



Chief Executive's Report

April 2021

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)

The Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) aims to assist rateable commercial businesses with operating costs who do not qualify for other covid support schemes such as CRSS and Failte Ireland Business Continuity Grant.

The first phase of the scheme will open for applications from the 11th March to 21st April 2021.

Wexford County Council has been allocated €1,104,692 for the first SBASC scheme. Phase two will have a closing date of 21st July 2021.



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR COVID

Applications for the **SBASC scheme** are now open.

Eligible applicants will be entitled to an initial payment of **€4,000** for the period of **1 January to 31 March**.

Closing date for applications is **21 April 2021**.

Visit your **local authority website** to find out more and apply.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be ineligible for CRSS and other sector specific grants
- Down 75% or more in turnover
- Operate from a premises where business rates are payable.
- Have a minimum turnover of €50,000.00 for each rateable premises.
- Must have a current eTax Clearance Certificate

Businesses can check for full eligibility criteria and make an application at www.wexfordcoco.ie/sbasc.

Queries to: sbasc@wexfordcoco.ie

It is envisaged that grant payments will commence in early April once funds are received from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment and the relevant checks are carried out with the Revenue Commissioners.

To date since within the first two weeks of the scheme there are 67 applications submitted.

Ballast Office

The Ballast Office regeneration project in the heart of Wexford town at Crescent Quay went out to tender in March. Following assessment of tenders submitted, it is expected the contract will be awarded before the summer.

Rev Up Online: Wexford LEO National pilot Initiative for SME's with Goggle, Facebook, Instagram and Shopify

Wexford LEO has devised a new programme to support SME's, in partnership with Retail Republic. The unique digital marketing accelerator programme (Rev up Online) will run over a 12 week period, aimed at helping established SME's to grow their sales in both the domestic and export markets. The programme has secured international global brand experts to deliver training from some of the main online platforms such as Google, Facebook, Instagram and Shopify as well as one-to one mentoring and analytics reports.

As this pilot will be the first time in Ireland that experts from all of these online platforms will be included on the same training programme, 15 diverse LEO client companies with high growth potential have been selected. SME's with an established online presence and a good understanding of the digital marketplace to accelerate their business model have been chosen to benefit from this unique training opportunity.

INTRODUCING GREEN FOR MICRO - WHY GREEN FOR BUSINESS IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

A new initiative from the Local Enterprise Offices, the Green for Micro Programme aims to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future. This is a FREE programme, suitable for all microenterprises with up to ten employees, but it is particularly suited to businesses in construction and the built environment, retail, manufacturing, textiles and fashion, food, electronics, plastics, and packaging.

Companies can avail of advice and technical support, covering topics such as resource efficiency, understanding their carbon footprint and implementing an environmental management system. They can find out what steps to take to reduce costs and lower their greenhouse gas emissions. There are 2 stages to the application process:

STAGE 1

View the Lunch & Learn Green Webinar (no registration required) – businesses can learn everything they need to know about Green for Micro supports, including a first-hand account of a business which has already implemented the green initiatives and is enjoying the benefits. This webinar can be watched back on demand on LocalEnterprise.ie/Green

STAGE 2:

Business can apply for two days of mentoring with a specialist Green Consultant – this will include recommendations on specific changes which their business can implement and support improved competitiveness while taking climate action.

LEO Student Enterprise Awards - 850 students from Co. Wexford

LEO Wexford Student Enterprise Programme Awards went virtual this year with an evening awards ceremony on the 11th March, 2021. A total of 850 students across 16 secondary schools took part in the programme which was delivered in the main online via zoom and teams training sessions. This was a real testament to the young people and their teachers who despite the challenges of covid 19 adapted to new ways of working and showed great resilience.

The 2021 Awards Ceremony had a very different flavour with Greg Fry hosting interviews and videos with Tom Enright - CE, Liz Hore – LEO; Brendan Ennis, Wexford Enterprise Centre, Niamh Hatchell, EPA, Harry Kehoe last years winner and Mick D'Arcy, Corner Boy. Blaithin Ennis, Jewellery Designer was keynote speaker who gave an inspirational account of her journey and the highlights of featuring at London Fashion Week 2021 and winning designer of the year. The video of the event is available as an 'unlisted video' oiving back to the the community through social responsibility initiatives.n the LEO Wexford YouTube channel via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyQN7DIto9I>

This year's Senior Winner is Lauren Williams of Bridgetown College with her product Irish Sea Mist. The Junior Category Award winners are Grace and Izzy Walsh from St Marys Secondary school New Ross with 2 peas in a pod and Intermediate wiinner was Evan Dwyer of CBS Wexford with Evans Handmade gifts. A key theme of the young entrepreneurs was sustainability and social responsibility. The award winners will represent Wexford in May at the National finals.



Irish Sea Mist Senior Category Winner Lauren Willams Bridgetown College

LEO Wexford Student Enterprise Award Winners

Award	Mini Company	School	Students	Teacher
Senior Winner	Irish Sea Mist	Bridgetown College- Rosslare MD	Lauren Williams	Sinead Fortune
Senior Runner Up	GoEco	Gorey Community School -Gorey Kilmuckridge MD	Aaron Leonard	Lisa Nangle
Senior Third Place (Joint)	CK Masks	Presentation Wexford_Wexford Borough	Claragh Keane	Aidan Hackett
Senior Third Place (Joint)	PlayFrame	Colaiste Bride – Enniscorthy MD	Bronagh Kenny, Megan O'Sullivan, Sarah Walsh	Margo Whelan
Senior Best Report	Timber Crafts	CBS Wexford – Wexford Borough	Alex Gregg	Ann Barry
Senior Best Interview	Álainn Cosmetics	Colaiste Abbain (Adamstown) – New Ross MD	Niamh Doyle	Nessa Murphy
Intermediate Winner	Evan's Handmade Gifts	CBS Wexford – Wexford Borough	Evan Dwyer	Ann Barry
Junior Winner	2 Peas In a Pod	St Mary's Secondary School, -New Ross MD	Grace & Issy Walsh	Aaron Price
Junior Runner Up	Wexford Keyrings	CBS Wexford – Wexford MD	Nick Lambert	Ann Barry
Junior/Intermediate Best Poster	2 Peas In a Pod	St Mary's Secondary School, New Ross	Grace & Issy Walsh	Aaron Price
Junior/Intermediate Best Interview	CBS Socks & Club Socks	CBS Wexford – Wexford Borough	Rory Goff	Ann Barry
LCVP/LCA Winner	Giddy Up Décor	St Mary's Secondary School- New Ross MD	Laura Banville, Chloe Monaghan, Lisa Murphy	Eithne Forde
Environment Award	BOS Trays	St Marys CBS – Enniscorthy MD	Jack Byrne	Martina Barry
Environment Award	Wasteknot	CBS Wexford – Wexford Borough	William Miller	Tony Bennett
Social Impact Award	Crafty Cones	Creagh College – Gorey Kilmuckridge MD	Lachina O'Reilly Finlay, Mia Finn	Daniel Condren

Social Impact Award	GoEco	Gorey Community School – Gorey Kilmuckridge MD	Aaron Leonard	Lisa Nangle
Most Creative Business Idea	Funki Frames	FCJ Bunclody – Enniscorthy MD	Caoimhe Jordan	Paul Fitzgerald
Most Creative Business Idea Runner Up	Spices2Go	Ramsgrange Community School – New Ross MD	Ruby Murphy, Aislinn Gabbett, Orlaith Butler	John Stafford
Merit Award	Burn Bright Candles	Kilmuckridge (Colaiste an Atha) – Gorey Kilmuckridge MD	Michaela Milling, Isabelle Kisov, Shona Proctor Laird, Therese Lawless	Cathy Reddy
Merit Award	Lumber Designs	Meanscoil Gharman – Enniscorthy MD	Finn O'Connor, Oran D'Arcy, Dylan Hore, Adam Kavanagh, Eanna Swords	Shannon White
Merit Award	Fit To Be Dyed	Colaiste Bride – Enniscorthy MD	Isobel Kavanagh, Nicole Conroy, Danielle Nolan	Margo Whelan
Merit Award	A Glass Act	Bunclody Vocational College – Enniscorthy MD	Pierce Deane	Aoife Martin
Merit Award	Keyring & Bling	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Ross MD	Mollie Fitzharris, Freya Murphy	Daphne Kennington
Merit Award	CBS Christmas Crafts	CBS New Ross – New Ross MD	Joey Salisbury	Stephen Banville

Wexford Tourism Recovery Taskforce

The Wexford Tourism Recovery Taskforce of Failte Ireland, Wexford County Council and the tourism industry leaders continue to meet to devise collaborative approaches to responding to the impact of the pandemic. There is no doubt that the continuation of the lockdown due to the ongoing covid 19 situation, has hit the hospitality and tourism industry hard. The following are two areas of focus for the group:

- **Wexford Outdoors** – to develop the outdoors visitor experience
- **Wexford Night Time Economy** – to create a range of evening experiences to enhance Wexford as a compelling destination

Failte Ireland will lead out on a training programme to assist these initiatives for SME's.

Marketing: America focus on Wexford

Acclaimed Irish tenor Michael Londra has recorded a new TV show called "Ireland with Michael". The first series is due to be aired throughout the USA on May 2nd, 2021 and will air nationally on the PBS Network throughout the year.



County Wexford will feature in two episodes of "Ireland with Michael" and will include Michael's hometown of Wexford, Johnstown Castle, the National Opera House, Kilmore Quay, Hook Lighthouse and the Kennedy Homestead.



In one of the episodes he will also be chatting to fellow Wexford man New York Times Best Selling author Eoin Colfer From December to March Michael partnered with theatres in 71 markets in 38 states in the US to air an online version of the show with exclusively Wexford content.

PLANNING

COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

The Planning Department is open and operational but there is restricted, by appointment public access to the Department. Most contact continues to be managed through post, email or phone

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1st January 2021 until 19th March 2021

No. of valid applications	356
No. of invalid applications	43
Extension of Duration	12
Exempted Development Declaration	12

Numbers are those received from the 13th February 2021 until 19th March 2021.

