



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 11.04.22

Economic Development & Planning:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

Works are continuing across the towns of Enniscorthy, Gorey, Kilmore Quay and New Ross under the Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021 which was announced by Minister Humphries, Department of Rural and Community Development in August 2021.

Out of 116 successful applications, 35 applicants have completed their works and €88,579 has been paid to the applicants.

| Municipal District | No of Applications received | Amount of Funding Requests received | Projects Completed & Claims Paid at 31st March 2022 | Total Amount of Claims Paid at 31st March 2022 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Enniscorthy | 38 | €85,025 | 6 | |
| Gorey | 29 | €69,597 | 11 | |
| Rosslare | 7 | €16,547 | 4 | |
| New Ross | 42 | €116,835 | 14 | |
| Total | 116 | €288,044 | 35 | €88,579 |

Local Enterprise Office

South-East Enterprise Development Plan 2021 -2024

Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Robert Troy, launched the South-East Regional Enterprise Plan (REP) to 2024, at the premises of Kentz in Wexford recently.

The South-East REP, covering counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford, is one of nine new enterprise plans throughout the country which will be funded by up to €180 million. This funding will drive the implementation of the Plans which will develop and implement collaborative and innovation enterprise projects in the regions and support sustainable jobs.

During his visit to Wexford, Minister Troy also visited the new Enniscorthy Technology Park and the NZEB training centre.

Student Enterprise Programme – Trophy Presentation night

With over 1,100 students from 19 different secondary schools across the county having taken part in the Student Enterprise Programme over the last 6 months, the culmination of this year's Wexford Student Enterprise Programme took place in Co Hall recently with 24 awards presented across a variety of categories.



JobsFest

Supported by Wexford Co Council, County Wexford Chamber held a very successful JobsFest on the Quay in Wexford Town on April 1st & 2nd. Over 900 people pre-registered to attend the event, with 35 key employment sectors showcased.

Tourism

Visit Wexford National Marketing



Visit Wexford have started their National Marketing campaigns which is including National Radio across 3 national stations (Today FM, RTE 2FM & Newstalk) with 80% prime time advertising guaranteed.

Advertisements and competitions were broadcast on the Alison Curtis show on Today FM in March and will air on the Jennifer Zamparelli show on 2FM, week commencing 11th April.

Ireland in Music



Part 2 of the Highly acclaimed national & international TV show Ireland in Music which is a celebration of music with strong heritage links to Irish Culture features.

The show was recorded in 2021 and will air on Easter Monday, 18th April at 6:30p.m. on RTE One and will feature Duncannon Fort and Selskar Abbey.

Ireland in Music Part 2 is currently enjoying significant international success, with several TV broadcasts during the St Patrick's Day period 2022 across Australia on SPS and in the United States on New York PBS station WLIW21 and the arts and culture streaming app and TV channel ALL ARTS.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 18th February 2022 until the 18th March 2022.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| No. of valid applications | 135 |
| No. of invalid applications | 8 |
| Extension of Duration | 4 |
| Exempted Development Declaration | 5 |

Numbers are those received from the 1st January 2021 until 18th March 2022.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| No. of valid applications | 320 |
| No. of invalid applications | 35 |
| Extension of Duration | 13 |
| Exempted Development Declaration | 13 |

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 18th March 2022.

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| No. of open pre-planning requests | 152 |
| No. of pre-planning meetings completed | 26 |
| Average waiting time to meeting | 34 days |

Built, Cultural & Natural Heritage

- Wexford County Council has been awarded funding under the Historic Towns Initiative 2022 for two projects. €250,000 has been awarded for the renovation of a heritage building as a food and community hub in Templeshannon, Enniscorthy and €40,000 has been awarded for a heritage-led regeneration plan for Wexford. The Historic Towns Initiative is a joint initiative between the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Wexford County Council has received funding from the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Projects Scheme 2022 for the three county-wide heritage projects. These projects are as follows: a Co. Wexford Thatch Survey; a Co. Wexford World War 2 Defence Heritage Recording Project, and a Wexford Wetlands Educational Project for schoolchildren.

Forward Planning

Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

The environmental reports (Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment) relating to some of the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan have now been completed and are to be considered at the March meeting of the Council. The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan, and the assessments, will then be placed on public display for a four-week period during which time written submissions and observations relating only to the proposed material alterations or the assessments can be made to the Planning Authority. Following this the Chief Executive will prepare a report summarising the submissions received and making recommendations on whether the material alterations should be made to the draft plan.

Building Control (18th February 2022 – 18th March 2022)

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|---|----|
| ➤ Validated Commencement Notices: | 36 |
| ➤ Number of Building Control Inspections: | 41 |
| ➤ Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: | 15 |
| ➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts: | 0 |

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases on 15th March 2022 are as follows: -

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|----------------|-----|
| • Live Cases | 335 |
| • Cases Opened | 50 |
| • Cases Closed | 73 |

Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 15th March 2022 are as follows: -

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|----------------|----|
| • Live Cases | 33 |
| • Cases Closed | 16 |

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 16th February 2022 to 15th March 2022 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website.
- 20 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 5 property owners currently engaged with the County Council to carry out remedial works so that the properties will not be placed on Derelict Site Register.
- 1 Section 8(2) Notices posted on property.

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2022 up to and including 18th March 2022, totals **16**.

Six of the above 2022 DAC applications relate to proposed OPW development at the Rosslare Europort Terminal. Previously, in 2021, five applications submitted for this site were granted.

| Applications Districts | Total for Districts | Await Assessment | Further Info. | Granted | Refused |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Enniscorthy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gorey | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| New Ross | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Wexford | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Rosslare | 7 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 2022 Totals | 16 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 0 |

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

| Referrals | Total |
|--|--------------|
| LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications | 48 |

Access Related Items

Access Trails and Destination Parks

Vison Sports Ireland and the new community walking programme for the vision impaired in Co. Wexford will take place on the 9th of April with the first of the proposed walks to take place at Orchard Peace Park, Enniscorthy.

2021-2023 Disability Participation and Awareness Funding Projects

The first event to facilitate the start of the Disability Participation and Awareness project (Innovative Community Engagement) was held on the 8th of March. Ten community groups attended what was deemed by the groups as a very successful and informative event.

Phase two of this initiative, meeting disability advocacy groups and service providers took place via a hybrid meeting in the Council Chamber on Friday the 25th which again proved to be very successful with full engagement and proposed participation in the next stage of the project in the form of on-site workshops with all participating community groups.

The Advanced Digital Access Participation Project (ADAPP) Developing access to public spaces through a digital experience, is expected to get underway in late April early May of this year.

Training – Exhibition

The 1st of April will see an awareness, training and exhibition event taking place in the “Street” of Head Office carried out by the local office of the National Council for the Blind. This event will be officially opened by Cathaoirlach, Barbara Ann Murphy with invites to the Members, Management and Executive Team to participate circulated. Staff have been designated time slots after the official opening event which will take place from 11am to 11.30am on the morning of the 1st of April.

Access Capital Works

Borough District of Wexford

Curracloe

Request to consider and fund a changing places facility for the imminent capital works for Curracloe - Facility Centre for Water-based Activities, as requested by Special Projects. The request links in with the overarching Access Programme of works, a review of available/ringfenced funding is required and will be considered in this regard.

Sensory Garden – Mallin Street Library

The final phase of access works to provide a level external garden/event space will be completed by the end of March.

Rosslare Municipal District

Rosslare Strand

Collaboration with Community and Environment Department to pilot the installation of a beach mat at Rosslare Strand has taken place, Access supports the proposals.

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Ballymoney

Access is currently working on proposals for the installation of an accessible WC at Ballymoney Beach. Audits previously carried out and current complaints are driving the consideration for the installation of this facility.

Ballycanew

A review of capital road works at Ballycanew has taken place and proposed revisions will address a recent complaint from residents in the area.

New Ross Municipal District

Changing Places at the Town Park

Increased Access funding proposals from €25,000 to €30,000 has failed to secure the installation of a changing places facility within the New Ross Town Park. It is proposed to consider this allocation to be diverted to proposals for Curracloe - Facility Centre for Water-based Activities.

A review of proposals to provide level access to Town Park from the upper side of the park have taken place.

Water Services



***1. Irish Water Asset
Delivery***

2. Minor Capital

***3. Rural Water
Programme***

***4. Water
Conservation***

Water Services



COVID -19

- Water Services is operating in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA.

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

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| 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 will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model.➤ A schedule of high priority works has now been identified and is to be considered for funding➤ The concept design report for the required works to Enniscorthy Network was received Q4 2021➤ A new gravity main for Mary street is required to alleviate flooding and will have been agreed to be designed in 2022 |
| Enniscorthy Intake Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed.➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019 for the intake➤ A new raw water distribution main and full water treatment plant upgrade is now to be included in the works programme.➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023 |
| 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.➤ Model verification ongoing. |
| Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system➤ Tender evaluation January 2022, with start onsite Q2 2022 |
| Newtown WTP Upgrade | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including improved raw water treatment, instrumentation and run to waste facility➤ Preliminary design ongoing, IW have appointed Glan Agua as part of their early contractor involvement programme to design and build the new works |
| 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 be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding. |

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| <p>Creagh WTP Upgrade</p> | <p>Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment</p> <p>Project scope agreed and awaiting appointment for preliminary design</p> |
| <p>Gorey Regional Water Supply</p> | <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. ○ Section 1 works have been completed and the contractor has now taken control of the borehole sites for section 2 works as programmed ○ Completion cert issued for new treatment plant, all water now being treated at new plant ○ Borehole upgrade works to be completed Q2 2022 |
| <p>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project is overall on programme with the majority pipelines now installed and permanent road reinstatement due in April. ○ Mechanical & Electrical installation on the treatment plant has now begun, and it is expected the plant will be operational in Q4 2022. ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sisk has been appointed as the main contractor to build the new waste water treatment plant in Kilmore Quay. ○ The project commencement date was March 21st 2022 with a 16 month construction programme. ○ Some road closures will be required, however there will not be any road or construction works around the harbour area from June to September to facilitate the tourist season. |
| <p>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find & Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focusing on mains rehabilitation and will revert to Find & Fix as required. We have external finding resources at present with fixes being completed by WCC operational staff. ➤ Mains Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 1.1km of mains replacement on Rectory Road in Enniscorthy is now complete. ➤ The mains replacement team is currently working on a 2.2km replacement in the Ballygarret/Cahore area which is being carried out under a road closure. Local diversions are in place. Works are expected to continue until May 2022 |

Ferns Sewerage Upgrade

- Irish Water has advised that this project is to be re started with design works in April 2022. Further delivery dates to be confirmed.

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 Kiltealy.
 - Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; Tender to be issued May 2022 with start onsite early 2023

IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
 - The pump controls at Keellogues WWPS will continue during Q2 2022.
 - Pump controls at Distillery Road WWPS have now been upgraded, and integration to SCADA is complete.
 - Pump and controls upgrades will take place at Taghmon and Piercestown WWPSs during Q2 2022.
- **Stimulus Funding – SCADA Upgrades**
 - SCADA will be upgraded at 9 No. WWPSs across the Wexford Town collection network beginning December 2021. Five sites have now been completed, with the remainder underway expected to be completed during Q2 2022.
 - Funding has now also been approved for SCADA upgrades at 3 No. WWTPs (Ballymoney, Blackwater and Ballaghkeen) to take place Q2 2022, with Blackwater underway currently.
- **Stimulus Funding – WWTP Minor Improvement Works**
 - Upgrade works to improve resilience of the inlet PS at Ballymurn WWTP is currently underway.
 - Upgrade of PS, valve chamber, kiosk, controls and hardstanding at Carne WWTP are practically complete.

