



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**December 2020**

## Economic Development & Planning:

### Economic Development

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#### CSC Global 75 Jobs Announcement

Wexford County Council was delighted to welcome the jobs announcement by the IDA of 75 new jobs in Gorey with CSC Global, which provides financial, corporate administration and depositary services to global alternative asset managers and capital markets. The establishment by CSC Global of its European Centre of Excellence in North Wexford is a vote of confidence to the economic policy of the local authority to provide strategic infrastructure to provide the right ecosystem for national and international investments. The news follows on from the location of OPUS financial services last year to Enniscorthy.

#### Wexford New Skills Mapping Innovation

Wexford County Council launched a new initiative in partnership with Abodoo aimed at mapping the talent and skills of those living and working in the county. The aim of the service is to develop ongoing live skills mapping, aligning Wexford's growing international business profile with the talent the county has to offer. The initiative will leverage Abodoo's technology in order to identify the skills that exist within the county, and enable greater investment in those areas that will attract employment.

The initiative commencing in December was launched by Cllr. Ger Carthy, Chairman of Wexford County Council to build on the local authority strategic job creation pillars of financial services, technology, life sciences and the green economy.

#### Covid 19 Business Supports €25 million grant aid approved



The Economic Department implemented a range of covid 19 business supports to assist SME's impacted by the pandemic. To date **5,449 grant applications** have been received from enterprises across the range of covid 19 supports in the Economic business support unit. Currently **5,051** micro enterprises have been approved **€25 million** in grant aid under covid 19 supports in County Wexford.

#### Restart Grant Schemes

The combined restart grant schemes to assist commercial rateable properties operated from 22 May to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. To date Wexford County Council has approved **€22 million** to support business reopen and processed **4,452** applications under the scheme.

**Table 1 Total Applications under both Restart Grant Schemes 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

<b>Total Applications Received</b>	<b>Total Applications Approved</b>	<b>Total Applications Paid</b>
<b>4,452</b>	<b>4,162</b>	<b>€20,437,494</b>

**Table 2. Restart Grant Plus (RGP)**

DATE 26 November 2020		22-May-2020 to 26-Nov-2020	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:		WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
RESTART GRANT SCHEME STATISTICS			
	NUMBER:	VALUE:	
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	1	€2,000.00	
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	534	€1,654,189.88	
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,526	€5,874,403.86	
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	127	€0.00	
Total Number of Applications	2,188	€7,530,593.74	

DATE 26 November 2020	5/22/2020 12:00:00 AM to 11/26/2020 12:00:00 AM	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME STATISTICS		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	1	€4,000.00
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	13	€102,903.51
APPLICATIONS PAID	2,087	€14,563,091.76
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	163	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	2,264	€14,669,995.27

### **Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant**

The Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant aims to support a business of 2 to 10 employees who could not avail of other covid 19 supports such as the restart grant. The grant is between €500 to €1,000 and closed 13<sup>th</sup> November. The LEO office received 15 applications.

### **Expansion of Trading Online Voucher Scheme (TOV's) under Covid 19**

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme has extended the closing date from 30<sup>th</sup> September to the end of the year. The level of support is funding to 90% funding to a maximum of €2,500. To date LEO Wexford have received 482 applications and **437 enterprises** received financial support with the LEO office allocating over **€1 million** to date to businesses to enhance their digital capacity and e commerce opportunities.

### **Client Stimulus Fund**

The Local Enterprise Office Client Stimulus Scheme is funded through the July Stimulus package. The purpose of this scheme is to sustain eligible manufacturing and internationally traded services businesses through the provision of a cash stimulus to support operational costs and enhance business. This award of funding will be an immediate cash contribution towards the cost of keeping a business operational in 2020 and can be used to defray ongoing costs, for example, utilities, insurance, refurbishment or for measures to ensure employee and customer safety. The intention is that the funding will provide LEO clients with a platform from which it can sustain and grow thereby

## Wexford Welcomes you Safely Campaign to Support Local

**WEXFORD Welcomes YOU SAFELY**

WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND THAT MEANS...

- Wear Masks** - Please wear your mask
- Avoid Coughs & Sneezes** - Please cover your mouth and nose
- Social Distancing** - Please keep 2m distance
- Popcorn Barriers** - Please use popcorn barriers
- 2 Step Distance** - Please use 2 step distance

Find out more at [www.wexfordwelcomesyou.ie](http://www.wexfordwelcomesyou.ie)

**Wexford County Council** | **City of Wexford Local Enterprise Office** | **Wexford Chamber of Commerce**

**WEXFORD Welcomes YOU SAFELY**

**OPEN**

**CALLING ALL WEXFORD RETAILERS!**

Knowing the challenges you are bravely facing we are supporting you with a training and marketing programme designed to drive footfall to County Wick's shops in time for Christmas shopping.

BONUS! online Covid-19 staff training and shop safety points of sale will be available for all participating retailers in the coming weeks. The register your interest by emailing: [info@wexfordnewross.co.uk](mailto:info@wexfordnewross.co.uk) ahead of the official launch next week.

SUPPORTED BY: **Wexford County Council** | **City of Wexford Local Enterprise Office** | **Wexford Chamber of Commerce**

**#WexfordTogether**

The initiative will also be promoted with outdoor broadcasts by South East Radio in each of the 4 main towns commencing with Gorey on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. In addition the LEO is promoting the National campaign **Look for Local** in Wexford promoting shoppers to support their local businesses and local jobs.

With 30 days and counting until Brexit, LEO Wexford are helping to prepare businesses by offering a series of webinars. The support webinars are structured and targeted at businesses who trade with the UK, Northern Ireland or via these two locations to other markets. It focuses on those businesses who export through these channels or have suppliers based in these locations and those who are paying or being paid in sterling to or from a UK/Northern Irish entity.




Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
 Local Enterprise Office

**Introducing**  
**FREE Brexit Support Webinars.**  
 A series of practical & informative webinars.  
*A LEO Wexford Business Support initiative.*



**November 25th, 2020:**  
 Supports to address & action Brexit in your business.

**November 26th, 2020:**  
 The Brexit costs & numbers to consider.

**December 9th, 2020:**  
 Brexit Supply Chain & Currency address.

**December 15th, 2020:**  
 Your new Brexit Market - The rest of the world.

**January 14th, 2021:**  
 Meet the business who has prepared.  
 - A Brexit Case study

**BOOK TODAY:**  
[www.localenterprise.ie/Wexford/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Wexford/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/)  
 or Tel: 053 9196022.


 Rialtas na hÉireann  
 Government of Ireland


 EUROPEAN UNION  
 EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
 DEVELOPMENT FUND


 Ireland's European Structural and  
 Investment Funds Programme  
 2014-2020  
 Co-funded by the Irish Government  
 and the European Union

The webinars are free to businesses and feature talks from high profile speakers including; Ray Ryan, Assistant Principal, Brexit Unit, Revenue, Deirdre Parkinson, Head of Marketing Channels at Microfinance Ireland, Brendan Byrne, Financial and Brexit Consultant, Simon McKeever, Chief Executive, Irish Exports Association, Mags Boland Murphy, Brexit Mentor Panel at Bofin Consultancy and John Boland of Premium Autos.

### Wexford LEO Women in Business Network

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, LEO Wexford relaunched the Women in Business Network which is a support mechanism to encourage and promote female entrepreneurship in County Wexford. The network meetings are being delivered online and the inaugural meeting facilitated members to gain insights from local entrepreneur Mary B Walsh of Ire Wel Pallets, Wells, Gorey, and from Bevin Mahon, Managing Director of Dublin-based DentalTech Group. A marketplace network has been organised for the December 10<sup>th</sup> to give members a platform for business women in the county to showcase their product or services in the run up to Christmas facilitated by Deirdre O'Flynn.

# Planning

## COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

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

### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 until 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

No. of valid applications	111
No. of invalid applications	15
Extension of Duration	4
Exempted Development Declaration	5

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020

until the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

No. of valid applications	1228
No. of invalid applications	161
Extension of Duration	30
Exempted Development Declaration	56

**Pre-Planning Applications**

In November, 2020 Wexford County Council developed a new online preplanning meeting request service which can be accessed through the council's website at [https://wexford-self.achieveservice.com/en/service/Pre Planning Meeting Request](https://wexford-self.achieveservice.com/en/service/Pre_Planning_Meeting_Request).