No. of valid applications	175
No. of invalid applications	21
Extension of Duration	7
Exempted Development Declaration	9

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 19th March 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	67
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	119
Average waiting time to meeting	24 days

Forward Planning

Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

The public consultation period for the Draft Plan ended on Wednesday, 9th December 2020. One hundred and sixty eight submissions were received during the consultation period. While, many submissions were very detailed and covered multiple issues – some headline figures are provided below:

- 17 submission were received from Prescribed Authorities
- 10 submissions were received from stakeholders such as infrastructure providers
- 29 Submissions related to Protected Structures
- 25 Submissions related to transportation issues
- 14 submissions related to Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane Settlement Plan
- 9 submissions related to Bunclody Town Settlement Plan
- 6 submissions were from environmental groups and NGOs
- 8 related to rural housing
- 5 related to renewable energy

The submissions can be viewed online at <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/>.

The forward planning section are currently reviewing all submissions and considering what changes should be made to the plan as a result of the submissions received. There are also a number of amendments which will have to be made to the plan as a consequence of recently released mandatory Section 28 Guidelines.

Following the review of these submissions and guidelines the Members will receive a written report from the Chief Executive which will list the names of persons who made submissions and summarise the issues raised in the submissions. The report will also give the response of the Chief Executive to the issues raised and his recommendations for proposed amendments to the draft plan. The Members will then consider the Chief Executive's Report, together with the draft plan, and decide whether the plan should be amended.

If the Members decide to make amendments to the draft plan and these amendments are material in nature the amendments will then be placed on public display for a period of 4 weeks. Submissions may be made during this period. This will be followed by a further Chief Executive's Report which will be considered by the Members prior to the adoption of the plan.

Heritage Grants

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021.

14 applications have been sent forward to the Department for approval.

Historic Structures Fund 2021

2 applications under Stream 1 and 1 application under the Stream for Vernacular Structures have been sent to the Department for approval.

Community Monuments Fund 2021

Applications have been invited again this year by the Department. The **CMF 2021** will offer grants up to €85,000 for essential repairs and capital works to archaeological monuments. It will also offer grants up to €30,000 for the development of Conservation Management plans, and for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation of archaeological monuments (including Covid-19 public health measures).

Private applicants and/or community groups who are owners or custodians of archaeological monuments may apply. The closing date for applications is the **12th April 2021**.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

51 site inspections were carried out by our Derelict Sites Technician in the period 1st January – 19th March 2021.

The issuing of Notices requiring owners to carry out remedial works have been put on temporary hold while the current Covid-19 restrictions are in place to enable owners of derelict properties adhere to Government restrictions

One property on the Derelict Site Register was referred to Property Management for CPO appraisal. The preparation of Derelict Site Levy and Vacant Site Levy invoices is currently underway.

Building Control 13th February 2021 – 19th March 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	39
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	5
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	7
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 15th March 2021 are as follows:

➤ Live Cases	273
➤ Cases Opened 2021	47
➤ Cases Closed 2021	66

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 15th March 2021 is as follows:

➤ Properties advertised on websites	56
➤ No. of warning letters served	1
➤ Cases Closed	2

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

Since the 1st March all Disability and Revised Disability Access Certificates are now only being accepted through the National Building Control Management System, (BCMS). Notification of this move was issued to all the agents in early February. Currently six applications have been submitted through BCMS.

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2021 up to and including 19th March, 2021 totals **10**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	3	0	1	1	1
Gorey	0	0	0	0	0
New Ross	1	0	0	1	0
Wexford	4	0	1	0	3
Rosslare	2	0	0	2	0
2021 Totals	10	0	2	4	4

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	33

Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park: Works on the park are substantially completed and the Park was opened to the public on 15/06/2020. Public lighting is now operational. Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. Works are planned to commence on site following relaxation of the current Level 5 restrictions. The works are hoped to be complete by the end of Q2 2021, but this will depend on the starting date.

Crescent Quay: Works are substantially completed with minor snagging items to be completed following relaxation of Level 5 restrictions.

Carrigfoyle - Trails: The access road, car park, trails and services works at Carrigfoyle (Phase 1) were substantially completed in December. The site was opened to the public on 18/12/2020 with the exception of the moderate trails. This trail has been upgraded and is now fully open to the Public. Final snag works will be undertaken when the current restrictions on working on site are lifted.

Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1: Works are substantially completed with snagging items still to be addressed. Discussions are on-going with IW in relation to taking the on-site wastewater pumping station in charge.

Gorey Town Park: Works commenced on site in May 2019 and were impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions in 2020. Works are currently suspended due to Level 5 restrictions, with approximately two months' work left to complete following recommencement. Tenders are being assessed for the playground and adult gym equipment with the installation to commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

South East Greenway: Part VIII planning for the project is complete and a Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, and Waterford City and County Council, to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority for the project. The initial €8.0m grant allocation approved in June 2019 was increased by €7.7m by the Minister in November 2020, bringing the total project grant funding to €15.7m.

The New Ross to Waterford railway line was formally abandoned in September 2020 and a Works Licence for the construction of the Greenway has been received from CIE and signed by WCC.

The rail and sleeper lifting contract work commenced in August and all of the rails and sleepers from the abandoned railway have now been removed to storage in Rosbercon. Final site clearance and fencing works to be undertaken as part of this contract will be completed when the current Covid 19 Level 5 restrictions for construction sites are lifted.

The detailed design for the scheme is progressing. A number of tender packages are being prepared and advanced in line with the programme for the project. Tenders have been received for the initial contract for the urban sections in New Ross and Waterford. Tendering for subsequent works packages is programmed throughout the Spring of 2021. Works are expected to commence for the initial contract in May 2021 and to be completed by November 2021 (subject to Covid 19 restrictions). The works on the entire Greenway are due to be completed by Spring 2023.

Trinity Wharf: Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is expected by April / May 2021. Tenders for a works contract for the new access road to serve the development are currently being assessed and WCC is advancing the works licence agreements required from CIE for the

construction of the access road and the new level crossing with a view to commencing works in Q2 2021.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced URDF grant funding of €18.4m for the Trinity Wharf project in mid April 2021 in addition to the €2.028m secured by WCC in 2018. This will support the construction of the site-development works required to open up the site for private sector investment and building development.

New Ross Fire Station: Approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to award the works contract for the New Ross Fire Station. A contract with the preferred tenderer will be signed and works commenced on-site once Covid19 restriction allow.

Wexford Arts Centre: Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. The works contract tender assessment is now complete and the tender report has been approved by the Department. Contract award is imminent and works will commence as soon as possible after relaxation of current Level 5 restrictions.

High Hill, New Ross: The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, currently derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. A tender process for works at High Hill advertised in Q3 2020 has been terminated without an award of contract, as the tendered sum significantly exceeded the budget allocation for the proposed works.

A tender review was completed and retendering of the works was advertised on ETenders on the 3rd of February with a tender return deadline of the 26th of March.

An application for RRDF funding for this project, as part of the New Ross tourism project application, was successful.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works commenced on site in November 2020. Works are currently suspended due to Level 5 restrictions. There will be approximately 3 months left to completion upon recommencement.

Monck Street Enhancement Scheme: Preliminary design is on-going but site investigations works have been impacted by the current level 5 restrictions. This will impact on design completion and the tender date, as will the suspension of the current private building works underway on the street. It is planned to target September 2021 to commence street works and to complete in advance of the Christmas shopping season, but this will depend on the duration of on-going restrictions.

New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks: Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide engineering services to Wexford County Council for the removal of the oil tank structures on the quay and the development of public realm works on the site. Site investigation works and inspections of the site and tanks are complete.

A contractor has been recommended for the Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) and works are expected to commence in early 2021 following the award of the contract. The site commencement for the tank removal is postponed until Covid-19 restrictions for construction works are eased.

A Part VIII Planning application will be lodged in Q1 2021 for the development of the public realm works on the site.

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.

No tenders were received in response to an open tendering competition, advertised in November, for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of applications for planning and statutory consents. WCC has now moved to a negotiated procedure to seek the required services. This process is expected to take circa. 2 months to complete.

The ground investigation work for the pedestrian bridge was completed in early November. The preliminary design and bridge options report has been completed taking account of the results of the SI works and was issued to WCC for review this month.

The URDF funding application for Enniscorthy, submitted in May 2020, incorporating the Templeshannon project has not been successful and WCC will engage with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to support the development of future applications for regeneration in Enniscorthy.

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. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A CPO drawing and schedule, for the acquisition of the necessary lands, is currently being prepared by the Planning Section, with the CPO process due to commence as soon as this has been completed.

Esmonde Street: RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part VIII planning consent process was advertised on 13/10/2020. Planning consent was approved at the WCC December meeting. WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project. The project will now proceed to detailed design. A further RRDF application for works funding was submitted for the project in December 2020.

Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building: The planning stage design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed. A Part VIII application has been submitted and the observation and submission period has now been completed. A stage 1 pre-qualification suitability assessment for the design team services was advertised in December and was returned on the 10th of February 2021 and is currently being assessed. A detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to design and prepare tender documents for the boathouse and associated access road and wastewater pumping station.

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. The tender assessment process was delayed by the Covid 19 restrictions. This tender is a competitive procedure

with negotiation. The negotiation process is underway with qualified tenderers and when this is concluded, the tender assessment report will be prepared.

Mechanics Institute: John Creed & Associates were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders were advertised in November 2020. A works contractor is expected to be appointed in March 2021 and will commence onsite in April 2021, subject to Covid 19 restrictions being eased. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

Design services are currently being procured to develop new visitor experiences at the INHP and the Hook Lighthouse and to bring the projects to 'shovel ready' status. This will include preliminary design, environmental assessment, preparing applications for planning and related development consents, detailed design and tendering for works contracts.

The appointment of consultancy services teams for the INHP has been impacted by the CoVid 19 restrictions. An award of contract for the Architect-led design team has not been possible to date (as they are UK based). Some ecological surveys were carried out over Winter 2020/21 and we are in discussions with our environmental and infrastructural consultant to seek to advance their service scope as much as possible in the current circumstances.