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| | <p>➤ Invest to Save</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with manufacture now complete, and installation to begin April 2022. ○ Civil works are currently underway and 80% complete at Blackwater WWTP to improve energy efficiency and process control necessary to deal with fluctuations in loading. Associated MEICA works are completed. |
| IW Capital Maintenance | <p>➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2022 has been adjusted to €1,777,800</p> <p>➤ The latest available report from Irish Water shows spend to end of February at €198,619.</p> |
| New Connections | <p>➤ Connection works are ongoing county wide through March 2022</p> |
| Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes | <p>➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Civil works to the PS are now complete on site and M&E works are 90% complete on site. Foul flows are now being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP. <p>➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020. More to follow during Q2 2022. |
| 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 and 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Close, Oulart- Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in Q4 2022. • Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. Decision awaited from the Department regarding design proposal. • Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress • Cois Cuan, Arthurstown • Coolballow estate- Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS |

3. Rural Water



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

➤ Kilanerin GWS

- Hydrogeologist has been engaged and awaiting phase 1 of study into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.
- Final Report has been received and is currently being reviewed and a meeting is being organised to discuss phase 2.

Measure 3 - Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation

➤ Blackstairs GWS

- **Storage Tank** - consultant appointed to carry out the hydraulic model assessment has been finalised.
- Consultation has commenced with consultants re: delivery of a hydraulic model and report.
- A final report has been received and is currently under review.
- **Reservoir Bypass** -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.
- A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.
- Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. on the 6th December.
- The Dept. responded on the 19th January 21 – they are reviewing the submission and will revert as soon as possible
- Follow up with the Dept. March 2022, expert committee reviewing implications for changes in DBO contract.

Measure 5 - Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes

➤ Bing GSS - Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)

- Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned
- Application being submitted to Pre-Planning Part XI Week beginning 20th December 2021 following Appropriate Assessment Screening Report from SWC Promotions.
- Pre-planning Part XI assessment and Planners Report was received.
- Stage 2 of the part XI process commenced on 23rd March when the documents were submitted to Planning.
- Works currently in development are preparation of site investigation works and main contract tender packages.
- Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval.

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| Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water) | <p>➤ MARWP 2022-2024 Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme due after Qtr. 2</p> |
| Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells) | <p>➤ Individual Well Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 16 new well grant applications were received in March 2022. ○ 6 Well Grants have been paid in March to date, totalling €12,313. |

4. Water Conservation



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|------------------------------------|---|
| Water Conservation | <p>➤ Consumption Countywide consumption for March 2022 was 44.17MLD. This figure is up 1.1MLD on 2021 figures. Overall consumption is trending high.</p> |
| Leak Detection & Repair | <p>➤ Leak repairs Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 54nr operational leak repairs were completed in March 2022.</p> <p>➤ Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planned leak detection was focused mainly in Rosslare, Wexford, Bunclody and Camolin. ○ Wexford has received 500nr Acoustic loggers to assist leak detection. These will be deployed in areas in Wexford and New Ross in April 2022, moving to Enniscorthy in May and June 2022. |
| Water Network Programme | <p>➤ Rehab Submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ballygarret to Cahore rehab work was commenced March 2022. ○ Shareridge are to commence on the Forth Road, Gorey works next. <p>➤ Find and Fix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LA Find crews were concentrated in South Regional. ○ 12nr repairs created savings of 24.0m³/hr in Wellingtonbridge, Ferns, Great Island, Arthurstown and Wexford during March 2022. ○ Contractor Find crews commenced initial investigations in Killag DMA west side of Kilmore. <p>➤ BYS Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No works undertaken in March 2022. <p>➤ Pressure Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2022 funding was received for 1nr PRV replacement, 31nr PRV surveys with maintenance and 10nr advanced pressure control systems. <p>➤ First Fix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shareridge are conducting First Fix investigations and repairs around the county. |

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Environmental surveys are continuing throughout the 33km scheme corridor and will continue through 2022 (e.g. mammal, bird and habitat surveys, noise, air quality, landscape & archaeological surveys etc).

Further transport surveys are also planned for April 2022 to analyse traffic demand on the existing corridor and connecting roads. A tender competition for a geotechnical investigation contract will commence in April, with investigation works anticipated during the summer. These separate activities will all inform the design development and environmental assessment of the scheme and will generate increasing engagement with land and property owners.

A project newsletter was published in February to provide the public with further information on the project's plans for 2022.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

Documentation for a planning application and Compulsory Purchase Order are currently being finalised for approval to proceed to the statutory planning processes. Planning documents include the following:

- Planning & Environment Considerations Report
- Natura Impact Statement
- Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment
- Screening Report for Environmental Impact Assessment
- Design Report
- Option Selection Report
- Compulsory Purchase Order Schedule & Maps

It is anticipated that a Section 177AE planning application & CPO will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in early May following approval to proceed. Copies of the applications will be available to view and notices of the applications, arrangements and further details will be published in advance. Any submissions or observations may be made to An Bord Pleanála which may at its discretion hold an oral hearing into the proposed development.

The project is consulting with directly impacted land and property owners in advance of the submission of the planning application. A project newsletter will also be published in April in advance of the planning application and will be circulated in local outlets and public buildings in Rosslare Harbour as well as the project website and social media to provide the public with further information on the planning process.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2021 Pavement Schemes

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

The tender for the construction contract was awarded on the 11th August. Works commenced on 26th October

The surface water pipework, watermain and footpath works have been completed.

The scheme is complete.

HD28 Pavement Improvement Works N11 Oilgate Village

TII has approved the award of the scheme following a tender process. Due to the traffic volumes on the N11 this scheme will need to be carried out at night.

Works should commence at the end of April with a 3-week programme.

2022 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

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

Works are being carried out on the contract documents for the scheme with tender planned for April. Pavement works should commence in June/July.

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 1

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

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

Work has commenced on the design of this scheme, with tender planned in May.

Pavement works should commence in July/August.

2022 Safety Schemes

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,590,000)

TII's approval to award and proceed with the contract has been received. Construction of the roundabout will commence in April and the construction programme is 3 months.

Winter Maintenance

The 2021/2022 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 18th October 2021. There have been 45 call outs up to Friday 1st April 2022.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2022 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 31st January 2022 at Bola Beg, Ballindaggan. The road is being resurfaced with macadam. The County's strengthening programme for 2022 has commenced across the county.

108 km of road was strengthened in 2021, including own resources and community involvement schemes funding.

Surface Dressing Works

The 2022 surface dressing programme is finalised with works to commence in June.

125 km of road was surface dressed in 2021, including own resources.

Community Involvement Schemes

12 roads (14km total) with a total estimated cost €1.155m for 2022 are under consideration by DOT.

Local Improvement Schemes

22 lanes, totalling 9km in length, were resurfaced 2021 at a cost of €653,786 funded by the Dept of Rural & community Development.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

19 bridge rehabilitations for 2022 (excluding those damaged 25/12/2021) at an estimated repair cost of €603,000 are under consideration by DOT.

Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

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

A structural inspection of the bridge was completed in 2021. This will inform the detailed design. A Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was completed, and the planned works did not screen out.

The resultant required Natura Impact Statement was completed and was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2021 as part of the planning application. The planning submission is presently being assessed by An Bord Pleanála. Design options will be developed over the coming months. Works are expected to commence Q 2-3 of 2022.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works

20 improvement projects for 2022 (excluding those damaged 25/12/2021) of estimated value of €1.134m are under consideration by DOT.

In 2021, Wexford County Council received €650,830 for 13 projects.

Works are complete on 11 projects with 2 projects rolling into 2022 due to design complexities. The 2 projects transferred to 2022 are Grange Beach cliff stabilisation works in New Ross MD and Adhare Bridge works in Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD.

Active Travel Measures

The NTA confirmed an allocation on 24th January 2022 of €4.44m to Wexford County Council for projects in 2022. This funding is largely to complete projects approved in 2021 which are presently in design or construction stage.

In 2021, Wexford County Council completed 20 projects. There are 29 projects presently under construction. The remaining 22 are at design stage.

Over 7km of new footpath was constructed in 2021 in the county's towns and many of the villages providing important linkages for communities. The total value of work (construction and design) completed in 2021 was €3,145,653.

A design incorporating segregated cycle lanes, footpath and junction improvements has been finalised for Newtown Road (Wexford Borough District).

Designs are being developed for cycleways at: Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue; Roxborough (Wexford Borough District); Oaklands to Kents Cross (New Ross District); Rosslare Harbour - Kilrane Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme (Rosslare District); R772 Clogh to county boundary (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD).

Flood Damage Christmas Day 2021 – Update

Of the 7 bridges that were severely damaged: Wilton Bridge; Kilcarbry Bridge Ballyroe buck Bridge; Mangan Lane Bridge; (Enniscorthy District); Aughnaglaur Bridge (Chapel, Adamstown); Cullenstown Bridge; Raheen Bridge (New Ross District), 3 are open to vehicular traffic at Mangan, Kilcarbry and Chapel (temporary).

Office of Public Works (OPW) Section 50 consent applications under the Arterial Drainage Act 1945 are being prepared and the design of permanent remediation works is ongoing. Derogation Orders have been received from Inland Fisheries Ireland. Permissions are necessary to undertake the permanent remediation works at Aughnaglaur (Chapel), Cullenstown Little, Wilton, Ballyroe buck Bridges.

Trees and debris lodged in bridges as a result of high-water levels have been removed from several sites with clearance works continuing. Minor damage to other bridges, specifically parapet walls, was experienced throughout the county and this is being assessed and repair works progressing well. There was significant damage to over 13km of road throughout the county which is presently being surveyed and repairs are ongoing. €4M was received from the Department of Transport specifically for flood damage repairs in the County.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non National Roads)

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

Design works are completed.

It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 300 to 400 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates early in 2022.

Public Lighting Development Fund

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

- Ballygarrett Village – Contract awarded. Works to commence in March 2022.
- Balintray, Courtown – Contract awarded. Works to commence in March 2022.

Just One Life Road Safety Campaign

The Just One Life Road Safety Campaign kicked off with the first demonstration held in the National Opera House on 2nd March. This effective road safety initiative, in partnership with An Garda Síochána and Wexford Rotary, is aimed at all transitions year students throughout the county. Further demonstrations are planned later in the year.

Special Projects:

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

This project is practically complete. Final snag works including the water and sewer connections to the site will be completed by end of February.

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

The proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site has completed pre-planning and revisions to the proposal are being prepared prior to submission of a Part VIII planning application.

The activity centre building was lodged for Part 8 planning in March by WCC's Architects Department and the period for public comment will close on 20/04/2022.

1.2 Min Ryan Park

Sole Sports and Leisure has been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA is now complete and open to the public.

Recommencement of works on the Skate Park is now overdue and will take 6 weeks to complete. Public lighting at these installations will follow.

1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1

Phase 1 – the development of three serviced sites is substantially complete and the construction of the first building is well under way. Robert Troy TD Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment visited the Park in March.

1.4 Gorey District Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12th August 2021 and the new playground and adult gym equipment is fully installed and in use. The final landscape planting is currently ongoing. Work on the building is to re-commence this month.

1.5 South East Greenway

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 have been awarded to Glás Civil Engineering and works are nearing completion on-site. Lots 1 and 2 are the urban sections at Rosbercon & Ferrybank and Lot 3 extends from Raheen to Glenmore. Works on Lots 1 & 3 are scheduled for substantially completed by June 2022.