Numbers are as follows up until the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

No. of open pre-planning requests	48
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	425
Average waiting time to meeting	34 days

## Forward Planning

### Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Public consultation on the Draft Plan will end **at 4pm on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. As of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, 21 written submissions and observations have been received on the Draft Plan. Given that so many things that happen in the county are covered by the Plan, it is important that the public have their say. Notice of the Draft Plan has been published in local newspapers and on the Council's website. Notices has also been circulated to the PPN members, primary and post primary schools, infrastructure and transport providers and various other stakeholders from environmental, economic, education, social and community backgrounds. Social media platforms, such as the Council's website, Twitter and MapAlert, are being used to garner interest in, and to encourage the public to become engaged with the Draft Plan.

During Covid-Level 5 the plan was not available to view or borrow in public libraries, however it is again available to borrow from 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

The public are being encouraged to view the Draft Plan on the Council's user friendly Online Consultation Portal <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie>. Written submissions and observations can also be made via the portal, and the benefits of making a submission using the portal are that you can start your submission and complete later, indicate areas of interest on an interactive map, after submissions are published, easily query all consultation data and get notifications and updates about the consultation.

Hard copy written submissions can also be made and should be marked 'Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027' and addressed to 'Forward Planning, Planning Department, Block B, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93.



**E-mailed submissions and observations will not be accepted.** Written submissions and observations **must be received by 4pm on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

Copies of the Draft Plan may also be purchased from the Planning Department, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn as follows:

- Bundle A      Volumes 1-3      €100
- Bundle B      Volumes 4 -13      €100

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

Report for 21 October – 20 November as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website.
- 21 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 0 properties removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- 5 property owners conducted property improvement works as requested; properties will not be placed on Derelict Site Register.
- 5 Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- 0 Demolition Notice issued.
- 0 Dangerous Structure Notices issued.
- 30 Properties appraised as per Vacant Sites / Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015; 12 submitted to DOS for approval.
- 14 properties submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.

## **Building Control**

- Validated Commencement Notices Up to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 : 55
- Number of Building Control Inspections up to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020: 24
- Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion up to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020: 22
- Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts: 8

## **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020**

A total of twelve projects were awarded grants in the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in 2020 in County Wexford; however as with so many other things Covid -19 was to play havoc with the ability of the projects to be completed successfully. Four projects were withdrawn from the scheme and the grant of €79,000 was re-distributed among the remaining eight projects, within the limits of the scheme.

BHIS Ref	Structure	Original Grant	Reallocated	Total Grant
WX01	Ballysampson	€6,000.00	€0.00	€6,000.00
WX02	St. Mary's Church	€8,000.00	€4,000.00	€12,000.00
WX03	Craanford Cottage	€10,000.00	€4,500.00	€14,500.00
WX04	St.Ruane's Church	€6,000.00	€6,000.00	€12,000.00
WX05	Robinstown House	€6,000.00	€1,900.00	€7,900.00
WX08	Glasscarrig House	€5,000.00	€2,500.00	€7,500.00
WX10	Ballymore House	€4,500.00	€4,600.00	€9,100.00
WX11	Ballyteige Cottage	€10,000.00	€0.00	€10,000.00
		€55,500.00	€23,500.00	€79,000.00

St. Mary's Church, Newtownbarry



Doyles Public House and Residence, Clonamona, Craanford



At least 416 days of work was created through the BHIS 2020 in County Wexford and the total cost of all projects was over €164,500.00.

### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021**

The grant scheme for 2021 will be advertised at the end of November 2020. Applications for the schemes will be invited up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021. Wexford's allocation from the Department for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 has been increased to €94,800.

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-heritage/grants-for-protected-structures/wexford-county-council-grants-for-protected>

### **Historic Structures Fund 2020**

Wexford County Council was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund for works to stabilise Tellarought Castle in Terrarath, New Bawn, New Ross. There had been an increase in the rate of decline of the unique structure in recent years. All four elevations have now been fully repointed externally. Further works to the structure will be necessary in the future.

### **Historic Structures Fund 2021**

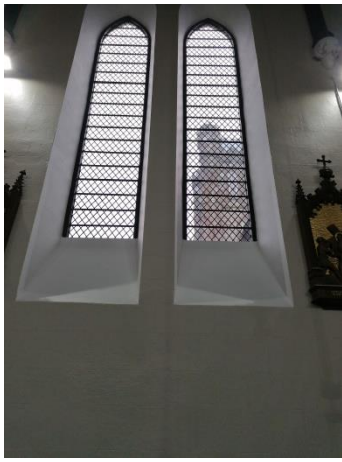
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<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-heritage/grants-for-protected-structures/wexford-county-council-grants-for-protected>

### **July Jobs Stimulus Package 2020**

St. Peter's College received a grant under the July Jobs Stimulus Package to complete the repairing of the leaded glass windows in the South elevation of the Pugin Chapel. The applicant stated that the Chapel is of national importance as one of the first Pugin projects in Ireland.





### Community Monuments Fund 2020

Wexford County Council was successful in obtaining grant funding totalling €39,587.00 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the following 3 projects: -

CMF Ref	Structure	Total Grant
CMF 20/1/49	St. Mary's, Bannow	€18,756.00
CMF 20/1/51	Ladys Island Church, Co. Wexford	€12,467.00
CMF 20/2/47	Barntown Castle, Wexford	€8,364.00
		€39,587.00

The conservation and survey works for 2 projects (St. Marys & Ladys Island) are now completed whilst the survey works and the Conservation Management Plan have been completed for Barntown Castle.

*Completed conservation works to upper level – St. Marys*

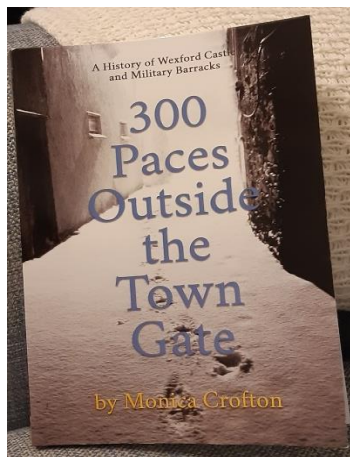


*Conservation works being undertaken on west-facing elevation at Ladys Island Church.*



## Heritage

The Planning Authority is pleased to have supported the publication of the new history of Wexford Castle and Barracks by Monica Crofton. This significant piece of research will provide a much needed resource for those who are interested in the history of Wexford Town. It is hoped that the book will be available for purchase before Christmas.



## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 is as follows:

- Live Cases 294
- Cases Opened 16 (monthly)
- Cases Closed 17 (monthly)

## Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 is as follows:

- Properties advertised on websites 63
- No. of warning letters served 18
- Cases Closed 8

## Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 up to and including 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, totals **84**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	13	3	1	9	0
Gorey	20	2	2	16	0
New Ross	9	0	1	7	1
Wexford	34	1	0	33	0
Rosslare	8	0	0	8	0
<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1</b>

## Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	110

## Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park:** Works on the park are substantially completed and the Park was opened to the public on 15/06/2020. Public lighting is now operational. Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The design phase is on-going, with works expected to commence on site in early 2021. The works are expected to be complete by Q2 2021.

The official opening, scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> 2020, has been postponed until further notice due to Covid restrictions.

**Crescent Quay:** Works are substantially completed with minor snagging items currently being addressed.

**Carrigfoyle - Trails:** Works are nearly complete on Phase 1 (access road, car park, trails and services) and substantial completion is expected in November following closure of the site in April/May due to CoVid19.

**Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1:** Works are substantially completed with snagging items still to be addressed. An application will be made to IW to take the on-site pumping station in charge.

**Gorey Town Park:** Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May 2019 and has been impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions. Work re-commenced on site in mid-May. It is now expected that the external works will be completed by January 2021, and the building works in February 2021. Tenders have been received for the playground equipment with the installation to commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

**South East Greenway:** Part VIII planning for the project is complete and a Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, and Waterford City and County Council, to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority on behalf of the other Councils. The initial allocation which was approved in June 2019 has been increased and funding of €9m for 2021 and €6.5m for 2022 was announced by the Minister this month. Tendering for the pre-construction rail and sleeper lifting contract was completed in June/July 2020. The Works Access Licence to progress the rail and sleeper lifting contract was received from CIE in July and the rail lifting work commenced in August and is expected to be complete by December 2020. The railway line was formally abandoned in September 2020 and a second Works Licence for the construction of the Greenway has been received from CIE.

The detailed design is progressing well and tender documents for first phases are expected to be completed in Nov 2020 for DTTAS review and issue in December. Tendering for subsequent works packages is programmed for 2021. Phase 1 works are expected to start in March 2021. A Leader funding application is currently being prepared for the interpretation and animation of the entire route.

**Trinity Wharf:** Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is due in the coming months. The tender documents for the proposed access road and new automated railway level crossing were advertised on the 13th October 2020 with works due to commence in early 2021. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured to date for the scheme under the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for URDF projects and a further application, in response to a 2<sup>nd</sup> URDF Call for Applications, was submitted at the end of May 2020.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. A design team was appointed in April 2019, the preliminary design has been completed and Part VIII approval was obtained on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Detailed designs and tender documents for the works contract are complete and

tenders for works were received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. The tender assessment is on-going. Works are expected to commence on site in early January 2021.

