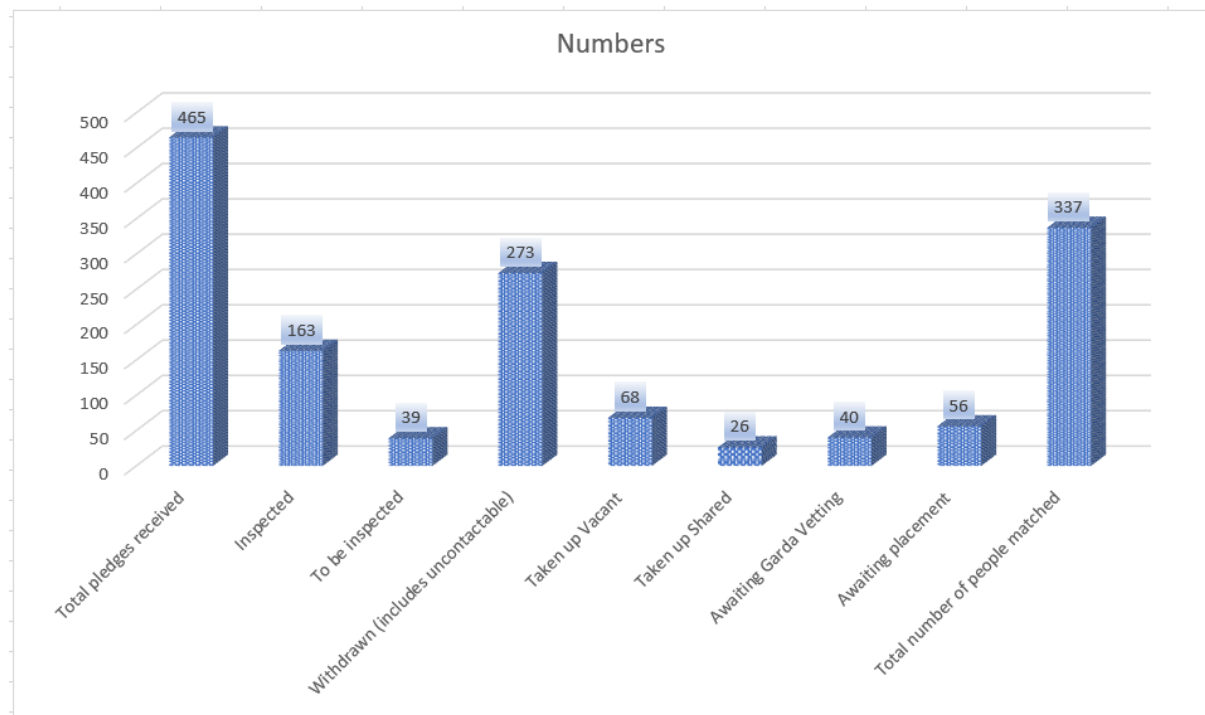
Total arrivals as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, are 3,501.

There are three sailings most weeks, occasionally four, with the average daily number of arrivals 39, with 8 cars per sailing. This equates to a monthly average of 438.

There are currently 23 IPAS accommodation centres in Wexford accommodating 1,589 people in total. We expect some more centres to take up contracts, mostly smaller Guesthouses or more rooms within existing establishments.

The Ukraine Team have developed very effective processes to manage the Irish Red Cross pledge programme. This involved taking over the pledges initially made with the Irish Red Cross, contacting property owners, arranging inspections, and placing individuals and families in those properties. At this point the team have the third highest number of activated pledges per county.

#### **Current Pledge Metrics for County Wexford, source Wexford County Council.**



The announcement of a new national pledge call focusing on vacant properties is imminent. The expected launch date is November 21<sup>st</sup>. This call will be led by the Department of Heritage, Housing and Local Government and delivered by the Local Authorities. Whilst this call is for vacant properties only at this point the Ukraine Team will continue to progress shared pledges already assigned.

#### **Ukrainian Community Response Forum meetings**

The UCRF continues to meet monthly. with the next meeting scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Community Response Forum provides an essential local engagement space for the various public, non-profit and private bodies involved in the provision of services and supports. The forum facilitates discussion to ensure that all groups operating locally can work together to achieve the best outcomes for those in need of support.



## Other Initiatives

Wexford County Council have been awarded funding of €38,100 under The Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund. The funding is provided through Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland.

The fund will be delivered through the Community Response Forum. In total the Department of Health has made a Fund of €1m available for this purpose and allocations have been made to each Local Authority according to the most recent distribution data. The closing date for submission of approved activations is the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the Community Response Forum and the various Friends of Ukraine community support groups have been contacted about the allocation of this funding.

The recent press announcement from the Department of the Taoiseach referred to a 50m community support fund and details will be circulated once available.