Landowner agreements on the accommodation works are progressing well and it is planned that Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) will be tendered for works in May 2022. The detailed design of on Lot 4 (New Ross to Mount Elliott) will be finalised by the end of May and we would expect to issue tender documents for works in June. The current expected date for the full completion of the Greenway is Q1 2024.



1.6 Trinity Wharf

Due to significant inflation in the market since tenders were received, the original tender process for the works contract for the new access road to the site has been abandoned. A revised tender invitation issued in December 2021 and tenders have been received and have been assessed. Works are now expected to commence in Q2 2022.

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

1.7 New Ross Fire Station

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station has been awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site on May 6th following lifting of Level 5 restrictions and will take 9 months to complete. The construction is approximately 85% complete, the main building with second fix M&E well underway. The drill tower has been erected and the installation of the utility services are almost complete. Completion is expected in May 2022.



1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension

The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site on May 6th following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. The works are on-going and substantial completion is planned for August 2022.

1.9 High Hill, New Ross

The Contract has been awarded to MJS Civil Engineering and works are progressing on-site. Groundworks, drainage and ducting works are now substantially completed within the main section of the park. The installation of the staircases and masonry work is complete.

Pedestrian road crossings and surfacing works have yet to commence.

Paving to the staircases and landing areas are underway. Some tree planting and bareroot planting is currently underway in the current planting season. Herbaceous planting is scheduled to coincide with paving works and Autumn bulb planting will continue after the paving works. Works are expected to be substantially completed by July 2022.



1.10 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme

The contract has been awarded for the advance supply of natural stone paving materials. Delivery commenced in January 2022 and progressing.

Tenders for the main works contract have been assessed and a contract for works has been awarded to Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering Ltd.

Street works commenced on site the week of 21/03/2022 and are expected to be completed in July 2022.

1.11 New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site.

The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was completed in July 2021.

A Part 8 development consent application for the development of the public realm space on the site has been completed and was advertised on 21st December 2021. The Part 8 was confirmed at the Council meeting in March.

An application for capital funding under the RRDF scheme is in preparation for submission in April 2022.

1.12 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:

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

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

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

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

1.13 John Street Building Regeneration Project

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

A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement. The CPO for the project has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and the acquisition of the outstanding property to facilitate the development is progressing. The CPO is proceeding and the Notice to Entry has been served. The Preliminary design will follow with the Part 8 consent process planned to commence during the Summer.

1.14 Esmonde Street

RPS is progressing with the detailed design. Priority Geotech Ltd undertook site investigation works in September. Irish Water have now approved proceeding with the design of the sewer upgrade and CCTV and survey works has been completed. The detailed design is due to be completed by June 2022 and the award of a works contract by Q4 2022.

WCC will submit an application for category 1 funding under the current call for RRDF.

1.15 Gorey Market House

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

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

1.16 Mechanics Institute

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders will be re-advertised in April 2022 and it is expected that a works contract will be awarded in Q3 2022. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on the preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála by the end of 2022.

The process of negotiation for tourism design services with the preferred tenderer from the 2017 Hook Heritage Ltd competition has closed without an award of contract following the withdrawal of the preferred tenderer in December. WCC has advertised for tourism coordinator services for the project and tenders are due by 22/04. The tourism coordinator will assist with the procurement of interpretative design services and we would expect an appointment of interpretive designer by mid-2022. The environmental consultant has been appointed and will commence initial studies and investigative works in the coming month.

The contract for tourism co-ordination and management services for the New Ross Tourism project was awarded to Alan Sherwood & Associates in November 2021 and he is currently reviewing the outline interpretive design and developing a plan for procurement of detailed design services.

1.18 Enniscorthy Tourism Project:

This project provides for the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on Enniscorthy Castle that will have the capacity to significantly increase tourism visitor numbers to the town. The proposed project will link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross. The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC in July 2021. Tenders for preliminary design and planning consent services have been received for Phase 1 of the project and are currently being assessed.

1.19 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

Tender for the intrusive site investigation works and the environmental and marine surveys required to develop the preliminary design for the project have been received and are currently being assessed. The investigative works and surveys are expected to commence in early Q2 2022.

1.20 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

The Economic SPC of Wexford County Council and the Transportation SPC of Waterford City & County Council have written to the Minister for Transport seeking inclusion of the out-of-service Rosslare to Waterford railway line in the up-coming national rail review. The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has been paused, pending a decision from the DOT on the future of the rail corridor.

WCC is reviewing the 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.

1.21 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going.

The scoping and route options process has commenced and a presentation was given to the joint Wexford and Rosslare MDCs in late March on this project. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options is scheduled to commence in April 2022.

1.22 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford

A Part 8 submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site and for construction of a temporary surface level car park. The plan was presented to the Wexford MDC September meeting and the Part 8 process commenced formally on 26th October 2021. The Part 8 was confirmed at the march 28th full Council meeting.

Tenders have been received for detailed design services and have been assessed. It is planned to appoint the design team in April 2022.

Detailed design is programmed to be completed in July with an award of the works contract in October 2022.

1.23 Crescent Quay – Dredging

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

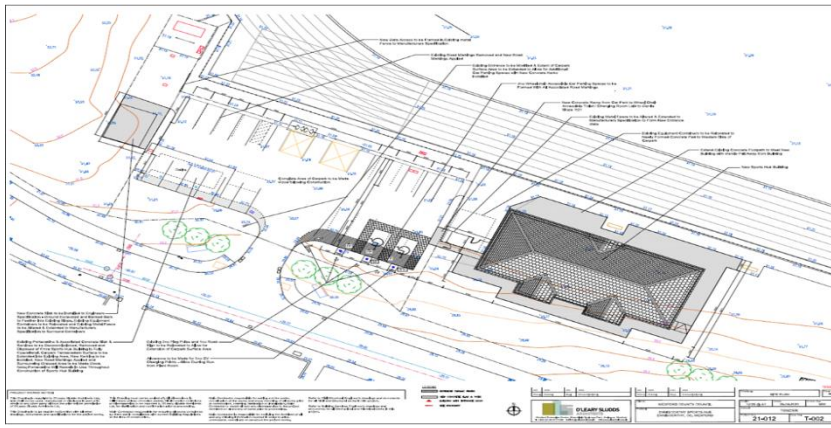
1.24 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

The final masterplan has now been completed and presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October 2021 meeting. A contract for the initial phase 1 works was advertised in January 2022, these works include new footpath, pedestrian crossings, new entry signage and landscaping. The tender evaluation process is underway and it is expected Phase 1 works contract will be awarded in April 2022.

A further application for funding of the masterplan was made to the NTA's active travel programme in January 2022.

1.25 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. The tender documents issued to the Department for Tourism, Culture, Art, the Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAG) have been approved and a tender advertisement for the works will issue later this month. It is expected that a works contract will be awarded in Q3 2022.



1.26 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

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

Tenders for design services was advertised in Jan 2022, the tender evaluation process is underway, it is expected a consultant will be appointed for design services in April 2022.

2. Flood Defence Schemes

2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

Statutory Process - The scheme confirmation documents required for ministerial consent were submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in March 2020. In April 2021, WCC issued supplementary environmental information to the OPW and DPER to support the approval process. The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (MDPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie. Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy to provide the community with much-needed protection from extreme flood events, both now and into the future.

Next Steps - WCC, OPW & lead consultant Mott McDonald (MMD) met on the 11th March to discuss the ministers decision and agree the next steps. The ecology baseline data is to be updated. The scheme alternatives are to be assessed, shortlisted and consulted on publicly, and the EIAR & NIS updated for the preferred option. MMD are to issue a programme of work. A special meeting of the EMD was held on the 15th March to update councillors on the ministers decision and the next steps for the scheme.

2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:

The project brief for design services for Wexford 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. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process will be advertised in Q1 2022.

REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

| Type | |
|--|-----------|
| Freedom of Information | 9 |
| Customer Complaint | 2 |
| Ombudsman Complaint | 2 |
| Access to Information on the Environment | 1 |
| Data Access Request | 1 |
| Total | 15 |

2. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

Tenders

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| No uploaded | 3 |
| No of tenders received | 7 |

3. CRM / CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT REPORT ON ACTIVITIES MARCH 2022

| Area | | March |
|-------------------------|--|---------|
| Agricultural Burns | | 6 |
| Environment Complaints | | 416 * |
| Change of Circumstances | | 43 |
| Housing Validation | | 144 |
| Quick Calls | | 1208 ** |
| Road Faults Log | | 71 |
| Emails | | 2490 |
| | a. <i>Incoming External Emails</i> | 602 |
| | b. <i>Incoming Internal Emails</i> | 530 |
| | c. <i>Emails forwarded externally</i> | 1115 |
| | d. <i>Emails Replied to internally</i> | 243 |
| Total | | |

* 126 (30%) of these calls relate to Community Clean Ups

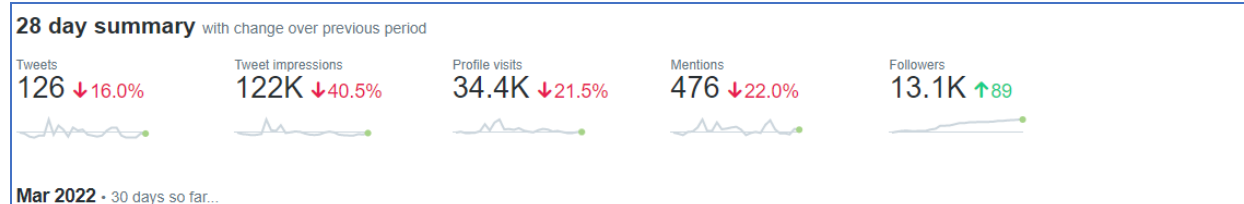
** 484 (40%) of these calls are in respect of various Housing Services, 188 (39%) of which are for Housing Maintenance.

4. MEMBERS PORTAL QUERIES MARCH 2022

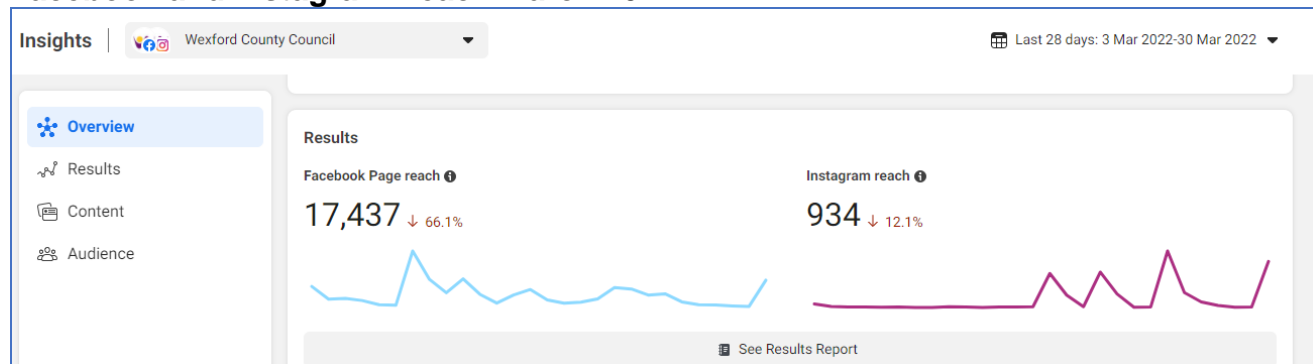
| Section | Closed | Open | Total | % |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Customer Service | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6% |
| Enniscorthy Municipal District | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3% |
| Environment | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2% |
| Finance | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1% |
| Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1% |
| Housing | 16 | 23 | 39 | 43% |
| Planning | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1% |
| Roads - Enniscorthy MD | 23 | 8 | 31 | 34% |
| Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD | 0 | 5 | 5 | 6% |
| Roads - Wexford MD | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1% |
| Wexford Municipal District | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 45 | 45 | 90 | 100% |

5. Social Media Stats March 2022

Twitter stats March 2022



Facebook and Instagram Reach March 2022



6. International Women's Day – 8th March 2022 / Launch of WCC Women's Coalition – 9th March 2022

Following a two-year absence, in-person events were back on the Council agenda during March. Among the events held were celebrations for International Women's Day and the official launch of the Wexford County Council Women's Coalition.