**High Hill, New Ross:** The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, that is currently derelict, that connects John Street and the town centre with the 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. A plan for the development of a new amenity/public space at High Hill, in keeping with the Norman history of the town, was developed by New Ross MDC. A Part VIII application was approved for the preliminary design in July 2019 and the detailed design and works tender documents have been completed. The tender document for works was advertised in August and 2 tenders were received by the closing date of 24/09/2020. This tender process has now being terminated without an award of contractor, as the tendered sum significantly exceeds the budget allocation for the proposed works. A tender review is currently underway and retendering of the works should be advertised in December. An application for RRDF funding for this project, as part of the New Ross tourism project application, was successful.

**Kilmore Quay Link Road:** Part VIII approval was obtained in February 2019. Tenders for construction works have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works commenced on site in November 2020. Completion is expected by end April 2021

**Monck Street Enhancement Scheme:** Tenders were invited for design services for improving the streetscape on Monck St. in late March 2020 and tenders were received on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Roadplan Consulting have been appointed with works planned to commence on site in Q2 2021.

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

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide engineering services to Wexford County Council for the removal of the oil tank structures on the quay and the development of public realm works on the site. Site investigation works and inspections of the site and tanks are complete.

A contractor has been recommended for the Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) and contract signing planned early December 2020 following the stand still period. A Part XIII Planning application will be lodged in Q1 2021 for the development of the public realm site

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

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

The closing date for tenders for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of the required applications for planning and statutory consents has been extended to 22/12/2020 with an appointment early in 2021.

The ground investigation works were completed in late October / early November. The preliminary design and bridge options report will be completed.

An application for URDF funding was submitted for the project under the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for funding in May 2020.

**John Street Building Regeneration Project:** WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A CPO drawing and schedule, for the acquisition of the necessary lands, is currently being prepared and is to issue in the coming months.

**Esmonde Street:** RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part VIII planning consent process was advertised on 13/10/2020. WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project. An application for category 1 RRDF funding will be submitted for this project in December 2020.

**Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building:** The draft design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department. The drawings are currently being reviewed by the Special Projects Office and a Pre-Planning application has been made. A Part VIII application will be made in Q4 2020. A brief for the provision of design team services is currently being prepared for the detailed design, procurement and construction management stages.

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

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender assessment process has been delayed by the CoVid 19 restrictions. The lifting of some of the restrictions in July has allowed the procurement process to advance. This tender is a competitive procedure with negotiation. The negotiation process is underway with qualified tenderers and when this is concluded, the tender assessment report will be prepared.

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

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

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

The appointment of design services teams for the INHP has been impacted by the CoVid 19 restrictions and an award of contract has not been possible to date.

Tenders for the environment services required for the Hook project are currently being assessed and an award on contract is expected in the coming month.

A contract for preliminary interpretative design services for the Norman centre in New Ross has been awarded and work is in progress.

An advance contract for detailed design services for the Dunbrody Ship enhancement works was tendered in July/August but no tenders were received by the closing date.

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

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



The invitation to tender for engineering services for the next phase for preliminary design and statutory consents process for the Project yielded no submissions in Q3. A subsequent invitation has been issued with the closing date in mid-December 2020.

**Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway:** Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents were completed in 2019. The EIAR & NATURA Impact reports were delayed due to CoVId19 and are now substantially complete with the drawings and schedules being finalised. Further local public information processes are underway at Rosslare and Belview which have now been completed. The planning application to An Bord Pleanála will be finalised and submitted to ABP in January 2021.

An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/2018 but was not successful.

**Wexford to Rosslare Greenway:** Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project.

**Crescent Quay – Dredging:** Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders with the date for submission of tenders extended to 21/12/2020.

**Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy:** A plan for enhancing the Old Dublin Road business and commercial area in Enniscorthy is to be prepared by landscape architects that will allow for packages of works to be developed and advanced on a phased basis subject to funding. An appointment will be made in January 2021 for master planning which will be completed by May 2021.

**Enniscorthy Sports Hub:** Tender documents for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building was advertised on 23/11 with an appointment in Jan/Feb 2021. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in June with a contractor to commence works in September 2021.

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

## **Flood Defence Schemes**

**Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:** The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme requires formal confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in order to proceed. This is a statutory requirement under the Arterial Drainage Acts. The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by the DPER and a public consultation process. The confirmation documents for the scheme, including the EIAR & NIS, were signed off by the OPW and submitted to the DPER in March 2020. DPER completed the public consultation on the 28th August 2020. DPER completed the review of EIAR & NIS and sent a request for supplementary information to the OPW on the 06/11/2020. WCC are assisting OPW with this request. While confirmation of the scheme from the Minister is awaited, WCC will progress the detailed design, the shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works.

Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species. The detailed design of the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete. Tender submissions for short listing contractors for the bridgeworks were received in June. The assessment is expected to be completed by December 2020. The legal agreement required for the diversion of Irish Water services has been completed, Archaeological licences are in place, the bridge agreement with Irish Rail is being progressed, the application for the foreshore lease and foreshore licence is being progressed with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government - public consultation on the foreshore application is due to finish on the 15/12/2020. Treatment of invasive species was carried out in June; underwater Archaeological investigations of the river bed took place in July 2020.

**Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:** The project brief for design services for the Flood Relief Project has been advertised on Etenders. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. A Tender assessment report was carried out and a recommendation was issued to the Commissioner of the OPW. The appointment of consultants for this part of the scheme is imminent.

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review. We are currently waiting on a fee proposal for carrying out more detailed survey works on the south training wall. The existing CFRAM study used existing GIS data that may not be accurate. This new survey will remove any uncertainty.

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

## HOUSING

### Housing Section and Covid 19

Housing Section will continue to provide the critical services during Covid-19 restrictions as follows:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services

We are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable. The Housing Staff will operate in two teams for the following reasons:-

- Allow social distancing
- Prevent any possible spread of infection throughout the entire Housing Staff
- To maintain a presence in the main office for the core working hours

Private Residential Tenancy inspections have been suspended for the time being. This is classed as non-essential. However, where there is a specific urgent request it will be considered in accordance with Covid 19 Guidelines.

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

### Housing Supply

#### Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete Dec 2020
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under construction	Will complete in Q1 2021
Taghmon	18	Rosslare	Under construction	Due to complete in Dec 2020
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under construction	Under Construction
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Not progressing
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender for phase 1 due Dec 2020
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Tendered to Contractors	Stage 3 approved. Tenders due back in Dec 2020.
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2	Under review
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved. Design Team working on Stage 3
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Not progressing

Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Seeking stage 1 in 2020
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Seeking stage 2 in 2020
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	Seeking stage 2 in 2020
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q1 2021
Wexford Street	28	Gorey	Stage 2	Design Team appointed
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 2	Seeking Stage 2 Q2 2021
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 2	Stage 2 submitted 20 Nov 2020.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>			

#### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage Construction to commence in Dec 2020 Awaiting DHPLG Approval to sign construction contract.
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design and Detailed survey commenced. Single Stage Application to be lodged with DHPLG in Q1 2021
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – not approved by DHPLG (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold, no funding stream (no activity)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, Awaiting approval of costs received from tenders, no approval yet from DHPLG. Commence on Site Dec 2020.
Newtown	1	Ferns	Site clearance approved.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>		

#### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water (no activity) To seek clarity on available PE Sept 2020. IW say no capacity.
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 2021) To be re-assessed
Daphney View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussion with Focus (no activity)
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once Rosbercon is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>		

## Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site Clearance awaiting PEP to proceed with site clean up in preparation for demolitions. Assess then for HSE build or site sale. Site clean-up tendered
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q2 2020. CPO in motion. Single stage Q1 2021 awaiting CPO finalisation
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling works 2020. Confirm capacity availability Q4 2020.
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC. Tender Q4 2020
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to a Municipal District meeting in 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	At snagging stage due to deliver by end of year
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	10 units delivered. 4 units to deliver in Q4 2020, 8 units to be delivered in Q2 2021
Clonard	6	Wexford	Delayed until Q2 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	1 unit delivered. Further 2 units to deliver by end of 2020. 2 units to deliver 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delayed until 2021 due to change in Planning
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2020
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit delivered. 14 units to deliver by end of year. 4 units to deliver Q1 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2021
Clonattin Upper, Goreybridge	8	Gorey Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2020



Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Due to start onsite end Nov .To deliver 2021/2022.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	Not on site yet. Expected to deliver 2022
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	DHPLG approval received Sept 2020. Expected to deliver by end of year.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHPLG approval received Sept 2020. Expected to deliver by end of year.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	7	Wexford	DHPLG approval received Oct 2020. To deliver Q1 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>		

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

#### Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	All units to deliver in Q2 2021
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver in 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	Under construction
Springdale, Clonattin Village	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CALF Acquisition (non- new build). Sale closed but works required
<b>Tuath</b>			
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	14 units to be delivered Q4 2020, remainder will deliver over Q1 and Q2 2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	25 units to deliver in Q4 2020, 21 units to deliver Q1 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q1 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units delivered, 16 units due to deliver in Q4 2020
Clonattin	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver 2021
<b>Peter McVerry Trust</b>			
Tuskar House , John's Gate St Wexford Town	12	Wexford	CAS Funding. To deliver Q4 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>		

## **Housing Vacancies**

There are presently 100 vacant houses in the County, which represents a vacancy rate of 2.18%. Pre-letting repairs have been completed on 44 of these properties and these are at various stages of allocation. In 2020 to date, 201 offers of social housing have been made.