Tenders for the environment services required for the Hook project are currently being assessed and an award of contract is expected later this month. Appointment of design teams for the tourism and environmental services is planned for April 2021 subject to Covid restrictions and contract.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman centre in New Ross has been completed. A tender process for the supply of tourism co-ordination and management services to the project to include the Norman Centre and the Dunbrody Experience will be initiated in the coming weeks.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC at its July meeting and set out the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on the Castle that will have the capacity to significantly improve tourism visitor numbers to the town and link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross. A tender brief for design services for preliminary design and planning consent applications required for Phase 1 of the project is currently being prepared.

Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme: Following the completion of a Coastal Engineering Feasibility Study to investigate the development and provision of major infrastructural coastal works in Courtown to reinstate the north beach, tenders are being invited for the preliminary design of coastal protection structures and beach nourishment to restore the natural amenity and tourism asset to Courtown and Co Wexford.

Following a competitive tender process, RPS Ltd has been appointed to undertake the Preliminary Design and Statutory Consents phase of the project.

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway: Following the decision of the Transportation SPC of Waterford City & Co. Council and the Economic SPC of Wexford County Council, to write to the Minister for Transport seeking inclusion of the out-of-service Rosslare to Waterford railway line in the

up-coming national rail review, it was decided to pause the application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project pending a decision from DOT on the future of the rail corridor.

WCC will review advancing the Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section as a stand-alone project that could link to the EuroVelo and the Wexford to Rosslare greenway project currently at feasibility stage.

Wexford 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.

Crescent Quay – Dredging: Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders. Tenders are currently being assessed and a recommendation for award of contract is expected in April, 2021.

Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy: A master plan for the Old Dublin Road business and commercial area in Enniscorthy is to be developed by WCC by Q2 2021. This master plan will allow for packages of works to be developed and advanced on a phased basis subject to funding. Malcahy Walsh & Partners was appointed in March to provide design services for the project.

An initial submission for funding was made to the NTA's active travel programme for aspects of the scheme and a further application will be made on completion of the masterplan later this year.

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. Modia Consulting were appointed in March to provide quantity surveying services. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in June with a contractor to commence works in September 2021.

Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns Project: Following an application to Fáilte Ireland for the Destination Towns Scheme in late 2019, the maximum grant of €500,000 was awarded for the New Ross Destination Towns Project in early 2020. The aim of the Project is to develop New Ross as a destination by improving wayfinding, promoting and connecting local amenities, developing a night-time economy and increasing dwell time in the area. This Project is complimenting the delivery of the South East Greenway and the New Ross By Pass to promote New Ross as a Norman Heritage Town. This is being done by means of way finding signs, street name plates, promotion and awareness of walking trails and the provision of a visitor information kiosk on the Quay.

Flood Defence Schemes

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme: The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme requires formal confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in order to proceed. This is a statutory requirement under the Arterial Drainage Acts.

The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by the DPER and a public consultation process.

The confirmation documents for the scheme, including the EIAR & NIS, were signed off by the OPW and submitted to the DPER in March 2020.

DPER completed the public consultation on the 28th August 2020. DPER completed the review of EIAR & NIS and sent a request for supplementary information to the OPW on the 06/11/2020. WCC are assisting OPW with this request. The Scheme Design Consultants Mott MacDonald are preparing a Response Report for the OPW which is to be issued by the 31st March 2021.

While confirmation of the scheme from the Minister is awaited, WCC will progress the detailed design, the shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works. Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species.

The detailed design of the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete. Tender submissions for short listing contractors for the bridgeworks were received in June 2020. The prequalification assessment was completed in January 2021 and candidates that did not meet the pass/ fail criteria were notified. This decision was appealed by two candidates. WCC sought legal advice on the matter and it has been decided to re tender the competition. Tender documents are being updated at present.

The legal agreement required for the diversion of Irish Water services has been completed, Archaeological licences are in place, the bridge agreement with Irish Rail is being progressed, the application for the foreshore lease and foreshore licence is being progressed with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government - public consultation on the foreshore application finished on the 15/12/2020. The Foreshore Licence is expected to be issued in June 2021.

Wexford Flood Relief Scheme: The project brief for design services for the Flood Relief Project was advertised on Etenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9th July 2020. A tender assessment is being carried out in conjunction with the OPW and is expected to be completed in April/May 2021.

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review. It has been determined that more details survey data was required to complete the modelling study. This additional survey work was carried out last month and the final report is now being prepared.

HOUSING

Housing Section and Covid 19

Due to Covid-19 we have returned to level 5 restrictions which were introduced in early January 2021. This has impacted on our construction programme. Sites that were not sufficiently advanced have been temporarily closed in line with government restrictions. However, our Technical staff continue to progress and monitor Capital Projects which met the essential project designation and projects at planning and design stage. Working with consultant teams remotely has allowed many projects to proceed through the application stages.

Although it has been a challenge for the Housing Section we continued to provide the following critical services during the pandemic:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services
- 3) Allocations

Private Residential Tenancy inspections were suspended during a substantial portion of the restrictions. However, the Department has now asked local authorities to submit a business case for introducing virtual inspections until Public Health guidelines permit a return to house visits. Virtual inspections will allow landlords to complete the inspection survey and submit photographic backup. The tenant will also be able to submit photographs where there is a dispute in relation to compliance. It is important to note that all virtual inspections will be followed by physical final inspections. Wexford County Council submitted its business plan for agreement to the Department on 12th March for consideration, with sign off received in late March.

HAP and Rents continue as normal. The Grants Section continues to process applications. However, in the absence of inspections activity is greatly reduced. The Area Housing Officers are processing all Housing Applications and the Tenant Liaison Officers are dealing with anti-social behaviour issues as they arise. Housing allocations are ongoing.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Delays caused by leaking at parapets. Architect and Contractor are tracing the problems. Will not complete until issues resolved and building dries out.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Site closed due to Covid. Due to complete Q2 2022
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Site closed due to Covid. Will complete in Q2 2021 – Public Health restrictions permitting.
Creagh East	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Site closed due to Covid. Stage 2 to DHPLG in Q1 2021. Planning is in place. Review of costs at present.
Wexford Street	28/32	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Site closed due to Covid. Full Design Team appointed. Delay completing design and lodging Part VIII as inability to survey site.
Creagh West	8	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	Site closed due to Covid. Seeking approval to move to Stage 2 in Q2 2021.
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Stage 4	Site closed due to Covid. Stage 4 Approved, funding shortfall source agreed. On DHPLG advice contracts will only be signed when lockdown is lifted.
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under Construction	Site closed due to Covid. Due to complete Q4 2021 – Public Health restrictions permitting.
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Site closed due to Covid. Design to be finalised Q2 2021 – delay due to inability to survey site. Engineers selected for the project.
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 2	Site closed due to Covid. Stage 2 submitted to DHPLG Nov 2020. New OT report, revise house for Special Needs. Re-submit Stage 2 Q1 2021.
Whiterock Hill (<i>deliver in 2 phases</i>)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Site closed due to Covid. Tender for phase 1 (22 Units) Q1 2021.
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Site closed due to Covid. Stage 2 approved. Design Team working on Part VIII submission. Lodge Part VIII Q2 2021 – delay in lodging Part VIII due to inability to survey site.
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Site Closed due to Covid. Stage 2 in

				Q2 2021 for Phase 1 for 25 units. Delays due to inability to survey site.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Site closed due to Covid. Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Standard house reviewed as requested by DHPLG. Consultants to review costs then lodge Part VIII Q1 2021.
TOTAL	226			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required prior to signing construction contract. Start date subject to sites re-opening.
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Department funding not available – considering other options.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance approved.
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design and detailed survey commenced. Engineers tenders are assessed and Engineer to be appointed. Single Stage Application to be lodged with DHPLG in Q2 2021
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, Sign contract and commence on site when restrictions are lifted. Funding secured. PEP submitted and EO sought.
TOTAL	5		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, Stage 1 Q2 2021. Reviewing House types prior to submission.
Daphney View	10	Enniscorthy	Access issues – Review and develop smaller site with access. Phase 1 dependent on land purchase from adjoining neighbour.
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once other Rosbercon project is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works. Appoint Engineer to assess structure when sites open up again.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
TOTAL	57		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	CPO complete. Demolition of old house in Q2 2021. Single stage Q2 2021.
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC.
Adamstown	20	Wexford	We are awaiting formal confirmation that there is capacity in treatment plant. We believe there is but IW to confirm in writing.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Confirm services capacity Q1 2021. Design underway to include enabling works.
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity Q2 2021.
TOTAL	57		

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	9 units to deliver May 2021.
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver in Q4 2021 – subject to Public Health restrictions.
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2022.
Tuath			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	28 units delivered. Remainder will deliver over Q1 and Q2 2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	33 units delivered. 8 units to deliver Q1 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2021
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver Q2 2021
TOTAL	312		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	18 units complete. Awaiting sales to close.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. 4 units to be delivered in Q4 2021 and 4 units Q2 2022
Clonard	6	Wexford	Delayed until Q2 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	3 units complete. 2 units to deliver Q4 2021 and Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delayed until 2021 due to change in Planning
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
TOTAL	79		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	At snagging stage. To deliver Q2 2021.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	15 units delivered. 4 units to deliver Q1 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Expected to deliver April 2021.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expected to deliver Q3 2021.
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q3 2022 – delay due to Public Health restrictions.
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	4 units to deliver Q2 2021 Construction commenced. To deliver Q3 2022 – delay due to Public Health restrictions.
TOTAL	160		

Turnkey proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by the Internal Housing Committee.

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 28th February, 2021:-

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1st – 28th February 2021)	126	93	134	129	86	568
Repair Requests Year to Date	282	202	300	287	186	1,259
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st – 28th February 2021)	104	78	111	110	73	476
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	211	156	231	224	138	960

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme - Deadline extended until Friday 26th March 2021.