Together Again – International Women's Day Event

On Tuesday 8th March, there was a strong turnout for the *Together Again*, a celebration of International Women's Day in Johnstown Castle. This event was organised by Wexford County Council, Wexford County Council's Women's Coalition and Local Enterprise Office Wexford.

The event was launched by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy Cathaoirleach and MC was Liz Hore Director of Services. The guest speaker was Jacinta M. Kitt, an author and organisational adviser, who spoke about the importance of people taking care of themselves, recognising personal limitations, developing psychological resources and managing stress.

Up to 100 guests from groups including Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, LEO Wexford's Women in Business Network, Soroptimists Ireland Wexford, Celtic Routes, and the wider community attended the landmark event.



Launch of Wexford County Council Women's Coalition



On Wednesday 9th March, the Wexford County Council Women's Coalition was officially launched in the Riverside Park Hotel in Enniscorthy.

The Women's Coalition was formed to address the significant gender gap between men and women in politics, and to encourage more women into a career in politics. The guest speaker welcomed by Cllr M Bell, Chair of the Women's Coalition was renowned Olympic and FIFA soccer referee Michelle O'Neill who gave an empowering speech about her career to date and the influences that have shaped her journey. She highlighted the need for positive role models in our local community as well as in the greater environment.

The Women's Coalition was formed before the Covid 19 pandemic and is an official sub-committee of the County Council. It was a joyous occasion as members of the coalition could finally hold their official launch in person following two years of online meetings.

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7. Electoral Reform Bill 2022

The Electoral Reform Bill 2022 was published on 30 March 2022. It is currently expected that the Bill will be signed into law in mid-July 2022 with a phased commencement of sections thereafter. It is anticipated that those parts of the Bill which relate to the reform of the registration of elector's process will be commenced before the preparation of the 2023/2024 Register of Electors starts in September 2022.

The Franchise Section will be working on the areas relating to the Modernisation of the Registration of Electors once the Bill is signed into law.

These modernisation arrangements for the registration of electors, include –

- the introduction of continuous registration for voters,
- to provide for anonymous registration in certain limited cases,
- to provide a specific registration process for persons with no fixed address,
- to provide for a pending electors list for persons aged 16 and 17,
- to provide for the extension of postal voter categories to include special voters in certain circumstances,
- to provide for “third-party” applications for amendments to the register,
- to provide for necessary and appropriate data sharing to assist local authorities in updating and maintaining the Register of Electors.

8. Bridgetown College CPSE Programme – Visit to Wexford County Council

Second year students from Bridgetown College recently visited Wexford County Council as part of their CSPE programme. They were invited to attend the council chamber to observe how the county council operates and to see first-hand the functions and issues that are within the remit of a local authority to address. Areas of particular interest to the children were climate change and the environment and they saw how Wexford County Council can help to address these matters at a local level.

Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Emergency Services & Community:

Covid 19 update

Due to the rising Covid numbers, it has been decided to postpone the proposed full return of Wexford County Council staff to the workplace until Tuesday 3rd May 2022.

Private Residential Tenancy inspections and home visits have recommenced.

Any backlog of inspections (private rented, grants and housing maintenance) will be worked through over the coming months.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Current Position | Comment |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Carley's Bridge | 17 | Enniscorthy | Houses Complete | Houses complete 28 th Feb 2022. Keys handed over. Project complete ahead of target and on budget. |
| Ballycullane | 2 | New Ross | Houses Complete | Both Houses complete and keys handed over in March 22. |
| The Ballagh | 7 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Under Construction | 3 Phase power was connected on 31 st March. Pump Station was commissioned on 1 st April. IW are now organising connection to the sewer and chlorine testing. |
| Castlebridge TAP | 1 | Wexford | Under Construction | Some delays due to ground conditions, Completion in Q2 22. |
| Ross Road | 1 | Enniscorthy | Under Construction | Finishing works proceeding. Expected completion Q2 2022 |
| Rosetown, Rosslare (<i>deliver units in 2 phases</i>) | 23 P1 12 P2 | Rosslare | Phase 1 (23 houses) Under Construction | Phase 1 of 23 units due to complete in Q4 2022. Funding Stage 3 is being prepared by consultants for submission in Q2 2022 for Phase 2 of the project, 12 units. |
| Whiterock Hill (<i>deliver units in 2 phases</i>) | 44 | Wexford | Stage 4 approved (<i>Phase 1 for 22 Units</i>) | Phase 1 (22 Units) apartments, site boundaries and retaining walls underway and progressing well. Discussions re pump station to enable Phase 2 (22 units also) have progressed and costs for connections to be agreed. Phase 2 to be negotiated with contractor in Q2 2022. Phase 2 to be approved with DHPLG in commence construction in Q2 2022 |
| Ballyhine, Barntown | 7 | Wexford | Stage 3 | Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be lodged in Q2 2022 |
| Bullawn | 3 | New Ross | Stage 2 | Part VIII approved. Stage 3 Q2 2022 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|---------|---|
| Wexford Street | 30 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Stage 2 | Stage 2 approved for €8.3m. Part VIII approved in March meeting. Stage 3 will be submitted in Q2 2022 |
| Women's Refuge | 12 | Wexford | Stage 2 | Stage 3 submitted Feb 22. Contractor Pre-quals commenced while we are awaiting DHPLG funding approval for Stage 3. |
| Rosbercon | 38 (est) | New Ross | Stage 2 | Consultants appointed for the enabling works i.e. Knotweed and Site Clearance. Enabling works to commence on site Q2 2022. Enabling works including tendering expected to take 6 months. Revised Stage 1 submitted 5 April 2022. |
| Francis St. | 2 | Wexford | Stage 2 | Stage 1 approved on 4 th Oct. 21. Pre Planning approved. Consultants appointed. Stage 2 in Q2 22 |
| Killeens | 45+ | Wexford | Stage 1 | Design Team selected through OGP Official appointment to be made in April 2022. |
| Creagh | 22 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Stage 1 | A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q2 2022. Appointing new consultants and we have increased numbers to 22 for VFM, higher densities and to incorporate more smaller units in line with requirements and the housing need in the Gorey area. Pre Planning complete. Agreed to add another floor and lifts to each apartment building. Proposing Design Build contract. |
| TOTAL | 266 | | | |

Pre-Development Stage

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Marconi Park | 1 | Enniscorthy | Tenders received on Feb 22. Construction to commence in April 2022. |
| Newtown, Ferns | 1 | Enniscorthy | Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. |
| Monomolin | 5 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs. IW have confirmed feasibility. Stage 2 will be submitted in Q2 2022. Pre-Planning complete. |
| Bride Street | 3 | Wexford | Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed and 1 no 1 bed apartments on the site has been submitted. ESB poles, wires and EIR wires to be undergrounded as Phase1, Q2 2022. Demolitions and Archaeology as step 2 Q3 2022 and Construction will be step 3 Q1 2023. |
| Ballygillane | 5 | Rosslare | Derelict house on site to be demolished. Pre-Planning approved. Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 application and Part VIII Q3 2022. Irish Water have approved Feasibility. Enabling works (demolition and site clearance) to commence in Q2 22 |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|--|
| TOTAL | 15 | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|--|

Longer Term Projects

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Tagoat | 16 | Rosslare | Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. We have reviewed design for better density, value for money and we have pre-planning complete. Stage 1 Q2 2022. Fencing off boundaries in April 22. |
| Clonard | 26 | Wexford | Site cleared March 2019 – design for inner relief road required before we can proceed. No change |
| TOTAL | 42 | | |

Other Projects (early feasibility)

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| Lacken | 1 | New Ross | Single stage approved. Substantial additional funding required. Funding approval received, granted with a shortfall of circa €172K. Agreement reached to design a new bungalow. Awaiting tenant agreement to this approach. |
| Adamstown | 2 | New Ross | IW confirmed that there is capacity for the 2 houses in Adamstown so this job can now proceed to demolition of existing house. Enabling works to be tendered in April 2022. The 2 houses will have a with a total population equivalent (PE) of 8 |
| Belvedere | 6 | Wexford | Revised proposal to be Prepared. Q2 2022 |
| Creagh | 24 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Awaiting a decision as to whether the site will be transferred back to Housing. |
| Grogan's Road | 4 | Wexford | Pre planning approved. Stage 1 approved 16 th Nov 21 – DHPLG are looking for a fourth apartment. Design has been revised to incorporate 4 apartments. New Pre Planning required. Then proceed to Stage 2 in Q" 2022. Awaiting confirmation of IW feasibility. |
| TOTAL | 37 | | |

Approved Housing Bodies

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Cooperative Housing Ireland | | | |
| Mill Heights, Castlebridge | 25 | Wexford | 12 units completed. Remainder to deliver Q2 2022. |
| Cluid | | | |
| Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts | 67 | Wexford | To deliver Q4 2022. |
| Tobar Muire Place | 17 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | To deliver late 2022 /early 2023. |
| Tuath | | | |
| Ramstown, Gorey | 68 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | To deliver on a phased basis from 2022. |
| TOTAL | 177 | | |

Part V Acquisitions

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon | 22 | Wexford | 14 complete. Remaining units to deliver 2022. |
| Cluain Beag, Clonard | 6 | Wexford | 4 units delivered remainder to deliver Q1 2022. |
| Clonhaston, Enniscorthy | 5 | Enniscorthy | To deliver on phased basis from 2022. (Issues with IW resulting in reduced number of units. Reduced number of units to be constructed. Currently engaged with developer.) |
| An Glasan, Enniscorthy | 5 | Enniscorthy | All units delivered |
| Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3 | 10 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | To deliver 2022/2023. |
| Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne | 4 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Construction commenced. To deliver Q2 2022. |
| Ard an Bhile, Healsland, New Ross | 5 | New Ross | Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023. |
| Spring View, Gorey Hill | 11 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Under Construction. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023. |
| TOTAL | 68 | | |

Turnkeys

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Clonhaston, Enniscorthy | 50 | Enniscorthy | To deliver on phased basis from 2022 (Issues with IW will result in reduced number of units. Reduced number of units to be constructed (expected to be <10 Currently engaged with developer.) |
| Ballynaglogh, Blackwater | 16 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022. |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|---|
| Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne | 39 | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | Construction commenced. To deliver from Q2 2022. |
| Cluain Beag, Clonard | 20 | Wexford | All units delivered |
| Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross | 43 | New Ross | Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023. |
| Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon | 13 | Wexford | Under Construction Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022. |
| Clonard Little | 10 | Wexford | Delivery expected Q1 2023 (includes 1 Part V). |
| Ard Uisce (Ph 3) | 8 | Wexford | Under Construction. Delivery expected Q2 2022. |
| Castlelands, Ferns | 20 | Enniscorthy | DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Under Construction. Expected to deliver Q3 2022 |
| Haughton Place, New Ross | 13 | New Ross | DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Expected to deliver 2023 (includes 1 Part V) |
| TOTAL | 232 | | |

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

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 31st March, 2022:

| Repairs | Enniscorthy | Gorey / Kilmuckridge | New Ross | Wexford | Rosslare | Total |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| Repair Requests (1 st – 31 st March 2022) | 99 | 86 | 164 | 140 | 61 | 553 |
| Repair Requests Year to Date | 356 | 255 | 444 | 466 | 216 | 1737 |
| Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 31 st March 2022) | 85 | 65 | 128 | 119 | 49 | 446 |
| Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date | 266 | 185 | 301 | 344 | 154 | 1250 |

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER PROGRAMME

The Article 48 team processed 11 LEADER claims in March.