## **Marshmeadows Halting Site**

There are presently 4 families in permanent occupation of bays on the halting site and one family occupying a vacant bay without permission, following a fire in their own bay. The Covid isolation mobile home, which had been illegally occupied, was removed from the site and has been refurbished and sanitised. It will be returned to the site when needed.

A second mobile home, which had been damaged during the fire, has also been removed from the site. Any families, who are occupying the site without permission, will be moved on once Covid restrictions allow. A Caretaker has been engaged to manage the site and will be in situ in January, 2021.

## **Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)**

A cold weather initiative is being co-ordinated via the Homeless Action Team. The Homeless Action Team is an interagency group, chaired by the Local Authority, with members from HSE, Cornmarket Project, Ozanam House mental health, substance abuse and women's refuge. This initiative aims to ensure that individuals who may be rough sleeping have access to secure accommodation should they require it. Regular contact with the gardai also forms part of the initiative.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The SICAP sub-committee met on a number of occasions to consider the 2021 Annual Plan, and made a number of recommendations to the LCDC on same e.g. Emerging Needs Target Group, Key Performance Indicators targets. The delivery of SICAP in 2020 to-date has been impacted on due to COVID-19 and the restrictions and challenges that this has brought to both the LDCs and LCDCs in their delivery and overseeing of the programme. In light of this, the 2021 Key Performance Indicators were reduced by 15% as permitted by the DRCD. It is recognised that the End of Year Reporting Process will be the more critical one for 2020 as it will tell a better story of the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of SICAP.

### **Traveller Inter Agency Group (TIG)**

A TIG meeting was held via teleconference to continue its role to ensure that the relevant statutory agencies and state supported initiatives involved in providing the full range of services to Traveller focus on improving the integrated practical delivery of such services. Wexford Traveller Interagency Group has a common aim of finding ways of securing better outcomes for Travellers and improve the use resources, allocated across Government Departments for Traveller- specific measures. The TIG continues to actively respond to the key recommendations contained in the 2018 Traveller Needs Analysis Report.

### **Community Enhancement Programme – Community Centres and Buildings 2020**

Wexford LCDC were allocated €190,698 under the Community Enhancement Programme – Community Centres & Buildings 2020 during August. A total of 101 applications seeking funding of €439K were approved.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

The 2020 AGM was held via Zoom on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November with over 70 attendees from 16 secondary schools and 2 youth projects. This unique event proved very successful with full engagement by the attending young people. Mental Health was chosen by the young people

as their topic of choice for 2021. Expressions of interest were also received from attendees for consideration as new Comhairle members.

A Steering Group meeting of Comhairle was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Wexford Comhairle were successful in their application to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under the Comhairle na nÓg Capital Grant for ICT Hardware Scheme 2020 - €500. This scheme was introduced as Covid 19 has meant that a number of services have moved to a blended model of service provision. The funding is for ICT Hardware to support the development and implementation of a blended and in person approach, in keeping with government guidelines, to enable a potential increase in the number of young people who can participate and will also improve the reach and retention of Comhairle members.

#### **Festival and Participation Event Fund**

€22K was allocated under the Festival and Participation Event Fund 2020. In view of Covid-19 restrictions on mass gatherings an emphasis was put on supporting in-house events. The evolving public health situation will determine if these events can take place, and associated funding drawn down.

#### **Burial Grounds**

Presentation of the draft Burial Ground Bye laws to each Municipal District meeting was completed during November. The draft bye laws will now undergo the required public consultation process before being brought back before Wexford County Council in Q1-2021.

A total of €21K in Burial Ground maintenance grants has been allocated year to date. The purpose of the grant scheme is to allow the Council to contribute financially to local voluntary groups such as Resident's Associations, Tidy Village Groups etc., & individuals who carry out burial ground maintenance/improvement works, and incur expenses associated with that work within Wexford County Council closed vested burial grounds.

### ***Healthy Ireland***



#### **December Report (17<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> November)**

Notification has been received that the Healthy Ireland Fund Round Three, due to complete on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, will be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. This is to allow grantees to complete actions planned.

The 'Keep Well' campaign launched in late October and is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. It has five key areas, Minding your Mood, Staying Active, Eating Well, Keeping in Contact, and Switching Off. In addition to national activity the Local Authority, through the Healthy Ireland Fund, is to receive an allocation for local activity. Details of the 'Keep Well' Community Resilience Fund for Wexford County Council are expected shortly, with this fund to focus on activity relation to 'Your County', Switching Off, and Keeping in Contact. Plans are already underway for some possible activities to be undertaken locally.

The applications for the Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme, supported by the Department of Health, have been evaluated and grant agreements are currently being put in place.

Healthy Wexford, in collaboration with a range of partners, including Wexford IFA, Macra na Feirme, Wexford LCDC, HSE Health & Wellbeing, and Sports Active Wexford have been working together to design a targeted programme to support Farmer Health & Wellbeing in Wexford, under the Healthy Ireland Round Three funding. This programme approach was to look at physical and mental health

and to provide farmers with tools, supports, and knowledge to improve their own health through a series of workshops and workouts. Unfortunately, with the continuing impact of Covid 19 this programme has to be postponed for now.

However, as a means of supporting farmers in the interim, the partners compiled a pilot of 100 Farmer Health & Wellbeing Support Pack to provide some supports for farmer health and wellbeing at this time. Pilot packs distributed to farmers through Wexford IFA. Such has been the reaction to these packs that a further 200 are currently being prepared for distribution.



### **Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris attended a meeting of the Wexford Joint-Policing Committee (JPC) on the 09th November 2020 via MS Teams. The Garda Commissioner gave a presentation on the new Operating Model for An Garda Síochána and answered questions from many of the members present which included community representatives, County Councillors, Oireachtas members and senior members of An Garda Síochána.

The meeting, which was attended by four new members of the House of the Oireachtas and a representative from the Policing Authority, included items - *JPC Annual Work Plan 2021, CCTV update and Community Engagement during Covid-19.*

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting**

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via MS Teams.

### **Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting**

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via MS Teams.

### **LEADER**

There were 5 LEADER claims fully paid with a total value of €67,561 with another 5 claims approved for payment with a value of €88,724.

### **Horeswood Community Gain Fund**

As agreed by the members at the meeting of the Horeswood community liaison committee earlier in the year, Wexford County Council has invited the Community Groups, who completed and returned an Expression of Interest form in respect of the re-opening of the 'Horeswood Community Gain Fund', to submit a detailed application which will be used in the assessment and recommendation of funding. The deadline date for receipt of completed applications is 31st December, 2020.

### **WexSci Wexford Science Festival**

WexSci, Wexford Science Festival, as part of national Science Week, took place from Sunday, 8th to Sunday, 15th November. Over 1,000 people took part in WexSci this year both online and through projects and events in schools and communities.

Some of the festival highlights for families and young people included the limited-edition Cryptography kits that were posted to participants, Science Foundation Ireland's Pick Your Brain! Live family quiz with Phil Smyth, StrongWomen Science workshops and the interactive Baking in Space show, with space champion, Dr. Niamh Shaw and Great British Bake Off finalist, Andrew Smyth. In addition, our Meet the STEM professional talks introduced young people to a variety of careers in STEM in County Wexford.

## **Community Outreach**

This year, we were delighted to be working with some of our community and educational partners and some of the events/projects that took place across communities in County Wexford were the Youth train Living Lab Co-creation Project and a range of events in St. Fintan's National School, Taghmon, FDYS Bunclody Afterschool and the FDYS Roma Community Inclusion Programme, Enniscorthy. WexSci Wexford Science Festival also supported the following primary schools and projects by providing access to STEM teaching resources and kits:

- Roma Community Inclusion Programme, FDYS;
- Scoil Réalt na Mara, Kilmore;
- FDYS Bunclody Afterschool;
- Edmund Rice Senior School, New Ross;
- Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts;
- Star of the Sea NS, Riverchapel and
- St Senan's Primary School, Templeshannon.