The deadline for receipt of applications under the 'Preliminary Call for Expressions of Interest' was extended until 5pm on Friday 26th March 2021. The extension was designed to assist any groups who may have encountered difficulties finalising their applications due to COVID-related restrictions. Arrangements are in place to meet representatives of community groups to develop applications.

LEADER

There have been 14 LEADER claims fully paid with a total value of €534,176 and another 1 claim approved for payment with a value of €5,256.04.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 25th March 2021 via MS Teams. Agenda items included Sláintecare presentation.

Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 25th March 2021 via MS Teams. Agenda items included The Transitional LEADER Programme which will commence on 1st April 2021.

Joint Policing Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee was held on the 08th March 2021 via MS Teams. Agenda items included the CCTV update – Co. Secretary, Community Preparedness Plan Update, JPC Annual Work Plan 2021.

The next meeting of the JPC is scheduled for the 10th May 2021 via MS Teams.

COVID19 Emergency Fund 2020 (round 2)

In February, Wexford LCDC approved funding of €59,396 to 65 groups under the COVID19 Emergency Fund 2020 (round 2).

Playground repairs

Power washing of Ferns, Davidstown, Duncannon, Cherryorchard playgrounds.

New spring on gates at Clonattin, Cluain Dara, Kilmore and Coolgreany.

Repair to footbridge of senior multi-unit at Redmond Park .

Repairs to multi senior unit at Cluain Dara.

April Report (19th February – 23rd March 2021)

The **Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3, 2019-2021** has been significantly impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. For most Wexford Actions this has resulted in delays in implementation and adaption of approach to deliver online, remotely or in different ways. This has involved significant work on behalf of our Healthy County Coordinator and Action partners as they work together to adapt and refine the programmes in line with funding requirements. While the programme has been extended to end 2021 the ongoing restrictions continue to impact on programme delivery.



Healthy
Wexford

Part of the Healthy Ireland Round 3 funding is a Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme. Similarly, many funded projects have been delayed and so our Healthy County Coordinator continues to engage with funded projects to ensure delivery.

Following a review, the **Healthy County Committee** has drafted additional actions needed and core focus areas for further progression of Strategic Priority Areas of the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022. Work now progresses to begin delivering on these new actions, in collaboration with local partners.

Community Resilience Campaign

The **Community Resilience Campaign – ‘Keep Well’** continues with some activity continuing to June. In addition, to the work already underway this month saw the progression of the following Wexford initiatives:

- Clever Little Handies Baby Sign through our Libraries, offering an opportunity for parents to stay connected
- Intergenerational Postcard project from Age Friendly Wexford in collaboration with Comhairle na nOg
- 450 Wellbeing Packs for Older People organised by Wexford Age Friendly in collaboration with a range of partners across the county including Wexford Civil Defence, County Wexford Arts Department, An Garda Síochana, Local Link Wexford, Meals on Wheels Services, Healthy Wexford and Wexford Food Family
- Pebble Safety and Fall Detector Devices
- Creative workshop for children with special needs
- Wexford Libraries #KeepWell 2021 Photo Competition



In addition to Wexford specific #KeepWell activity, the county is benefiting from some national initiatives, which are being supported locally. These include, for example, COVID Care Concerts (outdoor concerts at nursing homes) and the recently launched GIY Grow It Forward initiative.

During Level 5 Restrictions the 'Keep Well' Community Resilience campaign continues to highlight ways to keep well with key focus areas of: Keeping Active, Minding Your Mood, Eating Well, Staying Connected and Switching off & Being Creative. Promotion via online, print and radio.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Keeping Well campaign	We continue to support the 'Keeping well' campaign with articles in the local newspapers and appearances on the Radio Programme on Thursday evenings. Alongside the promotion of activities on our online social media.
Online Exercise Classes	HIIT and Yoga classes are now in the last block of classes. There are 7 participants in HIIT and 9 participants in yoga. We will take a break from the live online classes for a while due to the brighter evenings. There has been interested to keep the classes going in some form so we will offer a pre recorded package to those that are interested.
Courtown Local Training Initiative	Courtown LTI students and staff have started four weeks of online yoga and HIIT training sessions as part of their leadership and keeping active programme. Gorey Youth Needs have also ben invited to take part.
MoveMENT MoMENTS	The MoveMENT MoMENTS programme for the Men's Sheds is now in week 5. This is a 7-week functional fitness programme. Each week participants receive a video and handout of the exercises/activities. There are 30 men taking part.
Havenview	Supported Havenview Activity Garden with the installing exercise equipment for the users. This will be alongside the new Sli na slainte route which will be used by the Campus users of St John's hospital and the Enniscorthy Men's shed. They also received a delivery of inclusive physical activity equipment from Sports Active Wexford to ensure everyone can part in some form of activity on campus. 8 residents are currently taking part in the MoveMENT MoMENTS programme.
Slaintecare	The IEP has finished the third block of exercise programmes and will soon begin the delivery of the fourth block of exercise programmes. All programmes are still being delivered via online or telephone call. The IEP is linking clients with resources, event and links from SAW where possible.

	<p>The programme Presentation has been delivered to the Wexford LCDC on Wednesday 24th March, by the Exercise Effect Panel.</p> <p>A blog about the programme has also been published on the Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration Website.</p>
Table Cricket	<p>We delivered the first Table Cricket set to St. John's Hospital Campus this week. Each centre on campus will get the use of the set for 5 weeks. We will be working with our partners in Cricket Leinster and Herbie Honohan, Development Officer for Wexford to arrange demonstrations over the coming months when it is safe to do so.</p> <p>The second set was delivered to Horeswood N.S this week. It will stay in the school for 5 weeks before moving on to the next school.</p>
Xcessible Bronze Award	<p>Sports Active Wexford has signed up to take part in the Cara Centre's Xcessible Bronze Award. This can be done over a 1- or 2-year period. The aim is to make the Local Sports Partnership as inclusive as possible to people with disabilities.</p>
Safeguarding	<p>Safeguarding Courses</p> <p>4 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 44 participants.</p> <p>1 Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed with a total of 15 participants.</p>
Sports Inclusion and Disability Awareness Online Workshop	<p>The SIDO is delivering this Cara Centre training workshop in partnership with the SIDO in Wicklow Sports Partnership. Two courses have been delivered so far, one for Enniscorthy Rugby Club and one for Basketball clubs in Wicklow. 39 people participated in the two workshops.</p> <p>The course will be delivered next week to the students of WWETB Outdoor Sport & Recreation Course, as part of the Adapted Physical Activity Module. There will also be two courses available to the general public over the coming weeks.</p>
Inclusive Fitness Training Online Workshop	<p>This 3.5-hour workshop delivered by the Cara Centre and aimed at leisure centre professionals took place on the 10th March and had 18 participants.</p>

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

Phase 2 contracts have been sought for Brand Management; Public Relations and Press Management; Media and Marketing; Website Management; Asset Management; and Project Evaluation and Legacy. The March 2021 Newsletter was circulated very widely and well received. All assets will be available for use by the tourism trade and relevant stakeholders from our website by the middle of April 2021. This includes our County videos and our TV Advert video. Work has begun on the creation of Thematic Groups to steer and inform further collaborative ideas, Learning Journeys and investment.

ENVIRONMENT

A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Throughout the third lockdown, work has continued in line with the CCMA's guidance document of 21st October, 2020. Office based staff are now working an alternate teams pattern to minimise attendance, ensuring that the office is covered while increasing physical distancing. All staff have the resources to work remotely while not physically in the office.

Outdoor staff continue to work to ensure the Civic Amenity Centres, Rapid Response Crews, Environment and Dog Warden Services remains operational.

With the easing of restrictions over the coming weeks and improved weather, the main beaches are expected to become increasingly busy. Plans for improved parking arrangements at a number of locations are underway. Staff will continue to monitor levels of activity and liaise with the Gardai where required.

B. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

18 minor projects on harbours and marinas were shortlisted by the Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) under their annual harbour development programme. The DAFM will provide a final list of approved projects in April 2021 following submission of further detailed information.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Pre-planning and Pre-foreshore application processes are complete. Foreshore and Part XI planning applications are being prepared.

Ports Past and Present: project ongoing with many events online. Ports Fest for Rosslare is planned for 21st to 23rd April 2021; this online event has events and talks based around Rosslare Europort. Project updates were recently presented to the Rosslare Municipal District and Visit Wexford.

New Ross Port – Mast at Harbour Office. A tender process is underway to demolish the existing communications mast at the harbour office.

Courtown Harbour – maintenance dredging was carried out in the channel to improve navigation for harbour users.

Beaches –

An Taisce launched the Green Coast Applications for 2021. We are currently preparing an application for 9 beaches. Curracloe beach was illuminated in green lighting for St Patrick's Day; this was done in conjunction with Tourism Officer and promoted on social media.

Coast -

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Scheme: stage 1 (of 2) tender process for consulting engineers was completed. The successful companies will now be invited to submit tenders for the scheme.

An application for funding coastal protection works at Seaview, Kilmore was submitted to the Office of Public Works. An online meeting was organised with Seaview residents on 12th March to update them on the combined beach access and coastal erosion issues.

Lady's Island – the lake was “cut” to reduce water levels and prevent flooding. This involved cutting a channel in the beach from the lake to the sea to allow the water flow out. The long term solution is a water level structure which will automatically control the water level; this project is being assessed by An Bord Pleanála as a planning application.

C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Minor refurbishment works to Curracloe Public Convenience and major refurbishment works to Carne Public Convenience have been completed.

D. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

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

2. Water Sampling:

A Total of 556 water quality samples are taken by Council Scientists from 85 sampling sites in the county per year with analysis carried out by the EPA. 11 surveillance sites are being sampled 12 times per year.

3. Septic Tank Inspections:

Works have commenced on selecting areas and sites for Septic Tank Inspections in 2021. Inspections will commence when the Covid-19 situation improves.

Progress is being made with open files with letters being sent to owners requesting updates on works carried out to enable the closing of files or offering extensions of time, as appropriate.

5 files have been closed and 7 extensions of time have been granted in 2021.