The value of the claims - €467,289.51 which will support 5 enterprises and 6 community groups throughout County Wexford.

These claims can be broken down as follows:



| Approved for Payment | Approved Payment |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Killanerin-Ballyfad Community Development Assoc. | €13,496.25 |
| 2. Kilmore Quay Community Development Assoc. | €4,375.41 |
| 3. Wheelock Fruits | €69,600.00 |
| Total | €87,471.66 |
| | |
| Promoter Paid | Claim Payment |
| 1. Regan Organic Produce | €66,037.50 |
| 2. WLD | €13,285.00 |
| 3. Wexford Arts Centre | €4,802.25 |
| 4. Zanna Cookhouse Ltd | €188,494.44 |
| 5. Trudies Catering Kitchen | €33,855.00 |
| 6. Wexford LCDC | €24,205.17 |
| 7. Horeswood Community Hall | €39,838.49 |
| 8. National Opera House | €9,300.00 |
| Total | € 379,817.85 |
| | |
| Total | € 467,289.51 |

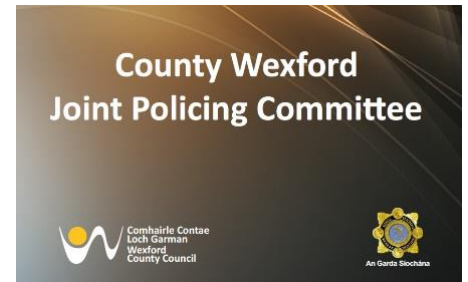
European Commission Study - *Impact of LEADER on the Balanced Territorial Development.*

The European Commission contracted the *Countryside and Community Research Institute of the University of Gloucestershire* to carry out an evaluation study on the impact of LEADER on balanced territorial development. The study, to assess how has LEADER improved local economies and promoted participation, social innovation and social inclusion and poverty reduction.

Members of the Wexford Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group were identified & invited to participate in the study, please see link below which contains the full report <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2762/01039>

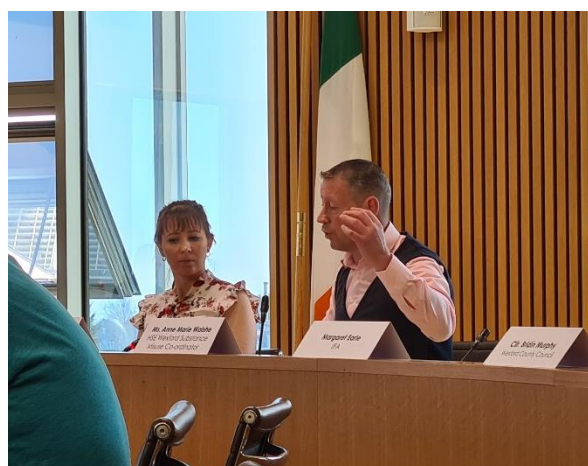
JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING - County Wexford Joint Policing Committee

A hybrid meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 28th of March 2022. The agenda included all statutory agenda items including a Garda Division Update, Preventative & Operational Policing from the Chief Superintendent and report of Gardaí interaction with the Municipal Districts.



As requested by the JPC Chairman, the focus of the meeting 'Drug Misuse in County Wexford', which included presentations/Q & A from –

- Mr. Paul Delaney, Project Coordinator at Cornmarket Project,
- Garda Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit, Wexford/Wicklow division
- Mr. Ciarán Carey and Ms. Niamh Blackburn addiction counsellors, 'My Move Counselling'



The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 13th of June 2022.

Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

24th March 2022, the DRCD hosted a Webinar to assist local authority staff members from both Community and Economic Development Teams re; 'Drafting the LECP'. The webinar, which is the first of a series of thematic events, focused on getting started with the new LECPs, with a particular focus on the review of the existing LECP and the socio-economic analysis.

Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26

Work on the Age Friendly Strategy is nearing completion with the final draft strategy to be presented to the members of the Housing Community SPC and Council approval in April.

Telehealth

The Wexford Telehealth Pilot Project was shortlisted for this year's CIO & IT Leaders Awards, taking place on Thursday, March 24 in The Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin. This Wexford County Council Age Friendly project category was shortlisted under the 'Pilot Project of the Year' category. Unfortunately not successful on the night but a great opportunity to highlight this unique project.



Wexford Age Friendly and Comhairle na nÓg Postcard project

Wexford County Council and Comhairle na nÓg have joined forces on an intergenerational project that will connect older people and teenagers by sending a series of postcards to each other. The postcards are designed by local artist John Busher and depict local landmarks and stories from the olden days. Partners on the project include Wexford Gardaí Community Policing, Grantstown Day Care Centre, St. Louis Day Care Centre (Ramsgrange) and St. Bridget's Day Care Centre. The exchange of postcards commences in March 2022.

Dementia Awareness Training

As part of the work on making Enniscorthy the county's Age Friendly town, Dementia Awareness Training was recently arranged in the town for local businesses, healthcare professionals and those living with dementia and their carers. The training which was arranged by Wexford County Council's Age Friendly Programme was delivered by the Alzheimers Society of Ireland and was booked to capacity. This simple and practical course on dementia aims to raise awareness and understanding of dementia, explore the things we can all do to support a person with dementia and their families and provide practical tips of how we can make our organisations and communities dementia inclusive.



Celtic Routes

Filming for a “Hero” video for the overall project and for individual Partner areas will commence in early April. The Photography Brief has been agreed for late spring / summertime assets and will be issued on eTenders in the next week. Sell to Wales have issued a drone and 360-degree contract on behalf of the Partners. Over 60 submissions from tourism businesses have been compiled and will be sent for translation for inclusion on our Website. An in-person Steering Group meeting is being organised for May in Waterford. A Europe Day event is also being organised for the 9th of May to showcase all the EU Projects within Wexford County Council. This coincides with a Plenary Council meeting and Europe Day. A short workshop style event is being organised for the Elected Members of Waterford City & County Council.

Community response to the Ukraine

The Community Development Section continued to work with all lead state and voluntary agencies to address logistical and operational issues at Rosslare Europort during March. Members of the Community Development team operating onsite in Rosslare Europort and administration of the reconvened Community Forum to support the Ukraine situation.



**Healthy
Wexford**

**Healthy Ireland Fund
2019-2021 - Round 3**

The **Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3** completes on 31st March 2022. Progress and finance reporting is to be received from action partners and compiled in April for final reporting to Pobal by 6th May.

Confirmation has been received that funding will be provided for the Healthy Ireland Coordinator to be extended for April & May. No formal detail has been provided for Round 4 Funding, as yet.

Healthy County Committee

Working groups continue to meet and progress activities and initiatives to deliver on the Healthy County Plan Strategic Priorities. The Mental Wellbeing Working Group was deferred from 9th to 30th March.

Below are some updates on current Healthy Wexford Initiatives.

The **'Seeds to Success'** community growing 'boxset' of the complete series is now available to view online at [Healthy Wexford YouTube](#). To increase accessibility to those not online a 'boxset' DVD of the series has been created and will shortly be available to borrow through Wexford Libraries.



This event supports the **'Not Around Us'** initiative to provide a smoke and vape free space for the children and young people attending.

Healthy Wexford / Connigh Uilleann / Wexford County Council

QUIT Free advice and support on quitting smoking. Call 0800 222 222 or visit www.quit.ie

www.bit.ly/NotAroundUs

March saw the first **'Not Around Us'** supporting events with St Patrick's Day Parades in Gorey, Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Carrig-on-Bannow supporting the initiative. Temporary 'Not Around Us' signage was provided for display on the day and graphics provided for social media and posters, example shown. These materials can be re-used for further supporting events and festivals around the county.

New Ross Celtic AFC, one of the early sign up groups, also highlighted their support for the initiative in the New Ross Parade through marching with signage as part of their display.

The Healthy County Coordinator is working with the National Cancer Control Programme Team to help in establishing expressions of interest among community and voluntary groups who are involved in outdoor leisure activities for trial of a new SunSmart Sunscreen Dispenser Pilot.

The pilot will run for 12 weeks over the summer and will involve five to six pilot sites across the county.

Further details on this initiative available here:



SunSmart sunscreen dispensers with a UV index display are available to be piloted with community groups for a 12 week period.



If you are interested in partaking in a pilot study to raise awareness of UV risk and protection among your outdoor recreation setting with groups you regularly engage with contact us by 12pm 28th March 2022 prevention@cancercontrol.ie

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthyWexford/posts/484040290050359>

PPN

Wexford PPN hosted the first in person plenary meeting post covid on 10th March. The PPN is in the process of filling four vacancies on the Secretariat.

Wexford Sports Active

| | |
|---|--|
| Couch to 3K | The Couch to 3K programme concluded in New Ross at the New Ross parkrun in JFK Arboretum on Saturday 12 th March. We also celebrated Women In Sport Week and invited Cathaoirleach Barbara Anne Murphy to the parkrun. 8 participants completed the programme. |
| Couch to 5K | Couch to 5K ended in Enniscorthy Sports Hub on the 14 th of March after 8 weeks training. We held a 5km event on the track for all participants to conclude the programme. There are 28 participants on this programme both men and women. |
| Marathon Kids | David Gillick will be visiting two primary schools in Gorey on the 5 th of April to celebrate Marathon Kids. Marathon Kids continues in 17 schools around Wexford through April. |
| Mobility & Movement Loreto Secondary School | In collaboration with Weightlifting Ireland, SAW delivered a 3-week pilot exercise programme for transition Year students in Loreto Secondary School. Total participants: 28. |
| Playmaker Leadership | The playmaker primary school leadership programme will start in April and will be delivered in schools throughout April and May. |
| Workplace Activity Programme | The new block of Online Yoga started on Wednesday 9 th March and takes place every Wednesday for four weeks from 7pm-7.40pm. Those who sign up have the option of doing the class live or receiving the recording to do in their own time over the next 7 days. Participants: 14 |
| Workplace Mindfulness | SAW delivered 3 x 10 minute mindfulness sessions in the Council of Chamber on Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th of March. |
| Active Fellas | The Active Fellas Over 35's Soccer League concluded on 4 th March. This was run in partnership with the FAI and supported by Healthy Wexford through the Healthy Ireland fund. All participants received a pack on the final night. Six teams took part. Participants: 49. |
| Wexford VI Walks | Over the last few months Sports Active Wexford, Vision Sports Ireland and the Access Section of Wexford County Council have been working on putting together a plan for Wexford Vision Impaired Walks. This will be a six-part series, the first walk will take place in Orchard Peace Park in Enniscorthy on the Saturday 9 th April. The recruitment process for participants, volunteers and walking leaders is currently taking place. |
| Healthy Woodlands | The healthy woodlands programme is continuing for Havenview Residents in Tintern Abbey on a weekly basis on Tuesdays from 11am to 12pm. Participants: 4. |

| | |
|---|--|
| The Exercise Effect | The IEP for North Sector started employment on March 23 rd . The IEP's are undergoing ASIST and SAFETalk training. |
| Couch to 3km | The Couch to 3km 6-week programme finished on March 14 th for Maryville Service Users. This was held every Monday and Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30am. Total registered participants: 5. |
| CAMHS Rag Tree Equine Therapy | SAW began the delivery of the Health and Fitness module for Rag Tree Equine Therapy Centre on Friday 11 th of March. |
| Women in Sport Week | Women in Sport Week occurred from the 7 th to 13 th of March. Activities throughout this week included: Golf Taster Session in Bunclody Golf Club on Monday 7 th of March from 6-7pm. Participants: 6. Self-Defence Seminar in Wexford Kung Fu & Kickboxing on Saturday 12 th March from 10am to 1pm. Participants attended: 8. |
| Women's Casual Bike Ride | An 8km cycle from Wexford town to Ferrycarrig took place on Saturday 26 th of March from 2 to 3pm. 4 women registered with one woman attending on the day. |
| Staff Training | 1 Staff member completed Women in Leadership 2 Day intensive course 1 Staff member completed Safeguarding 2 |
| Covid 19 Community and Small Grant Scheme | The COVID-19 Community and Club small grant scheme is part of a programme from the Government of Ireland, implemented through Sport Ireland and its network of Local Sports Partnerships to support the 2 sports sector. This specific fund was created in recognition of the operational challenges facing sport. A maximum of €1,500 can be provided to each small club/ community group. Closing date for applications is 20 April. (Where a National Governing body has been given funding for this Clubs are ineligible to apply) |
| Safeguarding | 4 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2022 with a total of 61 participants. 2 x Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2022 with a total of 18 participants. |
| Coaching Girls in Sport | Our first Sport Ireland Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport workshop was delivered on Monday 7 th of March in Buffers Alley GAA club to 14 participants from around the county. Our second course is organised for the 11 th of April in Oylegate Community Centre. |