WexSci Wexford Science Festival was brought to you by Wexford County Council Community Development and Library Services Departments in partnership with SFI, EPA, Creative Ireland, WWETB, Youth Train Wexford, I.T. Carlow, and Local Link Wexford in collaboration with the business sector, community groups, national, regional and local agencies.

## **SPORTS ACTIVE**

### **Club Small Grants Scheme**

The Board of Sport Ireland held its meeting on October 27th 2020 to consider the Scheme and has approved the following investment for Sports Active Wexford.

Club Small Grants Scheme €45,148

This fund will support 45 successful applicants in County Wexford

### **Active Schools Flag Support**

Ballaghkeene N.S received two Buntus sports bags in recognition of their efforts during Active Schools Week this year and as prize winners in our online competition.

### **Staff Online Exercise Classes**

Staff Online Exercise Classes began with our tutors in November. HIIT with Theresa Roche takes place on Mondays from 6-6.30pm and Yoga with Sarah Dunlea on Wednesdays from 6.30 – 7.30pm. Videos are emailed to all participants so they have an opportunity to do the class in their own time or repeat it again during the week. Classes are running on a four week block with options to pay €2.50 for one session or €10 for all four. There are 27 people participating in the Yoga class and 29 in the HIIT class.

### **Your Personal Best Month**

This is a campaign being run by Sport Ireland for the month of November and targets Men 45 + to get active. It is supported by the National Governing Bodies and the network of Local Sports Partnerships. We are running a photo competition for men in County Wexford to send in a photo while out exercising on one of the many beautiful trails in the county. There will be prizes for the top three best scenery photos during the month.

### **Slaintecare**

IEP began the second block of exercise programmes. Initially began with a caseload of 18 participants, however, due to COVID19 restrictions, 4 clients were deemed unsuitable to carry out exercise programmes with. Current attendance level is approximately 80%.



### **Table Cricket**

We are currently offering a Table Cricket lending scheme for schools and centres for people with disabilities. There are four sets available in the county which have been delivered to Our Lady of Fatima Special School, Croi an Tobair, Court National School and County Wexford Community Workshop. Thanks to Cricket Leinster and their charity partner The Lord Taverners for providing the sets for free and to Herbie Honohan, Development Officer for Wexford for providing the demonstrations.

### **Safeguarding 1 Course**

Safeguarding 1 was delivered online by our tutor Dermot Howlin to Sports Active Staff members and Sheilbaggan Outdoor Education Centre Students and staff.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **A. COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Throughout the second lockdown, work has continued in line with the CCMA's guidance document of 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020. Office based staff continued to work in teams to ensure that the office was covered while maintaining physical distancing requirements. All staff have the resources to work remotely while not physically in the office.

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

### **B. COASTAL MATTERS**

#### **Harbours -**

Pilot Boat Services for New Ross Port are out for tender at the moment. The closing date for tenders is 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.

A new slip-way is being constructed at Courtown Harbour. Works commence 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

#### **Beaches -**

Curracloe Beach won Ireland's Favourite Beach under the 2020 Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards.

#### **Coast -**

Coastline inspection and report is being finalised to obtain up to date information on the areas at risk of coastal erosion.

### **C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

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

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

### **1. Water Framework Directive:**

Under the Water Framework Directive every catchment in the county must be assessed to identify required actions to maintain and improve water quality. This is being overseen by the Sub-Catchment Unit of the EPA.

### **2. Water Sampling:**

85 sampling sites in the county have been identified by the EPA for sampling 5 times per year with the subsequent analysis carried out by the EPA. 11 surveillance sites are being sampled 12 times per year.

### **3. Septic Tank Inspections:**

A total of 112 domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTS) were inspected to date in 2020. The programme was stalled throughout the first lock down with inspections recommencing in the summer. 67% of the systems failed the first inspection.

19 grants for remedial works for septic tanks were paid in 2020 amounting to €64,296.57. The new system of grant payments has removed the means testing and has increased the grant to 85% of the cost of works to a maximum of €5,000. 12 applications have benefitted from the new scheme.

Two people were found guilty of failing to maintain their DWWTS on the foot of a statutory inspection. The Judge has adjourned sentencing in order to find a solution to the pollution issue rather than simply fining the guilty parties. Seven further cases are before the court for failing to complete remedial works.

### **4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:**

The Council currently has 104 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and a number of licence reviews have been completed.

Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences were dispatched in September.

### **5. Air & Noise:**

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a number of locations in the county. Noise complaints are dealt with on an ongoing basis. Two complaints of persistent noise pollution are currently under investigation.

Proceedings have been initiated against the owner of a Pig Farm in Kilugger, Killinick for an persistent offences that contravene air pollution legislation.

## E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Landfills:

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

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

### 2. Recycling Services:

A trial audio alarm system is being trialled for monitoring bottle banks sites and also to monitor areas prone to dog fouling.

The pro-active approach to potential Halloween bon fires prevention was very successful with less than 10 fires reported to the fire service.

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites October 2020	Recycling out (End October) 2019 (t)	Recycling out (End October)2020 (t)
Glass bottles		2735	3522
Aluminium Cans		66	89
Total	108	2801	3611

#### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Oct 2020(t)	Recycling out Jan- Oct l2019	Recycling out Jan - Oct 2020)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2019	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2020
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	443	<b>545</b>	594	<b>638</b>	552	<b>834</b>	401	<b>487</b>
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1759	<b>1929</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers Jan-Oct	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>
	60.3	<b>77.5</b>	113	<b>117</b>	103	<b>107</b>	72	<b>86</b>

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

### 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

<b>Activity</b>	<i>To end October 2019</i>	<i>October 2020</i>	<i>To end October 2020</i>	<b>% +/-</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>2684</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>2666</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>31</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>65</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>63</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>50</i>		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>2214</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>4385</b>	<b>+98%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>49</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>37</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>131</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>33</i>		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>8705</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>13,380</b>	<b>+54%</b>
<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>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>4432</b>	<b>+38%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>50</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>223</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>139</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>64</i>		

*\*Including Towns*

### 4. Food Waste

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

the food waste regulations apply are outlined on map which shall be uploaded to the council's website shortly.

## **5. Waste Facility Permits:**

We currently have nineteen Clean Soil and Stone sites in operation; seven 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 61 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

## **6. Enforcement:**

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2020 inspection plan and 2019 return were submitted to the EPA on 15 February 2020. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,578 route inspections by 25 Full Time Equivalent staff member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

The national waste priorities for 2020 are;

1. Illegal Dumping/ unaccounted for waste, which includes scrap cars sites, unauthorised Man in Van collectors, etc.,
2. Construction & Demolition activities, includes management of waste on construction sites.
3. Use the waste presentation bye-laws to check household are dealing with their waste, including ensure collectors are continuing to roll out of the household brown bins.
4. Tracking the flow of waste data submitted on AER returns by collectors and facilities.

## **7. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty**

This year's initiative was another success. Due to the pandemic all mattresses were taken in at Holmestown Waste Facility between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> September to avoid the queues of previous campaigns. Over 2,700 mattresses were collected.

## **F. LITTER MANAGEMENT**

The Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018 came into effect from the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 is the first section to use this central system.

Any evidence collected from littering incidents is used in bringing action under the Litter Pollution legislation. It has been noted that less evidence is being recovered. More transactions have moved online and people are removing waste that may incriminate them. The use of CCTV has been halted due to restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Commissioner. The local press regularly reports on such cases. We will continue to target illegal dumping black-spots and the county's roads throughout the year.



LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2019	TOTAL FOR 2020 (to Nov 2020)
Fines Issued	341	175
Fines Paid in Full●	143	70
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	140	34
Successful Prosecutions**	13	20
Legal Proceedings In Progress	28	24
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€26,728	€10,565

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

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

Most Court cases are successful, but it can take up to a year or more for a case to be heard in the District Court. There is currently a backlog of cases before the courts at the moment due to the number of adjournments over the last few months.

In November two littering cases were heard. Fines of €200 were imposed in both cases along with costs totalling €500.

### Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2018

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

## F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	1 Jan to 31 Oct 2020
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4314
Closed	3526	4563	3733	3130
Closure Rate	98%	99%	78%	72%

## Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one Dog Warden and an acting Dog Warden for holidays and relief. More dogs were collected by the County Wexford Dog Warden than in any other county in Ireland from January 2010 to the end of 2015. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2018	2019
Dogs collected	788	776
Dogs reclaimed	129	152
Dogs re-homed/transferred	558	544
Dogs put to sleep	100	77
Dog Fines	18	19

There are now 29 Dog Breeding Establishments registered in total with a number of applications on hand awaiting inspection. To 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019, 36 equine were impounded (as against 50 in total for 2018). Most of the equine impounded in 2019 have been re-homed. No horses were put to sleep in 2019.

### Education & Awareness

1. National Reuse month took place during October. Virtual workshops, online tutorials took place to explore reuse and repair. A teachers resource pack and power-point presentation was developed by the Environment Section for all secondary schools in County Wexford on 'Fast Fashion & The Environment'.
2. The Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition 2020 received 101 entries from 57 community groups. The annual Environment awards will be announced on local media in December due to current Covid restrictions.
3. The Trees for Wexford Campaign received 156 applications using the new online CRM system.

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

### LIBRARY SERVICE

### Response to COVID

In line with the move to Level 5 restrictions effective from 22 October libraries were closed to the public. Staff remained on hand by phone and email to deal with customer queries.

**The Book Call service** enabled those who are elderly or cocooning to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. The delivery service was provided by the library branch and mobile library staff. A total of **2,800** items were delivered to **337** homes from 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Staff worked on a variety of tasks including local history research, VR headset programming research, filming and editing a range of library online offerings e.g. Rewarding Reads Flash Fiction, Baby Rhyme time, Storytime, Fighting Words, and Micro bit programming.

### WexSci Wexford Science Festival November 2020

The WexSci Wexford Science Festival is coordinated by Wexford Library Service in partnership with the Community Department of Wexford County Council. The festival is supported by Science Foundation Ireland, the EPA, Creative Ireland, I.T. Carlow, WWETB, Youth Train Wexford and Local Link Wexford and in collaboration with the business sector, community groups, national, regional and local agencies.

The festival took place in a predominantly digital format in 2020 with the majority of events taking place on the festival website in the form of pre-recorded and live digital content alongside the community outreach events. Given the obvious constraints that COVID brought, this year's festival was remarkably successful. Approximately **2,366** people participated in Science Week events through the various channels which include the website, bookable events, library Facebook activity, and community events. Twenty two events that took place in communities in a mixture of digital and in person events and reached approximately 497 young people across County Wexford.

### Audience breakdown

What	Where	Participants
Pre-recorded videos	YouTube embedded on the website.	660
Baking in Space	Zoom	126 families/households= 300 viewers
Cryptography	Online video and physical pack.	100
Wexford Science Café	Zoom	30
3D print- Michael Monaghan	Blackboard	18
Library videos- Microbits, rhyme time and fizzy paints	Facebook	761
Community events	St Fintan's Primary School, Youthtrain, FDYS Bunclody & Enniscorthy, STEM Resources.	497

### Top Events

The most watched videos on festival website on science week:

1. Jim Green and Niamh Shaw- Space in Society- 174 views
2. Meet the Scientist- Jules Robinson & Seal Rescue Ireland- 78 views
3. Playing with Density- Nutty Scientists part one- 67 views
4. John Sweeney- updating climate science- 53 views
5. EPA Digital Radon Launch- 45 views

### Digital Radon Monitor Online Launch at New Ross Library with the EPA for Science Week. 19<sup>th</sup> November.

As part of the WexSci, Wexford Science Festival, New Ross library hosted a virtual launch of digital radon monitor pilot scheme. Under the scheme, which is delivered in partnership with the EPA, people are encouraged to borrow and use a radon monitor in order to monitor radon levels in their homes. 50 people attended the virtual launch on the evening. A total of 19 digital monitors were made available for library members to borrow from New Ross library with all monitors currently on loan.

### Adult Reader Events

Creative Ireland and Libraries Ireland encouraged everyone to start a new story this winter and use reading as a way to improve creative wellbeing, unwind and de-stress. The #StartANewStory campaign launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October.

During November via Facebook, the public and library staff interacted online by creating their own book title stories, People were encouraged to generate a new story by creating a piece of flash fiction,

using book titles that celebrated Ireland's talented writers. Each of the titles works side by side with another to create a piece of flash fiction.

## **Wexford Libraries' Online Book and Writing Clubs**

Members of the public were invited to join the online book club via the Facebook page of each branch library. A library staff member then led the discussion online. Multiple copies of selected titles are made available as e-books or e-audiobooks on BorrowBox, these titles were promoted to potential online book clubs using social media.

New Ross library provided an online book club for young adult readers accessible through the Facebook page. The club offered young adult readers an opportunity to engage in book discussions and book reviews

New Ross Library Writing Group provided an online writing club via their Facebook page. The group was opened to all adult writers for peer support and it also provided feedback to writers who joined and shared their work.

## **Library Services to Children**

### **Rhyme time and story time online**

For November rhyme time and story time continued online with sessions every week, maintaining online the times they traditionally took place in the library branches prior to COVID. The sessions remained online after those times, so that viewers could tune in at a time that suited them. These videos were recorded and produced by library staff, and during November filmed remotely. Necessary permissions were obtained from publishers to read their titles online, views of, and interactions with the online sessions were tracked and recorded at the end of the month.

### **Touch Type Read Spell (TTRS)**

TTRS (Touch Type Read and Spell) is a highly accessible, multi-sensory, phonics-based course that teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling, and was made available free of charge from all libraries. Additional access to this service will be rolled out in December 2020 with the assistance of funding from Dormant Account Funds through the Department of Rural and Community Development.

## **Parenting Talks**

Due to on-going COVID related restrictions all Parenting Today 2020 events continued to be delivered an online format.

On Thursday 19 November *Academic Procrastination: Solutions and Support for your teenager who can't study* was made available on the Wexford Library YouTube channel.

The talk was presented by Psychologist & Therapist Dr David Maloney, and participants were invited to email in questions in advance, so that they could be addressed in the recorded talk.

## **Local Studies and Genealogy**

A number of local studies short videos were produced during 2020 to mark the centenary period. These videos are still available to view on Libraries' Youtube channel.

1. Illustrated talk on '*The intriguing tale of Capt. Percival Lea Wilson of Gorey* now live YouTube channel. (Over 850 views)
2. Short illustrated video/PowerPoint on Wexford in the war of Independence 1920 – 1921 now available on YouTube channel. (Over 350 views)
3. Four, War of Independence 'pod casts' available on website and YouTube Channel.

The Wexford Great War Dead website has had further images added and records updated with new information from researchers in UK, Australia and New Zealand.

## **Digitisation**

The Enniscorthy Guardian Newspaper 1911-1927, New Ross Standard 1910-1930 and Wexford People 1910-1930 have now been digitised and it plans are in place to make these available to researches online early in the new year.

There were 16 local history enquires and 9 genealogical enquires in November in Wexford branch library.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

The Archive dealt with 42 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during November. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries where possible in an effort to facilitate researchers while the reading room remains closed.

### **Acquisition**

The Liam Walsh archive was deposited in the county archive in mid-November – born in 1899 in Clonleigh, New Ross, Liam grew up in the shadow of 1798 and the stories of Vinegar Hill, Fr. Murphy, Miles Byrne &c. He was involved in republican activity in the lead up to and during the

Easter Rising in 1916, and was battalion secretary for the South Wexford brigade of Óglaigh na hÉireann up to the Civil War period. He was also very involved in Conradh na Gaeilge and had a passion for amateur dramatics and the theatre. The collection includes handwritten notes relating to republican activities in the south Wexford area in the 1920s-30s in addition to programmes and photographs of performances in the Theatre Royal in the period, 1930s-1960s.

### **Outreach**

Three commemorative projects in receipt of grant funding were completed during the month:

- Manufacture of four Discovery Boxes on the War of Independence. To broaden awareness of the period, particularly the role of County Wexford in 1919-21, and to encourage more discourse among younger people, four sets of 'Discovery Boxes' featuring replica documents and artefacts from the period were produced which it is intended will be loaned to post-primary pupils across County Wexford. The boxes contain a replica hand revolver, bullets, piece of textile from an Irish Volunteer uniform, War of Independence medal, badges/pins/insignia associated with the various organisations (e.g. IRA, RIC, British military). The boxes include teachers' notes which feature some printed high resolution images from the county archive's War of Independence collections and an explanatory of the period (Creative Ireland funding)
- Conservation repair of six documents relating to the War of Independence and Civil War periods (Decade of Centenaries funding)
- Preparation of text and images for an exhibition on the 1920 local elections in County Wexford – this will be made available as an online resource in early December (Decade of Centenaries funding)

The six earliest minute books of New Ross Port & Harbour Commissioners were digitised during the month. Covering the period 1848-1910, they will shortly be explored for research on the forthcoming Atlas series featuring New Ross.