[gov.ie - Statement following Government Meeting on 28 October 2022 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/statement/government-meeting-on-28-october-2022/)

## CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

### FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	9
Customer Complaint	3
Ombudsman Complaint	2
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

## PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

### Tenders

No uploaded	11
No of tenders received	25

## Emails, Phone Calls and Cases Logged in CSU through the CRM for October 2022

Area				October
Agricultural Burns				7
Environment Complaints				222

Change of Circumstances					53
General Queries					0
Housing Validation					148
Quick Calls					1,963
Ask A Question					34
Road Faults Log					45
Emails					2,468
	<b>Email Category</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Section</b>		
	<b>Email (Received - External)</b>	<b>610</b>	Housing	1	
			Unknown	609	
	<b>Email (Received - Internal)</b>	<b>505</b>	Unknown	505	
	<b>Email (Sent - External/Internal)</b>	<b>1345</b>	Unknown	1,345	
	<b>Email (Sent - Internal)</b>	<b>8</b>	Environment	2	
			Homeless	2	
			Housing	3	
			Roads	1	
<b>Total</b>					<b>4,940</b>

### Public Representations via Members' Portal – October 2022

<b>No. of Representations by Section (Open/Closed)</b>				
<b>Section</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Customer Service	0	3	3	2%
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	5	5	3%
Environment	2	2	4	2%
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	2	2	1%
Housing	14	97	111	68%
Planning	0	3	3	2%
Roads	0	11	11	7%
Roads - Enniscorthy MD	0	6	6	4%
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD	2	8	10	6%
Roads - Rosslare MD	0	2	2	1%
Roads - Wexford MD	0	4	4	2%
Water - Non Irish Water Queries	1	0	1	1%
Wexford Municipal District	0	1	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Monthly Social Media Report

## Month: October 2022

### Monthly Stats - Key terms explained



#### POST REACH

The number of people who stop and look at your post

#### STORIES REACH

The number of people who stop and look at your stories

#### ENGAGEMENT

The number of people who engage with your content, like it, share it, comment on it etc

#### PAGE FOLLOWERS

The number of people who follow your page updates but don't 'like' your page

#### PAGE LIKES

The number of people who like your page, but may not see all the updates you post

#### NEW PAGE LIKES

The number of people that have liked your page since your last report

#### PAGE VISITS

The number of people who have clicked into your social profile

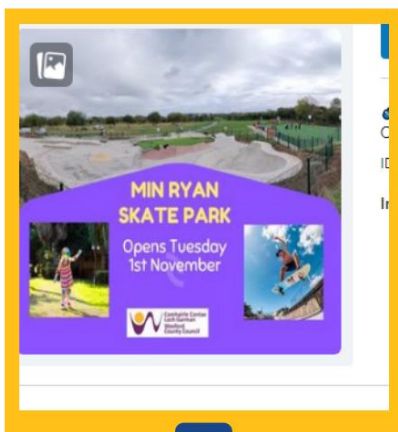
#### MENTIONS

The number of times your page/profile has been mentioned/tagged by members of the public or other pages/profiles

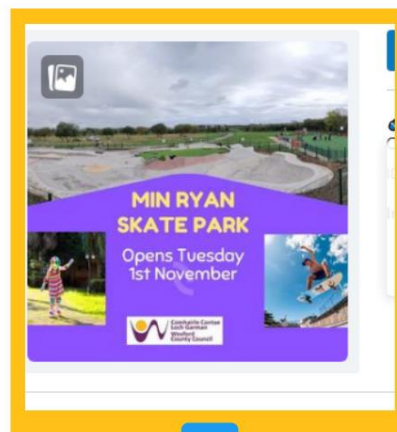
#### IMPRESSIONS

The number of times your post was delivered to someone's social feed, but they didn't necessarily stop on that content \*\*different to reach\*\*