Anna, from Sports Active presenting certificates to the TY students from Loreto College Wexford on completion of their Movement and Mobility programme in collaboration with Weightlifting Ireland



Our Couch to 3K ladies with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy taking part in the New Ross Parkrun as part of Women in Sport week 2022



ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) recently announced a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure 2022 – 2023, with a total budget of €35m for all coastal local authorities. Wexford County Council submitted an application on 9th March for 30 projects with an estimated construction cost of approx €1.5m. There are two further application deadlines during 2022 for more projects to be considered under this scheme. The project funding announcement will be made by the DAFM early April 2022.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Part XI planning application is being prepared for submission. The Coastal Engineer gave a presentation on the project to the March New Ross MD meeting.

Ports Past and Present: Rosslare Ports Fest is scheduled for 17th and 18th June in Rosslare Harbour, event details in progress – updates available on website. There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists and our project partners in University College Cork and two

Welsh universities. Regular updates and further information is available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

ISPS requirements for Marshmeadows Jetty ongoing, the adjoining site has been purchased by GreenBioFuels.

The regularization of the public lighting system on the Barrow has commenced.

Beaches –

Ballymoney – we are looking at options to improve accessibility to the blue flag beach.

Duncannon – bathing water quality has not reached the standard required for blue flag. Works are continuing on the Duncannon blue flag farming and community project and the construction of the wastewater treatment system.

Coast -

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers was appointed on 13th Dec 2021. Steering meetings with WCC, OPW and the consultants are now underway and will be held on a monthly basis. The process of collecting and reviewing data for the project has commenced.

Seaview, Kilmore: emergency works to protect the access road were completed in Jan 2022. Additional coastal protection works were carried out at the end of the public road. Environmental surveys are complete. Bathymetric surveys about to commence. This information will provide information for the planning application, to be submitted later in 2022.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage. A public notice for the foreshore was in the local and national papers on 9th February 2022; with comments / submissions to be received by 10th March 2022.

The cut at the lake is being carried out by National Parks and Wildlife Service in March 2022. This will lower the water level to help nesting birds on the islands in the lake.

Bike Stands; work is progressing to install approximately 50 bike stands at 13 beach/coast locations around the coast. This funding for these was received through the Active Travel Scheme.

Morriscastle Dune Restoration: The project involves installation of fencing and maram grass planting to restore and manage the dune system at main beach entrance. WCC received €11,475 in funding for this project under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding. Fencing works are completed on site; maram grass planting by the local community is scheduled for April 2022.

St Helen's Bay Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: Wexford County Council appointed consulting engineers to assess the erosion risk to assets including 23 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk.

Ballyhealy Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: in the process of appointing consulting engineers. This project involves assessing the erosion risk of 5 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk.

Grange, Fethard on Sea: works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion went to tender in Dec; due back mid Jan 2022. Tender recommendation and funding approval from Roads Dept is being finalised.

B. 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.

C. 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. Council 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 been completed on inspections for 2021. 91 inspections were carried out in 2021. Work has commenced on selecting areas and sites for Septic Tank Inspections in 2022. Wexford have a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. 29 have been completed to date with 35 booked in during March/April 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on a number of sites in order to close the Advisory Notices.

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

31 files have been closed for 2021 and 13 extension of time have been granted in 2022. There are currently 103 open files for the years 2016-2021.

18 Grant applications were paid in 2021. Eight new applications have been received this year to date, seven of which are paid and one is currently under review

| Year | Number of inspections | Pass | Fail | Outstanding | Closed in 2021 |
|------|-----------------------|------|------|-------------|----------------|
| 2019 | 156 | 48 | 108 | 22 | 31 |
| 2020 | 111 | 38 | 73 | 18 | 31 |
| 2021 | 91 | 24 | 67 | 42 | 25 |
| 2022 | 29 to date | 3 | 26 | 26 | 0 |

There are currently 14 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 5 of these are for hearing and 9 are for mention.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 99 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and are currently under review.

Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences will be dispatched in June. Reminder invoices were issued in October 2021. Invoicing for outstanding bad debt was issued in March 2022 and accounts adjusted where applicable.

5. Air Quality:

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a number of locations in the county.

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 its 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 May 2021) |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vehicle Refinishers | 22 | 21 | 8 |
| Petrol Vapour Emissions | 23 | 28 | 13 |
| Solvents | 4 | 2 | 0 |

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

Wexford County Council is co-chair of this group, along with Waterford County Council. The WG also has members from the EPA and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The WG will now produce the Guidance Document by end of 2021.

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).

6. Climate Action

Both the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan 2021 put additional responsibilities on Local Authorities in terms of Climate Action and moving to a climate neutral economy by 2050.

Local Authorities are identified as having a pivotal role to play in the decarbonisation transition. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Local Authority to prepare their own Climate Action Plan. The plan must cover both mitigation and adaptation measures and must be updated once every five years.

Wexford County Council is also tasked with developing a decarbonisation zone which will become the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the proposed Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford.

In terms of Energy efficiency Wexford County Council achieved a 39.7% energy saving by end of 2020. The target was 33%.

The Climate Action Plan 2021 sets an even more ambitious target of 50% energy efficiency by 2030 and an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51%.

7. Agriculture:

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

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

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

Wexford County Council completed odour monitoring assessments on a two separate sites in 2021 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 & Section 26 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 | 78 | 45 | 9 | 0 |
| 2022 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

8. 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 |

D. 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 2022 | Recycling out (End February) 2021 (t) | Recycling out (End February)2022 (t) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Glass bottles | | 706 | 622 |
| Aluminium Cans | | 19 | 16 |
| Total | 109 | 725 | 638 |

Household Recycling Centres –

| Summary of Activities | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WASTE CATEGORY | Enniscorthy | | New Ross | | Holmestown | | Gorey | |
| | Recycling out Jan- Feb 2021 (t) | Recycling out Jan- Feb 2022 (t) | Recycling out Jan-Feb 2021 (t) | Recycling out Jan-Feb 2022(t) | Recycling out Jan- Feb2021 | Recycling out Jan - Feb 2022 | Recycling out Jan -Feb 2021 | Recycling out Jan-Feb 2022 |
| Total Recycling out | 104 | 105 | 114 | 109 | 133 | 135 | 89 | 86 |
| Total Domestic Waste in | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 172 | 360 | N/A | N/A |
| Daily Average Customers Jan-Feb | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 |
| | 63 | 64 | 113 | 118 | 101 | 116 | 89 | 83 |

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

| Activity | <i>To end Feb 2021</i> | <i>Feb 2022</i> | <i>To end Feb 2022</i> | % +/_ |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups | 589 | 156 | 426 | -28% |
| <i>Gorey *</i> | | <i>42</i> | | |
| <i>Enniscorthy *</i> | | <i>59</i> | | |
| <i>Wexford *</i> | | <i>28</i> | | |
| <i>New Ross*</i> | | <i>18</i> | | |
| <i>Rosslare</i> | | <i>9</i> | | |
| Total Bring Site Inspections | 1,497 | 709 | 1,571 | +5% |
| <i>Gorey</i> | | <i>177</i> | | |
| <i>Enniscorthy</i> | | <i>172</i> | | |
| <i>Wexford</i> | | <i>236</i> | | |
| <i>New Ross</i> | | <i>101</i> | | |
| <i>Rosslare</i> | | <i>23</i> | | |
| Total Ringbuoy Inspections | 2,676 | 1,338 | 2,676 | 0% |
| <i>Gorey</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>398</i> | | |
| <i>Enniscorthy *</i> | | | | |
| <i>Wexford*</i> | <i>South</i> | <i>940</i> | | |
| <i>New Ross*</i> | | | | |
| Other Works | 805 | 626 | 1140 | +42% |
| <i>Gorey</i> | | <i>108</i> | | |
| <i>Enniscorthy</i> | | <i>180</i> | | |
| <i>Wexford</i> | | <i>201</i> | | |
| <i>New Ross</i> | | <i>84</i> | | |
| <i>Rosslare</i> | | <i>53</i> | | |

4. New Recycling Items

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

5. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have eighteen Clean Soil and Stone sites in operation; nine 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 67 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County. There is also three new applications and one renewal application in the process.

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 2022 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,698 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

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

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

E. 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.

| Total fixed penalty notices issued | TOTAL FOR 2021 | TOTAL FOR 2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued) | 199 | 50 |
| Fines Paid in Full● | 69 | 11 |
| Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out* | 71 | 37 |
| Successful Prosecutions** | 15 | 6 |
| Legal Proceedings In Progress | 61 | 66 |
| Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings) | €10,220 | €1,490.00 |

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

January 2022: We have had one successful waste management case under section 18 of the Act with a €250 fine awarded and €550 in legal costs and one litter case whereby €250 fine was awarded with €250 in legal costs.

February 2022: We had five successful cases, one under the Litter Management Act with a fine of €350 euro and €250 in legal costs along with 4 successful cases under the Waste Presentation bye-laws 2018 where we were awarded a total of €400 in fines and €1400 in legal costs.

March 2022: Gorey District Court cases were not heard on the day due to courtroom timeframes and will be heard in April. There were no cases for hearing in Wexford District Court this month.

Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2022

| | Fines Issued | Court | Reports |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 2022 | 23 | 22 | 481 |
| 2021 | 100 | 19 | 2721 (down 15%) |
| 2020 | 213 | 20 | 3187 (up 15%) |
| 2019 | 341 | 13 | 2758 (down 9%) |
| 2018 | 324 | 22 | 3050 (up 15%) |
| 2017 | 218 | 27 | 2651 (Up 12%) |
| 2016 | 274 | 17 | 2,354 (up 22%) |
| 2015 | 242 | 17 | 1,927 (up 11%) |
| 2014 | 154 | 17 | 1,732 (up 10%) |
| 2013 | 140 | 15 | 1,571 (up 21%) |
| 2012 | 182 | 16 | 1,292 (down 3%) |
| 2011 | 209 | 17 | 1,329 |
| 2010 | 370 | 27 | 1,338 |

F.GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. A 'Members' Portal' was also added in December 2020 to the DASH system.