### **Screen Wexford - Passport to Production – training initiative**

As part of its new training initiative, 'Screen Wexford', (Wexford Arts & Economic Department) in partnership with Screen Skills Ireland, and Creative Ireland, had an open call for Wexford-based

applicants interested in working in the areas of Film & TV production, office admin, locations, hairdressing for film, and to take part in 'Passport to Production'. This is a New Entrant Training Programme developed to equip new entrants with key skills for working in the Film and TV Industry. 58 applications were received and from that 15 were selected to take part in the course adapted to online which took place over 5 days in November 2020. All trainees will be given follow up work placement in the film and TV industry in the coming months

### **Screen Wexford Film & TV Directing Master class with Dearbhla Walsh – Open Call**

Screen Wexford, in partnership with Wexford based Bodecii Film, had an open call for Wexford-based participants for a two-day Directing for Film & TV Workshop on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29th November, 2020 with leading Irish Film Director Dearbhla Walsh. 35 applicants based in Wexford County were received and 12 were selected to take part. This 2 day intensive workshop has been adapted for online.

Funded through Creative Ireland and supported by Wexford County Council's Arts and Economic Development departments, this workshop aims to strengthen participants' drama directing skills for film and TV.

### **New Short Filmmakers Funds in Film, Documentary and Animation – Open Call**

Screen Wexford in association with Wexford County Council Arts Office and Bodecii Film are calling for applications to its Short Film Fund initiative. The aim of this annual award is to provide funding and support to emerging filmmakers based in the County Wexford region looking to develop ambitious and creative narrative short films. The closing date for submissions is Friday 27th November 2020.

Funding will be available through the scheme to support three short films -narrative film, documentary and animation with a budget of up to €2,500 funded through Wexford County Council Arts Office. The award also consists of mentorship from leading industry professionals, project management support from Bodecii Film (Wexford based production company) as well as lighting equipment hire to the value of €1500 from film lighting company 'Teach Solais'.

### **Autumn Winter supports for Artists launched**

Wexford County Council Arts Office are currently supporting and delivering:

#### **(a) Friday Fixes:**

Free weekly informal zoom sessions facilitated by curator Eamonn Maxwell with invited guest speakers in a broad selection of themes e.g. networking, delivering festivals, approaching galleries, writing applications etc. Aim to support artists and creatives to meet up and share ideas as the winter approaches. Interest in these workshops has been very high with over 40 artists registered for some or all of the workshops. Sessions are being delivered every Friday morning over 6 weeks from Oct – Dec 2020

## (b) **Artist's Mentoring Workshops – 2020/2021**

From 10 applications, 6 artists based in Wexford County have been selected for a series of free Mentoring Workshops to be delivered by Curator and Cultural Consultant Eamonn Maxwell over a four month period from Nov 2020 – Feb 2021. These mentoring workshops support artists in their practice and aim to address artists' specific needs working in a professional environment.

## **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.

- **Singing and Instrumental Programme 2020** - 18 primary schools are continuing MG Wexford Programmes. 17 in person based upon meetings with musicians and planning the safest way to deliver the programme. 1 school will trial their programme through Zoom from November, 2020.
- **Mini Maestros Early Years Music Online** – offering online workshops over 7 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. for parents and toddlers and siblings. These workshops are based on the success of the pilot session and will be the first programme for MG Wexford review using Quality Framework.
- **The High Street Opera Zoom**, - 15 young people attended this online version of the children's opera workshop which explored the music, movement and song of the opera Pinocchio and the creative development of the characters with the attendees. Two regular participants of HSOS were invited to meet the singers in the Factory as part of the Festival and were highly motivated as a result!
- **Instruments** – MG Wexford have purchased 535 glockenspiels and 100 ukuleles to enhance the primary school programmes and intend to build their instrument bank by the end of the year.

## **Major New Public Art Commission for Ferns and St David's**

Pembrokeshire County Council and Wexford County Council panel met in October and shortlisted 5 artists teams to develop Stage 2 proposals to create two new pieces of public art, one in Ferns and one in St David's as part of *Ancient Connections* with a total maximum budget of €175,000 to include all costs. The artworks must be linked either visually or conceptually and be made from sustainable materials. Deadline for Stage 2 Proposals extended to end January 2021. Artists will undertake further and make and site visits to both locations (covid-19 regulations permitting) in the coming months.

## **Art Ability/ Arts & Health programme with HSE centres.**

This on-going programme supporting people with mental health / intellectual and physical disabilities across 9 HSE centres countywide continues to adapt the arts programme due to COVID 19. The Centres are currently, in addition to their creative writing, visual art and music online workshops/tutorials, are running **in-reach programme** which involves the artists are now working in person in the centres. It involves smaller groups, co-facilitation from nursing to ensure social distancing, facilitating outdoors and travelling between venues. New outdoor Music Groups have been created at various residential units and currently this programme is being extended across all art forms.

## **ISACS Seminar - Why Don't We Do It In The Road?**

ISACS ( The Irish Street Arts & Spectacle Network) supported by Wexford County Council Arts Department presented "Why Don't We Do It in the Road", a seminar based on the book of the same name was for anyone who enjoyed creating outdoor theatre performances or is interested in learning about it and the mechanisms behind it. The seminar held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom and was led by the books author Slovenian Vida Cerkenik Bren. It was attended by over 80- people nationwide.



**Theme: To Promote Sense of Place, Heritage and Well-Being**

An open call was held earlier this year for artists to apply for bursaries that engaged in themes of sense of place, heritage and wellbeing. Nine artists were funded to develop new bodies of work and consider how they will engage with the public in the final presentation of their work in 2020/2021. A key aspect of this scheme was to foster new exciting and innovative projects that may not otherwise be realised.

The 9 successful artists were:

Aileen Lambert ( Music ), Caoimhe Dunn ( Street Arts and Spectacle), Helen Gaynor & Lina Varna ( Visual Art and Craft Making ), Ciana Fitzgerald ( Visual Art ) , Katherine Atkinson & Simon Quigley ( Music), Sylvia Cullen (Literature), Ciara Roche & Emma Roche (Visual Art) , Marnie McCleane Fay ( Theatre ) and Rachel Rothwell (Multidisciplinary) .

**Theme: Inspire Civic Events Programme**

The aim of this programme is to develop an inclusive and inspiring programme for each Municipal District area to work collaboratively with local creative partners in animating towns and villages. Each district received a grant of €5,000 to fund the following creative projects.

1. **Wexford Municipal District** – engaging with local communities to enliven their surrounding environment by creating artwork on ESB boxes.
2. **Gorey Municipal District** - running participative workshops in Courtown and Riverchapel focusing on important themes of the local community with the aim of creating an art piece.
3. **Rosslare Municipal District** - creating a local heritage based mural in Carrig-on Bannow.
4. **New Ross Municipal District** – creating an art installation for Duncannon based on the local heritage.
5. **Enniscorthy Municipal District** – illuminating art installations at prominent locations within the town creating a unique environment for the community and celebrating the heritage of the town.

**Theme: The Economy and Culture**

**Film Wexford** The aim of this Creative Ireland supported programme is to contribute to schemes that incentivise growth in the film and audio visual sector in county Wexford. Three programmes were funded under this priority:

**Screen Wexford Website** – WCC commissioned a research project in 2019 to look at developing the film industry in Wexford. Based on the recommendations of this report both the Arts department and Economic Development department are working closely with a newly appointed Wexford Film Co-ordinator Linda Curtain in developing the ‘Screen Wexford’ website which will be a user friendly one stop shop to promote the development of film in the county and attract film companies to the region.

**Passport to Production** - In partnership with the Arts Department and Screen Skills Ireland this programme funded running a 5 day course tailored to creatives, artists, costume, hair and makeup artists, editors, graphic designers, film makers, crafts and background artists interested in up skilling to work in the Film and TV Industry.

**Screen Wexford Master Classes** – In partnership with Bodecii Film and the Screen Directors Guild of Ireland this programme will see the hosting of three full days of Film and TV Industry Master Classes with leading Industry professionals over the course of three months beginning in November 2020.

**Better Business Support:** This scheme provides mentoring clinics and professional development workshops for artists and creatives, in partnership with Visual Artist Ireland. Three online workshops will be held between November and December this year.

### **Theme Culture, Creativity and Wellbeing**

Participation in the enjoyment of cultural activities, increase personal, physical and mental wellbeing that helps builds healthy communities. Several projects have been funded this year to address these themes.