1 Grant application is being processed in 2021

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding on 31/12/2020	Closed in 2021
2019	156	48	108	37	2
2020	111	38	73	58	3

There are currently 8 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 5 of these are for hearing and 3 are for mention.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 99 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and a number of licence reviews have been completed. Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences will be dispatched in June.

5. Air Quality:

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a number of locations in the county. Proceedings have been initiated against a business in Killinick for persistent offences that contravene air pollution legislation.

Wexford County Council enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with Wexford County Council. These Certificates must be renewed every 3 years. Audits of these facilities to ensure compliance,

Vehicle Refinishers: In 2020, 51 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. A Fixed Payment Notice (FPN) of €500 was also issued against a vehicle refinishing facility in 2020, which was the first FPN of it’s type issued in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

Dry Cleaners: In 2020, 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: In 2020, 81 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 2019	No. Issued in 2020	No. Issued (to end of Jan 2021)
Vehicle Refinishers	22	21	1
Petrol Vapour Emissions	23	28	4
Solvents	4	2	0

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 2020), provided for the introduction of the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of specified fuels in the specified area of **Enniscorthy** with effect from 1 September 2020. (S.I. No. 260 of 202). Early indications are as expected, with a positive impact being observed in 2020/2021 air quality compared with a similar 2019/2020 period.

6. Noise and NAP 2019-2023

Noise complaints are dealt with on an ongoing basis. Two complaints of persistent noise pollution are currently under investigation.

The Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2019-2023 relates to general noise nuisance from large infrastructure or from motorways. Since the first plan was produced, Wexford County Council has steadily improved its resources with respect to the management of noise.

Wexford County Council submitted the Annual Noise Action Report describing all actions undertaken within the previous calendar year to the EPA in January 2021.

In 2020 Wexford County Council purchased equipment for four permanent noise monitoring stations at a cost of €10,000. Three stations are active in Gorey, Enniscorthy & Wexford.

7. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 102 farm inspections undertaken as a result of pollution incidents or complaints, 50 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 five farms and Section 3 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon two farms where deliberate direct discharges to watercourses.

A total of 114 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.

Wexford County Council completed odour monitoring assessments on a two separate sites in 2020 on foot of several hundred complaints from the public. These sites included a pig farm and a composting facility where compost is produced by processing straw and animal wastes. Section 24 notices under the Air Pollution Act 1987 have been served upon these businesses.

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	14	11	2	0

8. Planning

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

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

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

As of the end of January 2021 the Environment Section has received 44 planning applications for assessment. In 2020 Environment Section assessed 924 planning applications.

9. 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.

The project is now engaging with 36 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 €130,000 in annual payments to farmers while funding of approx. €25,000 has being paid to farmers that have completed works.

No. of farmers	36
No. of visits/ engagement	379
Area signed up to EIP	955HA/1300HA
Km's fencing of watercourses	4.5km
Establishment of arable grass margins	1200m

E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Landfills:

Holmestown Landfill remains temporarily closed. Environmental monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure continues at both Killurin and Holmestown in accordance with the conditions of our waste licences.

The Household Recycling Centre at Holmestown continues to provide recycling services to members of the public as well as a disposal service for other waste streams such as residual waste, bulky waste, segregated food waste, garden waste and waste paint.

2. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites February 2021	Recycling out (End February) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End February)2021 (t)
Glass bottles		557	706
Aluminium Cans		13	19
Total	108	570	725

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- feb2020	Recycling out Jan - Feb 2021	Recycling out Jan Feb 2020	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2021
Total Recycling out	100	104	104	114	138	133	89	84
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	339	323	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2019	2020
Jan-Feb	59	63	118	113	95	101	78	88

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

3. 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 and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	To end February 2020	February 2021	To end February 2021	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	604	217	589	-2%
<i>Gorey Civic Amenity*</i>		42		
<i>Enniscorthy Civic Amenity *</i>		74		
<i>Wexford Civic Amenity*</i>		72		
<i>New Ross Civic Amenity *</i>		29		
Total Bring Site Inspections	575	692	1497	+160%
<i>Gorey</i>		171		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		171		
<i>Wexford</i>		251		
<i>New Ross</i>		99		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	2676	1338	2676	0%
<i>Gorey Enniscorthy *</i>	<i>North</i>	398		
<i>Wexford* New Ross*</i>	<i>South</i>	940		
Other Works	659	430	805	+22%
<i>Gorey</i>		45		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		141		
<i>Wexford</i>		88		
<i>New Ross</i>		102		

*Including Towns

4. Food Waste

The Food Waste Regulations 2013 are in force in all towns with >500 population. They impose obligations on Waste Collectors and householders. Collectors must provide separate bins for collection of food waste and householders must segregate their waste by either using “brown bins” provided by their waste collection company; composting at home, bearing in mind that certain food wastes cannot be composted, or bringing it to an authorised facility. Householders in all towns and villages to whom the regulations apply were visited by Council staff as part of our ongoing information campaign. Food waste is now accepted at all four household recycling centres. The locations where the food waste regulations apply are outlined on map which shall be uploaded to the council’s website shortly.

5. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have seventeen Clean Soil and Stone sites in operation; eight construction and demolition sites, eight End of Life Vehicles and twelve Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council’s website.

Altogether there are 62 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

6. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2021 inspection plan has been finalised and 2020 returns were submitted to the EPA. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,752 routine inspections by 25 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 national waste priorities for 2021 are;

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Multi-Agency Sites of Interest,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.

F. LITTER MANAGEMENT

The Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018 came into effect from the 2nd January, 2019. From this date, anyone contravening the bye-laws will be liable to a fixed penalty of €75.

Complaints regarding litter are now being handled through the Customer Service Unit. Environment was the first section to use this central system.

Any evidence collected from littering incidents is used in bringing action under the Litter Pollution legislation. It has been noted that less evidence is being recovered. More transactions have moved online and people are removing waste that may incriminate them. The use of CCTV has been halted due to restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Commissioner. The local press regularly reports

on such cases. We will continue to target illegal dumping black-spots and the county's roads throughout the year.

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	68
Fines Paid in Full●	78	10
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	13
Successful Prosecutions**	20	0
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	24
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	Data unavailable

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

- A large number of fines are paid in instalments and these are not reflected in the statistics.

Most Court cases are successful, but it can take up to a year or more for a case to be heard in the District Court. There is currently a backlog of cases before the courts. All Environment cases have been adjourned since November, 2020 by the Courts due to the Level 5 restrictions.

Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2020	213	20	2256 (down 8%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338
2009	345	15	1,906

F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	1 Jan to 28 Feb 2021
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	1039
Closed	3526	4563	3760	3678	720
Closure Rate	98%	99%	79%	74%	69%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one Dog Warden and an acting Dog Warden for holidays and relief. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2020	2021
Dogs collected	532	69
Dogs reclaimed	127	19
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	46
Dogs put to sleep	32	3
Dog Fines	5	5

There are now 31 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with a number of applications on hand awaiting inspection.

To 31st December, 2020, 35 equine were impounded (as against 50 in total for 2018). Most of the equine impounded in 2019 have been re-homed. No horses have been put to sleep in 2019 or 2020.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: An Taisce has circulated guidance documents for each of the green schools themes to help schools continue with their green schools programme safely. Closing date for applications has been extended until June 2021. Green flag assessments will be carried out virtually.

School Workshops: Online workshops will resume once schools fully reopen. Themes covered will include biodiversity, marine environment, litter & waste and recycling.

Annual Environment Artwork Competition: It is hoped to run the competition in 2021 if it is deemed safe under current government guidelines. The theme will be 'Wildflowers' and competition will be open to both primary and secondary schools.

Trees for Wexford Campaign: The trees for Wexford Campaign received 156 applications. All groups have received their trees. Due to restrictions trees were delivered to all groups.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. Registrations have doubled on the same period last year. Registrations will be accepted from family group and individuals only according to current government guidelines.

Local Waste Prevention Grant: The 2021 scheme will be announced in March / April. 11 applications were approved in 2020 the maximum grant of €500 under scheme. Projects funded included prevention of single use items, upcycling, food waste prevention workshops. €5,500 was funded across all projects in 2020.

Community Engagement: Community talks are postponed during Covid-19. Contact with community groups is ongoing and some virtual meetings have taken place.

Leader Funding: Leader Funding has been approved for a community training programme entitled 'Understanding my Area's Biodiversity'. The objective of this training programme will be to inspire people to take action for biodiversity in their local area. This training can not take place due to current restrictions.

Green Estate Programme: The Green Estate Programme was officially launched by Cllr Leonard Kelly Mayor, District of Wexford on Friday 5th March. The programme is an initial step to encourage residents to begin to think about creating areas for nature within the public spaces of their estate. The pilot programme is open to all estate in the Wexford Municipal District.



Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: A series of images and messages have been put out on twitter to encourage all dog owners to pick up after their dog and dispose of the poop bag responsibly. The Green Dog Walker Campaign was promoted during January and received over 500 pledges in 4 days. All stocks will be replenished and the scheme will be advertised again at the end of March.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to COVID

In line with Government guidelines on Covid-19, all libraries in the country remained closed to the public with online and book call services only. The Book Call service enabled older people and those who are cocooning to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. The book call totalled in excess of 162 requests during the month of March these were evenly split between the north and south of the county.

Membership rules continued to be relaxed so that people could join the library online at www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library, get a virtual library card and PIN and use the e-resources without visiting the library.

The Library Facebook pages were used extensively to promote online services, resources and information during the month of March.

Online events and services were promoted through our e-Newsletter. A further e-Newsletter was sent to school contacts with information most relevant to teachers and students.

Decades of Centenaries 2021

Following public consultation, a comprehensive draft Decade of Centenaries 2021 programme has been created. Projects focus on initiatives that support broad public engagement; engagement with children and young people and access to primary resources and digitised material to aid research and understanding.

A total of €15,000 is specifically allocated to artistic and creative community-led responses and an open call for the creative element of the programme will be made in April.