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

| | Jan – Dec 2017 | Jan – Dec 2018 | Jan to Dec 2019 | Jan to Dec 2020 | Jan to Dec 2021 | Jan- March 2022 |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Incidents | 3600 | 4609 | 4749 | 4999 | 5136 | 1184 |
| Closed | 3526 | 4563 | 4002 | 3999 | 3747 | 829 |
| Closure Rate | 98% | 99% | 84% | 80% | 73% | 70% |

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 (to 31-12-21) | 2022 |
|---------------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Dogs collected | 532 | 429 | 67 |
| Dogs reclaimed | 127 | 133 | 12 |
| Dogs re-homed/transferred | 373 | 267 | 45 |
| Dogs put to sleep | 32 | 29 | 8 |
| Dog Fines | 5 | 18 | 0 |

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

To date in 2022 three horses have been in-pounded and one rehomed.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: Applications for 1st flags on the theme Litter & Waste must be submitted to An Taisce by 1st March. All green school renewal applications and assessments must be completed and submitted to An Taisce by April 1st.

School Workshops: Biodiversity and Leave No Trace workshops are being organised in schools. In total 10 schools will participate in the Leave No Trace and 20 schools in Biodiversity. It has been extremely difficult to timetable all schools due to current pressures on schools. The Leave no Trace workshops explore the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and highlight the key impacts facing Ireland's environment such as dog fouling and littering, and how these impacts can be minimised through the Leave No Trace programme.

Biodiversity workshops are for both primary and secondary and delivered in a manner to suit the school's Covid policy either in-person, online or fully outdoors. Projects range from Biodiversity Bootcamps to Pollinator Projects, Bird Blitzes to Treemendous Trees! Workshops can be tailored to the needs of each school.

Circular Fashion Workshop:

Textile awareness including consumption and disposal will feature significantly in the 2022 national and regional work programme. The Regional Waste Management Office have funded Circular Fashion Ireland, to deliver 1 workshop per County to a second level school.

Trees for Wexford Campaign: The Trees for Wexford Campaign received 154 applications. Trees were distributed to groups on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February from Holmestown Household recycling Centre. This year the scheme distributed 539 trees, 13,500 saplings. In total since 2014 71,957 trees / saplings have been distributed to voluntary groups.



National Tree Week: National Tree Week takes place from 20th March to 26th March 2022 and the theme is "More forests for a greener future".

Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups will continue in 2022. 1331 community cleans ups were supported in 2021.

National Spring Clean: An Táisce have opened registrations for National Spring Clean.

Sustainable Gardening Course: This 5 week online course took place on Tuesday mornings from 1st February until 1st March. Due to unprecedented demand and the course filling up in less than 24 hours a second course is being run and is also full.

Tidy Towns: A series of tidy Towns online talks / presentations are being arranged for April and May. Themes will include Biodiversity, Sustainable waste/ Sustainable Development Goals/ Climate Action and litter management.

Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN): Funding was sought and approved for water refill dispenser at Blue Flag beaches. It is hoped that these will be installed before the bathing season commences.

Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: The 'Bag It Bin It' will be reinforced by a social media campaign to run from early March. The campaign is set to firmly emphasize that dog fouling is your responsibility as a dog owner. The campaign will address a range of issues surrounding dog fouling, from its effect on the public who use our streets, parks and beaches, to attitudes to cleaning up as dog owners, from health issues to civic pride. The campaign will reach across social media and local community groups and Tidy Towns groups will be asked to share images on social media.



Green Dog Walker: The Green Dog Walker Campaign is being promoted and registrations are through the website.



LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

April 2022

LIBRARY SERVICE

New National Library Computer System

A new Library Management System, Spydus has been adopted by library services nationwide. Members can now better manage their library accounts online, browse a catalogue of 12 million items, and reserve items to borrow.

Launched on March 29th, the new system has many improved features.

- Members can easily manage their reading lists and order items to borrow.
- The catalogue offers recommendations to readers as well as themed bookshelves and links to useful resources.
- Members can reserve eBooks and eAudiobooks as well as physical books in one searchable catalogue.
- Library membership can be renewed online for the first time.
- The new system has a new look and works great on mobile phones and tablets.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Wexford Library Service is reaching out to Ukrainian families newly arrived in Wexford to let them know of the free services that are on offer in Wexford Libraries. These services include:

- Free broadband, WiFi and computers in all Wexford Libraries.
- Access to printers, 3D printers and photocopiers in all our libraries.
- Tablets may be borrowed for use in all our libraries.
- Online English-language lessons from Beginner to Advanced level
- Borrow books, audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs, computer games and more free from our libraries. We're ordering Ukrainian-language books for all age groups, from children to adult and Ukrainian/English and English/Ukrainian dictionaries, plus Ukrainian phrasebooks.
- Access items and apps for children and young people with additional needs from all our libraries .
- Ebooks that you can access anywhere, at any time, on any device, and all for free.
[Borrowbox](#) – has a great range of digital books and digital audiobooks, including a small selection of Russian-language titles, mostly suited to teenagers and children. A selection of Ukrainian-language titles will be available shortly.
- [PressReader](#) – has 1,000s of newspapers and magazines including a selection of Ukrainian and Russian language publications.

- [Universal Class website](#) and use your library card number to register for a free account Access over 500 courses available with tutors who will oversee your learning.
- Events and activities and other resources
 - Study spaces
- Parent, baby and toddler groups for rhymes and stories
- Book clubs for children and adults
- Meeting Spaces
- Work support. We offer an area to research, work and learn new skills in Wexford Town Library area with free onsite access to lots of databases with information on businesses, services and markets. You can find information on getting a job, setting up a business and much more.

World Library and Information Congress, Dublin July 2022

The largest worldwide conference of librarians will take place in Dublin in July of this year with over 1,000 delegates expected to attend. Wexford Library Service has been selected to present a poster at the conference on its STAR collection of sensory toys and assistive resources which was introduced in 2021.

Footfall

Footfall increased to branch libraries in March as the in-person event programme for adults and children was re-established. Almost 20,000 visits to libraries in the county were recorded during March.

LITERATURE

On Tuesday March 8th, best Selling Author Caroline Busher delivered a special International Women's Day event discussing the Irish women who fought for the right to vote. The talk centred on the tactics that inspirational women used to get their voices heard. Caroline also read from her book Votes for Women! The Irish Women's Suffrage Movement. The event was aimed at 8-12 year olds and their parents.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

As part of Healthy Ireland at your Library, Mental Health Ireland held a series of webinars to promote and enhance mental health and wellbeing and to create a culture of respect and support, especially when mental health is challenged.

They focussed on educating and training people within workplace and communities around different aspects of mental health, providing them with the knowledge and tools to enhance their own mental health.

The series of webinars were as follows:

- The five ways to Wellbeing online workshop with Gina Delaney.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing online workshop with Gina Delaney.
- Practical Self Care online workshop with Gina Delaney.

BUSINESS

National Enterprise Week took place from the 7th - 11th of March 2022. Mintel's Demystifying Market Research was an online event offering a look at some of the basic tenets of market research, explaining them in terms that new entrepreneurs and start-ups could digest easily. This workshop offered an overview of primary and secondary research, techniques and information relating to sampling and demographic planning through the lens of Mintel's own day-to-day research. This event took place online.

The Library continues to promote Work Matters Business eResources online in the March e-mail newsletter, giving particular mention to business and employment eBooks and eAudiobooks on BorrowBox, and also business training courses on Universal Class. Customers have also been advised that they can email their local Library in advance with their business queries for Mintel and Business.ie

LITERACY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

As part of STEPS Engineers Week 2022, The Library held sessions for schools on Wednesday March 9th with anyone4science. The two workshops gave school children an opportunity to make a force meter, learn about fair and reliable testing and test how strong jelly sweets are in the fantastic Forces workshop. They also learned about Bioengineering, hand anatomy and used this knowledge to make a working artificial hand model.

World Book Day took place on Thursday March 3rd, and across the week schools from the community visited the Libraries to avail of guided tours, and information on the various resources available to them as members. During these visits children who were not previously members joined the library and others, whose membership may have lapsed or had lost their library cards were able to reactivate their memberships and be issued with new library cards.

Weekly Toddler Storytime and Baby Rhyme Time continued in-person throughout March and continued to be immensely popular, with two Baby Rhymetime sessions taking place each Thursday morning, this included special Engineers week and Seachtain na Gaeilge elements specially tailored to the young audience.

COMMEMORATION

Decade of Centenaries Community Grants Scheme

Wexford County Council, in association with the Decade of Centenaries Programme of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, wishes to develop a programme of community projects to mark the Decade of Centenaries in 2022. Community funding will be available for local groups and local cultural and sporting institutions throughout County Wexford to play their part by developing a project to mark the centenary of historical events in their local area.

The funding will support local and community organisers to develop projects or events that commemorate the Decade of Centenaries: the War of Independence; the Civil War; labour unrest; social changes; cultural life in the 1920s, local responses to Dáil Éireann; the truce; partition; local connections with the wider world and new political representation at a local level. Funding can also be provided to allow advance planning of commemorative initiatives for 2023.

The terms of the scheme are in accordance with the guidance of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations. All initiatives and activities funded from this scheme must adhere to the public health advice and guidance, laid down by the HSE and the Government, with regard to COVID-19.

We invite heritage societies, local historians, communities and artists etc., to make applications. **The closing date for applications is Friday 29th April 2022 at 4 p.m.**

Launch of booklet for schools on the War of Independence and the Civil War in County Wexford

Wexford County Council's Cathaoirleach Cllr Barbara Ann Murphy launched "**County Wexford War of Independence and Civil War: an educational resource**" in Wexford Library, Mallin Street, Wexford on Friday, 1st April 2022. The booklet charts the events and timeline of the War of Independence and the Civil War in County Wexford. It is a resource for young people from 4th class in primary school to 3rd year in secondary school. Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Barbara-Anne Murphy introduced the booklet on the day, to an enthusiastic audience. This was followed by a talk by Historian in residence, Barry Lacey to a class of 1st year students from CBS Wexford.

The booklet was researched and written by local historian, Monica Crofton and edited by Executive Librarian, Hazel Percival and Library Assistant, Michael Dempsey. It was designed by Bailey Design. The booklet will be distributed to all schools in County Wexford in the coming weeks. It will also be available in our library branches with an additional electronic version on the Wexford County Council website.

ARCHIVES

Archives – March 2022

Collections management

In addition to 39 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 5 researchers visited the Archive during March. Research topics included: archival material on the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in Enniscorthy in 1916; research in the Billy Colfer archive for a forthcoming exhibition; research through the minutes of Enniscorthy Board of Guardians to determine the level of anti-vaccination sentiment in County Wexford during the period 1896-1920; research through the admissions and discharges registers for St Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy to establish how patients were classified on admission to the hospital (1867-1935) for a forthcoming publication.

Acquisition

A large album of B&W engineering photographs was deposited in the county archive by a historian from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick depicting progress images of the various stages of construction of the Barrow and Suir viaducts (1904-07). This represents a very valuable resource for researchers, particularly those engaged in railway history and engineering research. It is proposed to digitise the volume and make the images available online in due course.

Digitisation

The county archive's digitisation programme progressed during March with the digital capture of three volumes of minutes for New Ross Board of Guardians (May 1879-May 1881).