### Top Performing Posts



12,048 views



7,462 impressions

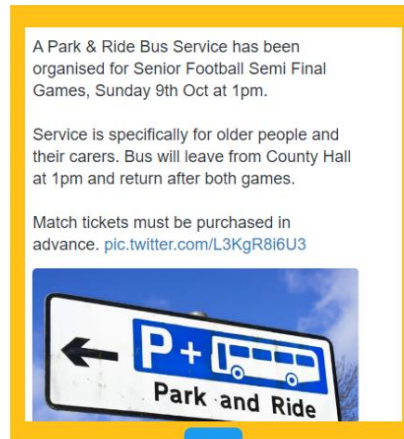


1,136 views

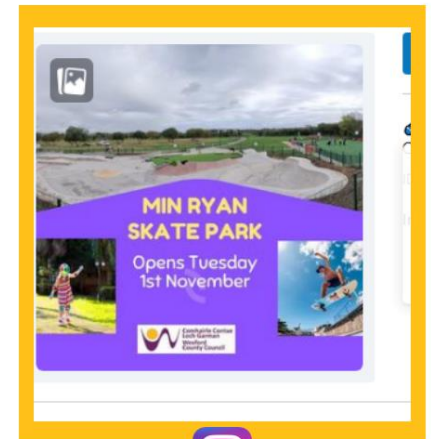
## Top Performing Posts



11,730 views



6,204 impressions



811 views

## Monthly Stats

### PAGE REACH

51,860

### PAGE FOLLOWS

4,825

### NEW PAGE LIKES

93

### TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:

Lights out in Clonard and On Key

Blocked Gullies - Piercestown

LPT

### PAGE VISITS

6,741

### NUM. OF POSTS

73

### Learnings from this month:

Page Reach - Up 94.2%

New Page Likes - Up 40.9%

Page Visits - Up 261.4%



## Monthly Stats

### PAGE REACH

1,806

### PAGE FOLLOWS

1,800

### NEW FOLLOWERS

89

### PAGE VISITS

466

### NUM. OF POSTS

25

#### Learnings from this month:

Page Reach - Up 29%

New Followers - Up 53.4%

Page Visits - Up 136.5%

#### TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:

Alot of tags from Visit Wexford and Arts Organisations regarding Opera House and Art Exhibitions.



## Monthly Stats

### IMPRESSIONS

120K

### MENTIONS

453

### NUM. OF TWEETS

145

### PAGE FOLLOWS

13.5K

### PAGE VISITS

11.3K

### NEW FOLLOWERS

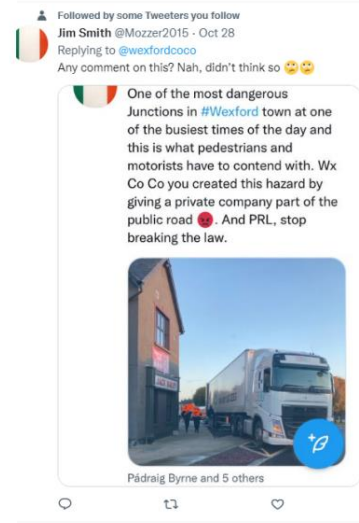
68

#### Learnings from this month:

Impressions - Up 118.68%

Page Visits - Down 40.21%

#### TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:





### TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED:

- **LIGHTING BROKEN ON QUAY AND CLONARD**
- **ROADS FLOODING - CASTLETOWN, EDERMINE BRIDGE**
- **ILLEGAL DUMPING - ENNISCORTHY**
- **UNEVEN REPAIRED ROAD - DAVITT ROAD**

Replying to @GasNetIrl and @wexfordcoco

Thanks! It's Davitt Road North (& Sth) in Wexford town. Very poor job. Unbelievably bumpy... been patched already and only done a few weeks.



Beautiful town with wonderful River Slaney amenity + amazing morning. Unfortunately our town has a serious litter problem 😞 there's a free bottle bank 500m away #litter #enniscorthy #wexford @whittledaway @think\_or\_swim @EcoEye @wexfordcoco #tidytowns



### Finance:

#### **Budget 2023**

Work continues to progress on the preparation of Budget 2023. The Statutory Budget Meeting is scheduled for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10.00am

#### **Audit**

- **Audit of Accounts 2021** – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2021 Accounts is now complete. The Statutory Audit Report for 2021 has been submitted by the Local Government Auditor and is listed on the agenda for consideration of members together with the final audited version of the 2021 Annual Financial Statement.
- **Audit Committee** - The next meeting is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022, and the committee will meet with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2021 Audit and Accounts. Following their meeting with the Local Government Auditor the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

## **RIHL/LAHL Interest Rates**

**Increase to Variable Mortgage Interest Rate** - With effect from 1st December 2022, the standard variable interest rate charged by local authorities to variable rate mortgage holders will be increased from 2.3% to 2.8%. This increase applies to all Variable Rate Mortgage Loans, both new and existing, and any other loan type which uses this rate

**Local Authority Mortgage Lending - Notification of Increase in Interest Rate for New Fixed Rate** - The fixed interest rate for all new loans drawn down under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL) and Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) schemes will increase from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The increase to be passed to new borrowers from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 onwards for new mortgages drawn down will be 0.5%

For mortgages up to 25 years the interest rate to be applied will be 3.35%

For mortgages over 25 and up to 30 years the interest rate to be applied will be 3.45%.

The table below outlines increases to Fixed Rates since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – the new rates are only applicable to new borrowers from the date of the increase

<b>Loan Type</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Rate at 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022</b>	<b>Rate at 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Rate at 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>
RIHL/LAHL	Up to 25 years	2.495%	2.845%	<b>3.35%</b>
RIHL/LAHL	25 to 30 years	2.745%	2.945%	<b>3.45%</b>

## **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2022. An application seeking ministerial sanction for the extension of the overdraft facility at the same level for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 has been submitted to the DHLGH following council approval at the October meeting.

**Tom Enright,**  
**Chief Executive.**