There is also an emphasis on locally delivered projects. These local projects will be delivered in partnership with community groups, local history associations and Tidy Towns Groups and will be organised through the Municipal Districts.

The draft programme was endorsed by the Housing and Community SPC and submitted to the Commemoration Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media in early February.

Historian in Residence

Wexford County Council has invited applicants for Historian in Residence under the Decade of Centenaries programme, the closing date for applications is April 16th. The role of this residency is to support the Wexford County Council Decade of Centenaries programme. Examples of work under the scope of the project include research, outreach, communication, liaison with community groups and publications.

“The Road to Independence” film

A film on the War of Independence in Wexford was premiered on March 19th, 2021. The film was commissioned by Wexford Public Library service in 2020 with support from the Commemorations Unit of Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative. It was produced by Barry Lacey and Michael Fortune.

Scenes from the film were recorded in Gorey, Bunclody, Ferns, Enniscorthy, Ballindaggin, Ballycarney, Clonroche and Kilanne and recall important incidents in the year 1920 including the formation of the Flying Columns, attacks on RIC Barracks, intelligence gathering, assassinations, civilian casualties and more.

The film is available to view on Wexford Public Libraries YouTube and Facebook pages.

Burning of the Big Houses in County Wexford

In this sort video Dan Walsh looks at the history of the big houses during the War of Independence. He recalls the families who owned and worked on the properties and why some of the houses were left untouched during the 1920 – 1923 period. This video premieres on all library branches' Facebook pages on **April 1 2021 7.00pm** and can be viewed thereafter on Wexford Libraries Youtube channel.

Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade Hedge School podcast

Wexford Library Service partners with History Ireland to deliver the Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade Hedge School Podcast. History Ireland editor Tommy Graham will be hosting a series of History Ireland Hedge Schools, lively round-table discussions with historians and well-known personalities. The Wexford podcast will host a stellar panel of experts including Bernard Browne, Dr Ida Milne, Dr. William Murphy and Prof. Kevin Whelan. It will be available in from regular podcast suppliers from April 23rd.

Digitisation of Local Newspapers for the Revolutionary period: Wexford Library Service is providing wider access to digitised and microfilmed versions of local newspapers of this period. More and more content will become available on the Wexford County Archives website and for research in Wexford Town Library as the year progresses.

Age Friendly Libraries – Digital Ambassador Scheme

Wexford Library Service is providing tutoring sessions over the phone for older people to help empowered them to avail of the fantastic range of library services available online. It will help familiarise older people to access the internet and assist them when downloading apps to help participate in other online activities. In time, this may even give participants the confidence to become mentors themselves and show their peers how to do the same.

If you would like to find out more contact Yvonne Smith Yvonne.smith@wexfordcoco.ie or call 0539196720 for details.

Keep Well Campaign

Wexford Library Service has been allocated funding under the Keep Well Campaign – Switching Off and Being Creative. #KeepWell

Clever Little Handies Irish Sign Language and rhymes: The series of 4 weekly classes for babies and parents was delivered in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and Bunclody libraries. (NB New Ross Library piloted the series in February). Feedback continued to be very positive with parents saying how useful they found learning the signs with their babies and noting that it really helped to support communication. Parents also enjoyed getting to meet other parents and their babies and are looking forward to meeting up in real life at their local library's Rhyme- time sessions when the resume. This programme was publicised on RTE's Today Programme in mid March.

Creative Photography competition was launched in March, (closing date is 26th April), Members of the public have been invited to submit a photo that makes people smile or simply a photo that evokes the essence of what #KeepWell means to them and the impact of COVID19 on their everyday life. These can include people and places, activities and relationships, and must have been taking somewhere in County Wexford. An exhibition of winning entries will be produced.

Grow It Forward

Wexford Libraries are delighted to be involved with the Grow It Forward campaign with Grow It Yourself (GIY). As part of the Government's Keep Well programme, this campaign is designed to help the nation eat well by inspiring and supporting people to grow some of their own food at home while connecting with friends and family to join them. We will join with all public libraries across Ireland in distributing seed packs to members of our local communities, so we're asking the people of Wexford to help us get Wexford growing! Applicants will receive a free seed pack that includes seeds for beetroot, carrots, salad leaves, peas and tomatoes, a guide to help grow them, and a postcard and gift tags to help share them with family and friends. You will also receive information on how to become a library member and what services the library has to offer. Participants can access growing guides and videos via the Grow It Yourself website www.giy.ie. The campaign was launched nationally on March 23rd and has been hugely positive to date.

Wellness

A online wellness talk 'Wellness Mind' with Dr. Aoife Quinn took place on 12th March, it covered areas such as identifying stress, dealing with COVID related anxiety and isolation, relaxation techniques and working from home issues. 45 attended.

Healthy Ireland

A series of Healthy Ireland At Your Library online webinars took place throughout March. On Tuesday, 23rd March, Breffni McGuinness from the Irish Hospice Foundation gave a talk on 'Understanding Grief and Loss'.

On Tuesday, 30th March, Mary Hynes, Senior Psychologist with the HSE gave a talk on 'Compassion Based Approach to Overeating'.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Three online events were held for Seachtain na Gaeilge, 1-17 March. These were all promoted to primary schools. These were a craft workshop making a 'story generator' with author Sadhbh Devlin, a reading from 'Fiacla Mhamó' with author Brianóg Brady Dawson and traditional Irish words and music 'Gob' by Ceol mo Chroí.

International Women's Day

To mark International Women's Day on 8th March an interview with Ann Gallagher, a solicitor, barrister and a former lecturer of law and regulation of aquabusiness in the Institute of Technology Carlow and has also served as a Senator in Seanad Eireann, was available live on Facebook and recorded on YouTube.

Athlete, RTE television and radio news sports presenter and author, Jacqui Hurley read an extract from her best-selling, An Post Irish Book Award nominated, **'Girls Play Too: Inspiring Stories of**

Irish Sportswomen', shared on Wexford Libraries' Facebook to mark International Women's Day on 8th March. The author presented a signed copy of her book to the winner of a short essay competition on the theme 'Let's All Choose to Challenge'.

Work Matters

Wexford Library Service continued to promote and support the Work Matters programme through the promotion of Work Matters online resources through our social media pages.

This month there were three revenue related videos from Revenue's official YouTube channel posted to our Facebook page which had a total reach of 1,772.

As part of the Work Matters programme, a talk on 'Working from Home' with Colette O'Flynn, B.Physio, was held on March 24th, areas discussed included workplace ergonomics – setting up your home desk, good posture while standing, sitting and working and staying fit & eating well.

Parenting Today 2021 Online Series

Developmental Checks and care for parents and carers of babies aged 3 months + with Public Health Nurse Roberta. Parents and carers sent questions in advance to Roberta. The answers were incorporated into the recording. The talk aimed to support parents who had missed the developmental checks due to COVID 19.

Developmental Checks and care for parents and carers of babies aged 9 months + with Public Health Nurse Aoife. Questions submitted by parents were answered in this recording which offered information, advice and reassurance to parents who had been unable to access the checks that are scheduled in normal times.

This programme is an initiative of Wexford Library and CYPSC Wexford (Children and Young People's Services Committee).

Adult Literature

Wexford Libraries' Online Book and Writing Clubs

Wexford Libraries' Online Book club is a private Facebook group that hosts a book club discussion each month. The online book club has over 230 members from all over the county

Services for Children and Young People

Literacy Licences: All branches began rolling out Nessy Read and Spell, Touch Type Read and Spell, Nessy dyslexia awareness and Reading Eggs licences to families and schools throughout the county. Feedback is very positive with families and teachers noting an improvement in literacy development and engagement with learning and welcoming the extra support it offers to the children in their care.

Rosslare Direct Provision Centre: Following consultation with support staff, all families were offered access to free online literacy support licences for ages 2-14 years

Books and art packs for Rosslare Direct Provision Centre: Wexford Library Service ordered books and art packs were put together for 14 babies, children and young people ranging from birth to 16 years. The books were selected to provide a range of award winning and recommended titles that children and their families could enjoy together. Objectives included supporting language and literacy development from birth onwards, encouraging creativity and promoting positive mental health.

Advice and Support for Remote Literacy Support tutors with WLD. An information session guidance was delivered by Children's Librarian Theresa Kelly to support Remote Reading Mentors who deliver one to one literacy support programme. Under discussion was best practice in engaging children and young people in the online environment; information on how children acquire literacy and advice on how best to engage with reading stories and listening to children read. Children from the travelling community and Syrian children will be prioritised, as there is evidence that both groups have experienced a disproportionately negative impact from school closures.

Online Resource Information: A leaflet outlining how to join Wexford Libraries, highlighting all online resources available from books, language courses, international newspapers, music, a wide variety of online courses and information on how to access them has been created and shared with WLD support workers working with Syrian refugee families, families living in Direct Provision, Traveller and Roma families

Story and Rhyme-times continued online from all branch libraries throughout March, supporting families and pre-schools with early literacy development. Each library offers at least one session each week, preparing, presenting and filming their story times while complying with all copyright and conditions required by publishers.

Engineers Week took place from 27th February to 5th March and an online story-time with a reading of 'Rosie Revere Engineer' was shared from all branches.

World Book Day was the 4th March and there were several online events available through the Library Facebook pages and Wexford Public Libraries YouTube channel, for example a series of children and young adult book reviews and a Harry Potter themed craft session.

Local Studies and Genealogy

Wexford Great War Dead

The Wexford Great War Dead website and project have been submitted to the "Mapping the Centenary" project in the Imperial War Museum (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/>). The IWM is the world's leading museum of war and conflict. IWM is creating a digital portal containing information about projects and activities that marked the First World War Centenary (FWWC) from 2014 – 2019. If successful, the Wexford Great War Dead project will be included in this listing, which will increase awareness of this valuable research.

"On Your Own Ground" on sale in local bookshops

Volumes 2 & 3 of "On Your Own Ground: County Wexford parish by parish" by Dr. Ned Culleton, is currently available to purchase from many Wexford bookshops. The cost is €30 per volume.