As part of the county archive's contribution under the Decade of Centenaries, a training logbook belonging to Richard Hanrahan was digitised. Richard from North Street, New Ross was Adjutant of 'A' Company (New Ross) of the 1st Battalion, South Wexford Brigade, IRA during the 1921-23 period. The volume contains his handwritten orders to the various ranks within 'A' Company to report to Rathgarogue camp for training purposes and for duty work.

The above volumes are now accessible on the county archive's website

www.wexfordcountyarchive.com

Outreach

The Archivist facilitated a visit of the chairperson of the Irish Lace Guild to the Mount Carmel monastery in New Ross to view and assess the historic lace collection held by the Sisters.

ARTS

ArtLinks- Artists' Bursaries ArtLinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the Southeast Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford art Departments. The closing date for the Artist Bursary Award was the 21st of February 2022. We received the highest number of applications from Wexford artists to date and the highest in all the ArtLinks counties with 47 Wexford applications. All applications are independently assessed in March and competition was very high. 17 artists from Wexford were awarded small bursaries (ranging from €1,000 – €2,000) out of a total fund of €27,000. Artforms include visual arts, music, literature, theatre, and street arts.

ArtLinks Collaborative Award: An open call took place in March 2022 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 2022-23. This award is worth €10,000 and is funded through the four partner counties . Closing date for applications is 19th April 2022.

Small Arts Festivals 2022

23 applications received in total for 2022. The selection panel met in March 2022 and with a total award fund of €26,000. Again, this is a very competitive fund. 12 Wexford based small arts festival received awards for 2022 with grants between €1,000 - €3,000 max. This grant scheme aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals and experimental events throughout Wexford County.

The Creative Hub

Wexford County Council in association with Wexford Arts Centre invited applications for two units available (Unit 5 & Unit 7) artists/creatives workspaces in the Creative Hub for 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023. All artists selected and confirmed in March 2022. All 9 Units are currently rented to artists/ craft makers & creative groups supporting over 25 artists over the next year.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary Open Call 2022

An open call was issued for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Award which funds two residencies in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. Each residency accommodates one artist and covers all board and lodging for 2 weeks plus the use of a studio if necessary and a stipend of €300 towards expenses. Residencies must be taken within a 12-month period from June 2022 subject to availability. Closing date is 4th April.

Creative Community Programme – Open Call

Applications opened in March to all community groups that are members of Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) 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 with one artist from our artist panel. 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 11th April 2022.

Making and Momentum: In Conversation with Eileen Gray Exhibition opens at 6.00 pm, on Friday 1st April 2022 in Wexford County This touring exhibition was launched in Eileen Gray's villa in France in 2021 and toured to the National Museum of Ireland and is curated by award winning Wexford artist and designer, Richard Malone. The exhibition ambitiously places equal importance on the artist, artisan and maker and pays homage to legendary international designer and architect Eileen

Gray. As part of this exhibition, Wexford County Council in partnership with Richard Malone and supported by Creative Ireland, will host a programme of workshops, talk and events for the general public and various communities of interest to engage with contemporary craft in Wexford focusing on work that is inspired by Eileen Gray's legacy during April and May.

Wexford Film and TV Coordinator Wexford County Council appointed a new Wexford Film and TV Coordinator Al Butler after an open tender call out in January 2021. Al started his role as Full-Time Film Co-ordinator at end of March 2022 and will work through the Arts and Economic Development departments. The aim of this role is to develop film in County Wexford which increases indigenous and international film & TV production and provide local support and training to new and existing film and screen sector in County Wexford. The Co-ordinator will work closely with the Screen Wexford Steering Committee which will consist of representatives from Wexford County Council, funders, the film and TV industry. The Co-ordinator will oversee the development of a 3 year "Screen Wexford" Strategic Development Plan with Screen Wexford Steering committee in consultation with key stakeholders.

Screen Wexford- The Peggy Walsh Award for Female Camera Talent

This new mentorship programme celebrates the legacy of Wexford camera woman Peggy Walsh and her incredible film archive showcased at the Kennedy Summer School in New Ross in 2021. Its aim is to support a Wexford female cinematographer/ camera operator by mentoring from a national film industry expert and an award of €2,000. New Ross film maker Therese Dalton was selected as the awardee for 2022. In addition, Therese will receive €1,000 in support from 24-7 Dramakit rental company as well as a sponsored annual membership with Women in Film & Television Ireland who promote greater representation of women on screen and behind the camera

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 3 (LLPPS) – February - June 2022) Wexford County Council Arts Department is overseeing the implementation of the LLPS scheme funded through the Department of 'Arts, Culture Tourism' via all local authorities nationwide. The aim of this once off scheme is to provide up to 100% of costs for events which had been cancelled, postponed or curtailed for large-scale commercial panto operators. Ongoing work is continuing with the five Municipal Districts: Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross & Rosslare. A panel of music/ events promoters has been compiled from Round 1 & 2 and they will continue to deliver events for Round 3. Each of the districts have been allocated €25,000. Plans to date include 'Back Together' which will be hosted by Rosslare Municipal District and 'Touring the District' which will be hosted by New Ross Municipal District.

The Art Ability Programme – Assistant Artist Open Call

Wexford County Council (WCC) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) invited applications from artists residing in County Wexford and working visual arts, music and creative writing for a new initiative within the Art Ability Programme, an assistant artist, the primary aim of which is to provide an opportunity for artists to develop their skills and experience in arts and health and participatory arts practice through hands on experience working with the lead artists in a professional arts and health care environment. In addition, mentoring and training will be provided to the assistant artist. Closing date is **Thursday 31st March 2022**

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.

Ongoing Primary School Programmes: 22 primary schools to date have reaffirmed their work with Music Generation Wexford and have committed to developing their programme within the school over this academic year. Most of these schools maintained their works over the previous eighteen months, either through video, online or in person.

Gorey Youth Jam In March 2022 Music Generation Wexford in partnership with Gorey Youth Needs have recommenced a drop in on the night (Friday) for young people to play, create and perform music together with musicians Diarmuid Comerford & Karen Dunbar

Yellow Bellows has started in the Gorey Youth Needs, Mary Ward Lane, Gorey, and will be held every week. This is a Wexford County Singing Group for young people aged 12-18 years. The young people explore singing and performing dynamic songs in a range of styles including rock & pop with Musician educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Mount Carmel Lace project

Creative Ireland 2022 has commenced a project based on the Mount Carmel lace collection. The Sisters of Mount Carmel in New Ross successfully created an industry for the sole employment of local girls in 1822. The New Ross lace was supplied for papal coronation robes, to the British Royal Family and to the Empress Elizabeth of Austria. The aim of this project is to produce a catalogue and hold a public event of the Mount Carmel lace collection for everyone to enjoy. This facilitates local awareness about previous inhabitants and the highly skilled craft they produced that became known worldwide. A public event will be held in New Ross in late autumn to launch the lace catalogue and to highlight the importance of this unique craft archive in the county.

Re-Imagining Enniscorthy –

Wexford County Council's Arts Department, Environment & Climate Action Team & Culture Team supported by Creative Ireland and the Per Cent for Art Programme are delighted to announce artist El Harrington has been commissioned a public art programme to take place in Enniscorthy, following a limited competition. This public art programme will address the overarching theme of Decarbonisation and will have public art outcomes. El alongside a local assistant artist Ciara Roche, will work in partnership with Enniscorthy Community Allotments, Sustainable Enniscorthy and Wexford Local development, on a variety of initiatives with local community groups, promoting biodiversity, food growth and greening initiatives in Enniscorthy over the coming year. The aim of this public art commission is to raise awareness and encourage behaviour change around decarbonisation, biodiversity and related issues amongst local communities in this area, in real and tangible ways through creative processes. The project will run over a 12-month period from April 2022- March 2023 and is hoped will have a legacy.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties

We completed 11 civic duties

1. 22nd February, Wexford Athletics, Junior Relays
2. 3rd March, Wexford Credit Union Night Run
3. 6th March, Wexford Athletics, Novice Road Race, New Ross
4. 6th March, Gorey Community Schools, Showjumping
5. 13th March, Naomh Eanna, Half Marathon
6. 13th March, Gusserane Coiste Na Nog, Tintern Trails
7. 17th March, Wexford St Patricks Day Parade
8. 17th March, New Ross, St Patricks Day Parade
9. 17th March, Gorey, St Patricks Day Parade
10. 20th March, Wexford Athletics, Road Race, Kilmore
11. 26th March, Barntown School Walk, Train Run

Weekly Training

Weekly training is continuing in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.

Patient Transports

We have completed 10 patient transports to medical appointments to hospitals from mostly elderly people to attend appointments.

Ukrainian Refugee Supports

We have provided supports in Rosslare Europort helping with Ukrainian refugees arriving by boat from Cherbourg. Supports included tea and coffee, distribution of Antigen tests and helping received cars off the boat and sort into holding areas for immigration.

1. 15th March, 12 Volunteers
2. 17th March, 17 volunteers
3. 19th March, 9 Volunteers
4. 21st March, 8 Volunteers
5. 24th March, 12 Volunteers
6. 26th March, 9 Volunteers
7. 28th March, 8 Volunteers
8. 31st March, 8 Volunteers

FIRE SERVICE

Call statistics

| Incident Type | Calls March 2022 | Calls to date 2022 | Calls to this period 2021 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Chimney fire (WCC / Private) | 2 / 7 (9) | 39 | 62 |
| Domestic fire (WCC / Private) | 3 / 8 (11) | 23 | 16 |
| Road Traffic Accident | 13 | 35 | 10 |
| Industrial fire | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Commercial fire | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Assembly fire | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Agricultural fire | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Motor Vehicles | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Forest/bog/grass etc | 17 | 20 | 15 |
| Rubbish | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Non-fire rescues | 5 | 15 | 20 |
| False alarms – good intent | 22 | 58 | 49 |
| Malicious false alarms | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 11 | 18 | 11 |
| Total | 94 | 226 | 206 |

Fire calls by brigade to date

| INCIDENT TYPE | WEXFORD | GOREY | ENNISCORTHY | NEW ROSS | BUNCLODY | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------|
| CHIMNEY FIRE | 10 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 39 |
| DOMESTIC FIRE | 13 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 23 |
| ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT | 10 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 35 |
| INDUSTRIAL FIRE | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| COMMERCIAL FIRE | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| ASSEMBLY FIRE | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| AGRICULTURAL FIRE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| MOTOR VEHICLES | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC | 3 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 20 |
| RUBBISH | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| NON-FIRE RESCUES | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT | 24 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 58 |
| MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| TOTALS | 82 | 47 | 50 | 33 | 14 | 226 |

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Applications received in March 2022: | 13 |
| Number of Applications received to date: | 31 |
| Number of Applications to this period 2020: | 26 |

Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2021

The 2021 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts (AFS) is now complete and is included as a separate item on the agenda for the April meeting for review and consideration by members. The 2021 Accounts, like the 2020 Accounts, include transactions relevant to ongoing government covid subventions and various business supports grants that were in place since the onset of the Covid Pandemic in early 2020. The AFS is accompanied by an AFS report which presents an overview of the outturns and gives details of the exceptional items and other matters that informed the 2021 outturns and the preparation of the annual accounts for 2021. The statutory deadline, 31st March, for the completion of the 2021 Accounts has been achieved.

Capital Programme 2022 – 2024

The 3 year capital programme, 2022 – 2024 is included as a separate item on the agenda for the consideration and approval of members. The programme sets out projected spending on Capital Projects over the 3 years of the programme and has been compiled on the basis that the identified funding for the projects will be secured during the term of the programme. The programme is also subject to review and revision annually.

Audit Committee

The next meeting is schedule for the 15th June and will include consideration of the 2021 Annual Financial Statement and financial performance for 2021.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2022.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**