Queries

There were 24 genealogy enquiries and 76 local studies enquiries to Wexford County Library in March.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

The Archive dealt with 49 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during March. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, to facilitate researchers while the Archive's reading room remains closed under the current restrictions.

The Archive acquired three lots at Mealy's auction on 3 March including a grand jury printed booklet (1814), a County Wexford Board of Health booklet on common infections and contagious diseases of school children in the 1940s, and a collection of historic postcards depicting scenes of Wexford town, Courtown, Gorey, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Rosslare. It is intended to digitise the postcard collection over the coming months for public access purposes.

Outreach / Digitisation

Extant minute books of County Wexford's poor law unions continue to be digitised on a phased basis for remote research. The first six minute books of New Ross workhouse covering the period 1844-49 were uploaded to the archive's website during the month.

The Archive liaised with the Ports Past and Present project in terms of image content for a forthcoming short film commemorating Denys Corbett Wilson, the first pilot to complete the channel crossing flight from Goodwick near Fishguard to Crane near Monageer on 22 April 1912. Items held by the Archive commemorating this historic event include photographs and the original timber strut from the Bleriot monoplane.

ARTS

Creative Community Programme

Applications opened in March 2021 for community groups within WPPN network as well as communities of interest that are planning an arts project from 1 intensive week engagement or workshops that take place over a period of time with one artist from our artist panel (projects must be completed by 14th December 2021); the maximum award is €3,000 in match-funding. A further strand is available which supports collaboration between two or more artists on the Creative

Community Panel with a community group on art projects up to a maximum fund of €5,000 per project. Closing date is 19th April 2021.

Platform 31

The Arts Office was pleased to announce Gorey based visual artist Richard Carr as the successful Wexford recipient of the inaugural PLATFORM 31 artist bursary scheme. Developed by the Association of Local Authority Arts Offices (ALAAO), in collaboration with the Arts Council, PLATFORM 31 is a nationwide scheme for artists in all art forms which includes an €8,000 bursary to the artists and invaluable developmental and mentoring supports for the awarded artist over the course of one year. The nationwide invitation went out to artists of any discipline and practice, based in Ireland, as well as multi-disciplinary practice. The pilot scheme is envisioned as a platform for the participants to value their time, to showcase their work and their collaborations, sharing their learnings locally and nationally as a legacy of the project.

Artlinks

Artist Bursary: Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford art offices. The closing date for the open call Artist Bursary Award was March 15th, 2021 and there was high interest with 39 applications received. Total fund for Wexford is €20,000. The Artlinks award in Wexford has average grants of €1,000 - €3,000 max

Collaborative Award: An open call took place in March 2021 for a Collaborative Award where artists from two or more Artlinks counties must apply and collaborate on the creation of new artwork which they will showcase in both counties in 2021-22. This award is worth €10,000. Closing date for applications is 26th April, 2021

The Green Light Sessions

The Green Light Sessions was broadcast online on St Patrick day and consisted of an evening Concert, recorded on the main stage of The National Opera House in Wexford and supported by the county council's free community day in Opera House. Performed to an empty house, this unique video broadcast featured leading Wexford Artists such as Peter Murphy, Rachel Grace, Corner Boy, Mark Redmond, The Frisky Gypsies, Roger McGuire, and Máca.

Part of Wexford Virtual St Patrick's Day 2021 was a community project conceived by Cllr Leonard Kelly, Mayor of Wexford, John Michael Murphy of Seanchai Productions, and Nick Bailey of Extreme Rhythm and was supported by Arts Office Wexford County Council, The National Opera House, and Wexford Credit Union.

Small Arts Festivals 2021

Closing date for the open call was 9th March, 2021. 24 applications have been received and the selection panel will meet on 13th April, 2021. This grant scheme aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals and experimental events throughout Wexford County. The total award fund is €23,000 with an average of 12 festival/ events awarded per year with grants between €1,000 - €3,000 max.

“Tale-a-Phone Exchange” – Storytelling by phone for older people

The “Tale-A-Phone Exchange is ongoing and comes to an end on 31st March, after 8 weeks. The 8-week programme has been a huge success with all slots fully booked over the 8 weeks. This was part of the Government's Keep Well Campaign, Wexford Age Friendly in partnership with the Arts office offering older people in the county the opportunity to receive a phone call from renowned storyteller, Joe Brennan. This was a new approach to storytelling and the first time in Ireland for sharing traditional oral stories in this way and was extremely successful and covered both locally and nationally by numerous media outlets e.g. RTE, Radio 1, and South East Radio.

Spring 2021 online training supports for Artists

Wexford County Council Arts Office are currently supporting and delivering the following online training initiatives for artists and creatives some of which are funded and supported by Creative Ireland

Friday Fixes Zoom workshops aimed at writers, facilitated by Cat Hogan, Irish Novelist and Screenwriter, with invited guest speakers for the industry in a broad selection of themes e.g. The Submission Process for Plays/ TV and Film, Bursary and Grant Applications and how to manage your finances as a freelancer, Standing Your Ground as a Professional Artist etc. were delivered every Friday morning over 7 weeks until 19th March 2021. All session fully booked and very positive feedback from the workshop participant writers.

Clinic – Working with Curators Funded through Creative Ireland and delivered by Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) the Arts office ran a 1 hour webinar which 21 Wexford artists attended and 3 hour clinic for 8 Wexford artists in February 2021 and was facilitated by Brendan Fox, Independent Curator, Artist and Writer, on the benefits for artists to have their work seen by curators.

Music Generation

A partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in Wexford county working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings. All programmes online currently and initiative includes:

The High Street Opera Zoom with Elizabeth Drawl and Aileen Donohoe.

Mini maestro's preschool online programme with Aileen Donoghoe and Pete Mc Canley.

Uke-N-Playr 7-12-year olds launched in 15 schools countywide.

Wexford Wind Jammers Online Group Music Lessons for 10-18-year-old facilitated by Lousie Malone, Geraldine Mahon and Ed O'Neill.

New programmes coming in April include:

Barrow Song Lab for 12-18-year olds is a song writing online let by Justin Cullen, Karen Dunbar and John Mullins in which the participants will be creative with lyric writing and new technologies, to able them to write their own songs.

Yellow Bellows is a Wexford County Youth Singing Group introductory workshop led by Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Commerford for 12-18-year olds to learn about singing and preforming together online and exploring a range of songs including rock & pop.

In addition, the Music Generation Instrument Bank has been significantly enhanced in 2021 with the purchase of 40 guitars, and hundreds of ukuleles as well as glockenspiels which will be used for the vocal programme to be developed over the next couple of months.

The Living Arts in Schools Project

The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. 4 selected primary schools are currently hosting two artists in residence for an 8-week residency during the school year. Due to current COVID-19 regulations this programme was postponed from Jan – Feb 2021 and onsite classes with artist's teams in the four schools starting back in March and running until end April 2021.

Art Ability/ Arts & Health programme with HSE centres.

This on-going programme supporting people with mental health / intellectual and physical disabilities across 9 HSE centres countywide continues to adapt the arts programme due to COVID 19. The Centres are currently, in addition to their creative writing, visual art and music online workshops/tutorials, are running **in-reach programme** which involves the artists are now working in person in the centres. The Steering Group Committee are currently planning an online virtual Exhibition of the Art Ability programme in April 2021 that takes place Wexford Arts Centre and throughout the centres behind closed doors that will be filmed and broadcast. An art ability website is currently being designed which will be launched in April 2021 and will house the online virtual exhibition.

David Begley – 'Ancient Connections' Community Residency Ferns

As part of the Ancient Connections Wexford Wales programme and supported through Wexford's Per Cent for Art Programme, Residency Artist, David Begley, is currently working on a 10-week workshop programme which includes the digging and preparation of a Monk's garden in St. Edna's Primary School, Ferns. David started face to face outdoor workshops with school children in the garden in March 2021 in keeping with Covid guidelines and is exploring planning and ancient herbal remedies and biodiversity with the schoolchildren. David contacted local farmers in the Ferns area for research on his film which will be part of the residency exploring ancient history and connections in farming practices across Wexford and Wales

Creative Hub

The Creative Hub Studios is currently closed in line with Covid 19 & HSE guidelines. Over thirty artists are currently in residence in the Creative Hub across 9 studio/ units combining individual group's studios and retails units as well as a dance studio which is managed by Wexford Arts Centre on

behalf of Wexford County Council. The three-year lease agreement expires on 31 March 2021 and the County Council has extended this lease for another year.

Creative Ireland Programme

Cruinniú na nÓg 2021 - Open Call

Wexford County Council, in association with Creative Ireland, sought applications to create a programme of events to celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday June 12th, 2021. Closing date for applications was 12th March, 2021. Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of creativity for children and young people who celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, workshops and special events. Events are free, local and activity - based. It's a day for 'doing', 'making' and 'creating'.

Inspire Civic Events

One of the aims of the Culture and Creativity Strategy is to develop an inclusive and inspiring programme for each Municipal District area to work collaboratively with local creative partners in animating towns and villages. New Ross Municipal District produced a Virtual St Patrick's day cultural event with music, storytelling and dancing which achieved over 17,000 views. This video was part funded by the Creative Ireland programme.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Covid 19 – Response

Wexford Civil Defence has been tasked to provide support to the Community Forum helpline in County Hall, HSE and Department of Defence since week 23rd March 2020.

Patient Transports – March

We have transported 17 persons to hospital or Doctor's appointments in March. Transports have been to Dublin, Waterford and Wexford.

Assistant Civil Defence Officer

Closing date for was Thursday 25th February.

New Vehicles

Additional funding of €35,000 was approved from the Civil Defence College to be used towards the purchase of a vehicle. We have purchased a Land Rover Defender Ambulance from the UK. The Defender will provide resilience to transport arrangements during severe weather to include snow.

The National Ambulance has also kindly donated a 161 Sprinter Mercedes Ambulance to us, the vehicle will replace a 11 reg ambulance. The addition of the 161 ambulance will reduce the age profile of our ambulances.

New Recruits Interviews

We will interview a further 10 potential recruits on MS Teams on Thursday 25th March. New recruits will receive their induction training on Saturday 10th April 2021.

FIRE SERVICE

The Fire Service Capital Programme 2021-2025

The New Ross fire station is ready to go to construction at a cost of €1.7m. The Gorey fire station Upgraded/ Refurbished is approved to proceed through 2021/2022 at a cost of €0.5m. One new fire appliance has been allocated to Wexford.

COVID-19

The fire service operational training continues to be kept under constant review and will be updated as required.

Fire Operations

There were 58 incident responses in February as detailed below.

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls February 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	9 / 11 (20)	40	40
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 2 (3)	10	11
Road Traffic Accident	4	8	13
Industrial fire	1	3	0
Commercial fire	1	1	2
Assembly fire	2	2	0
Agricultural fire	0	1	0
Motor Vehicles	0	1	12
Forest/bog/grass etc	4	5	4
Rubbish	0	5	5
Non-fire rescues	4	12	11
False alarms – good intent	19	32	48
Malicious false alarms	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	10	10
Total	58	130	156

Fire Safety

The number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Fire Services Acts inspections for the month was as follows:-

February 2021

Applications Received	Year to date	February
Fire Safety Certificates	17	11

Number of Inspections	Year to date	February
FSA Inspections	1	1

The Fire Service has now moved to the Building Control Management System (BCMS) where all fire safety certificate applications can be made online through the BCMS portal.

WATER SERVICES



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation



COVID -19

- Water Services is operating in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA and in accordance with Irish Water direction for works during Level 5 restrictions.
- Staff are working both remotely and in person during level 5 restrictions while attending office for specific essential tasks only. Staff are available as normal to answer any queries via the normal channels. General queries still go through Irish Water 1850 278 278.

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works to follow in early 2021.
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Stage 2 completion Spring 2021.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<p>Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under construction ○ Borehole works commencing September 2020
Untreated Agglomeration Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works are expected to commence on site in approximately 2 months. it is

(UTAS)	<p>programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tender documents have been issued and tenders are due to be returned in April ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find & Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme. The direct labour crew are continuing with their work on the Find and Fix project as part of the overall leakage reduction programme. 2020 targets were successfully met with ambitious targets set for 2021. ➤ Mains Rehabilitation We are currently finalising designs and construction programmes for mains rehabilitation schemes in both Rectory Road in Enniscorthy and the Coolballow Road. We expect to start works on the Coolballow Road in Spring 2021.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes

- **Disinfection Project**
 - Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.
 - Snagging on-going at various sites.
- **Treated Water storage programme**
 - 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.
 - Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir at planning permission stage

IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Trinity Street WWPS Upgrades**
 - Contractor appointed for replacement of change-over switchgear and generator control panel with works expected to take place Q2 2021.
 - Generator exhausts and foul pumps manifold to be replaced Q2 2021.
- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
 - Pumps have now been upgraded to smart pumps at Distillery Road, Carcur, and Crosstown WWPS to improve efficiency and reduce the frequency of blockages and sump cleaning.
 - Pumps will be upgraded to smart pumps at Ballygillane Big and Small WWPS in Q2 2021.
- **Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades**
 - New SCADA telemetry at four WWPS at New Ross Town and Bunclody is now complete.
 - Upgrade of existing SCADA will take place at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford during April/May 2021.
- **H&S Improvement Works**
 - New valve chambers and access covers to improve H&S have been constructed at Castlepark PS, Fethard-on-Sea, and Lady's Island PS, with Carne PS to follow during April 2021.

IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Wexford monthly Capital Maintenance budget in Q1 will be €108k/month. The Q2 to Q4 monthly budget will be advised towards the end of Q1. ➤ €450k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021, which month on month is over budget.
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 applications received for Water Connections ○ 3 applications received for Wastewater Connections ➤ Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 Water Connections sent for tapping ○ 19 Water Connections made and closed on Maximo (connections were made in late 2020)
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Rising main works are now completed. ○ Civil works to the PS have started on site, and M&E works materials are currently being procured by the contractor. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions. ➤ Radharc na bhFánaithe WWTP (TIC), Killanne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works are now completed on site. ➤ Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Design and site surveys have been completed for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network. ○ Tender processes are now complete and contractors are appointed, and works expected to take place during Q2 and Q3 2021.
DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure	<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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Close, Oulart- Connection application made • Mountain View, Ballindaggin- Connection enquiry made • Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made • Cois Cuan, Arthurstown

3. Rural Water Programme



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Killaneran GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awaiting quotations from EPS in relation to high Nitrate solution. The group are following up on a previous proposal from a Hydrogeologist.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021. ○ Investigative works for the relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir are on-going, the Dept. recently approved changes to the submission.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A response has been sent by the Chairman of WCC /Director of Service to Minister ○ The Bing Community have secured an increase to the number of participants – which is now at 74
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Battlestown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability ➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Following consultation with the Dept from WCC and some other Local Authorities, we have received an extension to the closing date on the old Individual Well and Septic Tanks Grants which has been extended to the 30th June 2021 for completion of applications & 30th Sept 2021 for recoupment from the Dept.

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consumption Countywide consumption for February 2021 was on average 42.4MLD, this is an increase of 0.8MLD from January 2021.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repairs Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 37nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in February 2021. ➤ Planned Leak Detection (PLD) Planned leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Taghmon, Wexford, Enniscorthy and Gorey in February 2021.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehab Submissions: Coolballow rehab project Wexford design is approved and construction will commence May 2021. Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, rehab project is in the final stages of design and will commence late Autumn 2021. The Fort Road Gorey, rehab project design has commenced design works. ➤ Find and Fix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find resources were concentrated in the South Regional and Carrigbyrne during February 2021, due to an increase leakage in the WSZ. They will be returning to Enniscorthy WSZ once these investigations completed. ○ The additional contractor Find crew continued in Clough Rd DMA during February and is due to commence in the Ballykale DMA in March 2021. ○ Direct Labour Fix crew completed 24 repairs in February 2021, with a saving in night flows of 14.5m³/hr. They are programmed to return to New Ross and the South Regional in March/April 2021.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

N25 New Ross By-Pass

Some localised and minor outstanding works and snagging will be completed in the coming months in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the final close out of all project related matters.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The appraisal of scheme options to identify the preferred scheme option is now nearing completion and a project newsletter has been published to provide the public and other stakeholders with an update on progress. The newsletter is available to view and download on the project website www.oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie and An Post are also delivering copies directly to homes.

It is currently anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed and announced by week ending 18th of June.

Rosslare Europort Access Road

The design and environmental assessment of the scheme continues to progress and it is anticipated that a planning application will be prepared for submission towards the end of 2021.

National Road Pavement Schemes

2020 Pavement Schemes

N30 Mountelliot

Construction work commenced in October 2020.

Pavement works recommenced on 20 January and were completed on 12 February.

N11 Kileen to Newtown – Phase 2

Construction works commenced on 16 November 2020.

The drainage works and pavement binder layer have been completed.

The barrier replacement was completed in March.

The HRA pavement surface course is due to commence on 25 March and should be completed within a week, subject to suitable weather conditions.

2021 Pavement Schemes

N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme

Works commenced on 25 January 2021.

Drainage works should be completed by early April.

Pavement patch repair works commenced on 8 February.

This scheme should be substantially completed by the middle of April.

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

TII Archaeologists are working on tender documents for the archaeology monitoring.

This should be tendered in late March/early April.

Tender documents for the construction contract have been completed. The tendering of the scheme has been delayed due to issues with an adjoining landowner at the proposed surface water outfall. It is hoped to tender the scheme in early April.

Construction is likely to commence in the second quarter of 2021 subject to approval from TII to award the contract. The contract duration will be 8 to 10 weeks.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 15 February 2021. Wexford's allocation was €18,569,130, up €1,481,123 on 2020.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The Municipal Districts have finalised their schedule of roads to be strengthened in 2021. Strengthening works has been suspended to date due to Covid-19 guidelines. It is planned to commence the strengthening works on Tuesday 6 April, starting in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District.

The following resurfacing works were deemed to be critical transport infrastructure and have been completed:

Resurfacing works in macadam: Weafer Street and Coolmela (both in Enniscorthy District); Mary Street to Church Lane, and Haughton Place (New Ross District); N25 to Killeens Roundabout and Glasganny approach to Castlebridge (both in Wexford Borough District). Roads completed (clause 804) were: Brady's Cross (Enniscorthy District).

Surface Dressing Works

The 2021 schedule of roads to be surface dressed has been finalised.

Active Travel Measures

Wexford County Council submitted a proposed list of 2021 Active Travel projects to the National Transport Authority for consideration on 21 January 2021. These projects are currently being assessed by the National Transport Authority.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council submitted a proposed list of 2021 Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works to the Department of Transport for consideration on 31 March.

Winter Maintenance

The 2020/21 winter maintenance commenced Monday 12 October 2020. The *Priority 1 & 2* routes have been treated 75 times in 55 days up to 26 March. It has been a particularly busy season. It compares to 49 treatments in 44 days last season.

General Maintenance

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 10,800 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 1,900 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by the end of May 2021. This is slightly later than planned but there have been delays in relation to lantern delivery as a result of issues associated with Brexit.

Design work is substantially completed.

Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2020

The 2020 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts (AFS) is now complete and is included as a separate item on the agenda for the monthly meeting for review and consideration by members. The completion of the 2020 Accounts has been challenging in light of the events informing the outturn for 2020 and the accounting for the exceptional adjustments to record the government covid subventions and various business supports grants that occurred during 2020. The AFS is accompanied by an AFS report which presents an overview of the outturns and gives details of the exceptional items that informed the preparation of the annual accounts for 2020. The statutory deadline, 31st March, for the completion of the 2020 Accounts has been achieved.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met on 25th March and discussed various aspects of council business. The next meeting is schedule for the 16th June and will include consideration of the 2020 Annual Financial Statement and financial performance for 2020.

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, 2021. The Public Health emergency continues to impact on cash flow since the beginning of 2021 and this will be continuously monitored as the year progresses.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**