#### **Positive Mental Health Awareness & Promoting Green Prescription**

The creation of a well-being information booklet to great locations in county Wexford based on recommendations from young people in partnership with the HSE and Wexford Mental Health Association. The booklet can be used as a guide by children, parents, grandparents, teachers, youth and community workers and visitors to county Wexford.

#### **Integrate creative activities into the Healthy Ireland Programme**

A multi-disciplinary arts and health project for residents in Community Residences in the county got underway in October but unfortunately had to be suspended due to level 5 restrictions. Weekly music and movement workshops allow the residents to express themselves in a new way through body, musicality and rhythm.

#### **Expansion of Age Friendly programmes**

In partnership with Wexford Mental Health and the support of South East Community Healthcare Health and Wellbeing Creative Ireland Wexford commissioned 30 concerts in residential care homes around the county using local musicians in response to the many social challenges presented by Covid19.

The aim was to allow residents who during this difficult time when families are not in a position to visit and access to occupational therapy such as arts and music have been lost to experience the therapeutic joy of live classical music.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

### **Civic Duties**

Wexford Civil Defence is prepared to undertake community events in the coming weeks. We had 1 civic duties application for November.

Soccer Match at Wexford Youths on 8th November 2020.

### **Weekly Training**

We have completed COVID Induction Training for most volunteers as a return to training module.

Weekly training has recommenced in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.

Social Distancing measures are in place to ensure volunteer safety.

12 new recruits have completed CFR and Induction and have been assigned to their units.

### **Training Courses**

12 Members complete their Manual Handling and People Handling course on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November, due to restrictions training was completed in County Hall.

### **Covid 19 – Response**

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

### **October Tasking's**

#### **Patient Transports**

We have received 3 patient transport requests for November, 2 transports to Waterford Regional Hospital and 5 transports to St James Hospital in Dublin.

## **HSE Test Centre PPE**

Due to reduction in tests carried out in the Wexford Covid19 Test Centre, we are no longer required to pack any further PPE for the HSE, to date we have complete in excess of 6000 kits.

## **Vehicles**

### **New Ambulance**

Wexford Civil Defence received a 152 Reg Mercedes Sprinter ambulance from the Department of Defence on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The ambulance is donated by the National Ambulance Service to DOD.

We will retire a 04 Ambulance currently located with the Enniscorthy Unit. The vehicle will be disposed of at Auction in November.

### **Ford Rangers**

We have completed the fit out of our two new Ford Rangers, the fit out included a winch, pull out equipment tray and blue and amber lighting bar.

### **New Training Headquarters**

We continue to look for a suitable training Headquarters for the Wexford Civil Defence. This is becoming a priority as the current lease will expire in two years on our current premises.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

### **Fire Station Priorities for 2020.**

The appointment of the successful building contractor for New Ross fire station is underway following the completion of the tendering process.

### **COVID-19**

The fire service continues to return to all operational training and service delivery with Covid-19 precautions in place to maintain operational preparedness.

## Fire Operations

There were 90 incident responses in October as detailed below.

### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls October 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	4 / 8 (12)	105	91
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 6 (6)	46	53
Road Traffic Accident	5	70	85
Industrial fire	2	11	8
Commercial fire	0	7	7
Assembly fire	1	3	2
Agricultural fire	0	4	1
Motor Vehicles	5	44	34
Forest/bog/grass etc	1	86	69
Rubbish	18	87	64
Non-fire rescues	5	45	28
False alarms – good intent	27	239	215
Malicious false alarms	0	2	1
Miscellaneous	8	43	71
Total	90	792	729

## Fire Safety

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

### August 2020

Applications Received	Year to date	October
Fire Safety Certificates	88	9

Number of Inspections	Year to date	October
FSA Inspections	85	4

# Water Services



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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## **COVID -19**

- Water Services is carrying out its activity in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA.
- Office operations are continuing with staff working both remotely and in the office and so are available to answer any queries. General queries still go through Irish Water 1850 278 278.

# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is underway</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will follow in Q4, 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> <li>➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Stage 2 completion Spring 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build.</li> <li>➤ 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. A new delivery date is yet to be decided.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<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"> <li>➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Borehole works commencing September 2020</li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contractor selected.</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted.</li> <li>○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded until November 2020 at the earliest which will impact on delivery of the scheme</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scheme design complete and ready to tender. Tender documents are being finalised and we expect to issue shortly.</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> <li>○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded in 2020 and a new delivery date is yet to be advised.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Town Water Main Rehab and Gas Network</b>	Irish Water has advised it is no longer funding this project.
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The direct labour crew have commenced the find and fix programme. At present they are connecting the new main on the old Dublin Road in Enniscorthy which allows the find teams the opportunity to build up a body of work for the fix teams. The current works are being funded through the Government stimulus package.</li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital



<b>IW Minor Water Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Disinfection Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.</li> <li>○ Snagging ongoing at various sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Treated Water storage programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmallock Bridge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To be submitted for planning by late 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>IW Minor Wastewater Schemes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>King's Bay WWPS, Arthurstown Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contractor appointed for Phase 1 of upgrade works including site fencing and new valve chamber, expected to take place Q1 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballywilliam WWTP Repair Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding awarded under Government Stimulus Package for essential repairs to the reed bed and inlet works at Castan Close WWTP. Works to commence on site November 2020.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pumps will be upgraded to smart pumps at Distillery Road, Carcur and Crosstown WWPS in Q1 2021 to improve efficiency and reduce the frequency of blockages and sump cleaning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>WWTP Reed Bed Repairs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To ensure optimal operation of reed beds, essential minor repairs and refurbishments at 8 No. WWTP sites across the county have been funded under Government Stimulus Funding, and these works will take place during December 2020.</li> <li>○ Repairs have also recently been completed to the reed beds at Oilgate and Glentire Heights, Ballaghkeen.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New SCADA telemetry will be added to four WWPS at New Ross Town and Bunclody.</li> <li>○ Upgrade of existing SCADA will take place at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>IW Capital Maintenance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide.</li> <li>➤ Additional budget of 542k was awarded for expenditure this year under the Government Stimulus Package, first and second wave funding.</li> <li>➤ 1262K of works have been approved to date with 1078k of expenditure committed.</li> </ul>

<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 applications received for Water Connections</li> <li>○ 10 applications received for Wastewater Connections</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 Water Connections sent for tapping</li> <li>○ 6 Water Connections made</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A Boil Water Notice on the Sow Water Supply Scheme was put in place on 13<sup>th</sup> November and was lifted on 24<sup>th</sup> November in consultation with HSE and Irish Water.</li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Delayed due to COVID 19. Expected completion now Q1 2021.</li> <li>○ Rising main works are now completed.</li> <li>○ Pumping station works to commence December 2020.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>O'Rahilly View WWTP (TIC), Gusserane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q1 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Radharc na bhFánaithe WWTP (TIC), Killanne</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works to take place during Q1 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design and site surveys have begun for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Close, Oulart</li> <li>• Mountain View, Ballindaggin</li> <li>• Gleann na gCaor, Monagear</li> <li>• Ard na Cuan, Arthurstown</li> </ul>

### 3. Rural Water Programme



<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Killaneran GWS                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting quotations for the engagement of a Hydrogeologist. Contact made with NFGWS for recommendations regarding appropriate Hydrogeologist.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Blackstairs GWS                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021.</li> <li>○ Investigative works for the relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir are on-going with consultations with Planning Dept.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence was received by the Dept. on 13<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>○ A response is being prepared by the Chairman of WCC based on the 70 houses signed up to participate in the scheme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Battlestown CWC                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Crosstown GSS Scheme/Orchard Lane GSS                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Irish Water have Taking in Charge the Crosstown GSS Scheme, confirmation was received on 4<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>○ Irish Water are in the process of Taking in Charge the Orchard Lane GSS Scheme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual Well Grants                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Dept. revised the scheme which forms part of the funding investment under measure 8 of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme in June of this year.</li> <li>○ This has increased the overall amount available for the provision of a new well and for well rehabilitation works.</li> <li>○ The number of Well Grants Processed in Qtr. 1 is 73, Qtr. 2 is 60 and Qtr. 3 is 67.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Countywide consumption for October 2020 was on average 41.67MLD, this is a decrease of 0.94MLD from Sept 2020, YTD average at 42.67MLD.</li> <li>➤ This is currently outside our 2020 YTD monthly average target of 41.84MLD. However, Wexford is subject to seasonal demand from Tourism, Agriculture and Industry sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 49nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in October 2020, including 31nr main repairs.</li> <li>➤ Planned Leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Enniscorthy, Rosslare and Gorey areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Additional funding for 3nr PRV and 2nr Flowmeters and additional Telemetry was approved in Nov '20, works to be completed by Christmas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approved Old Dublin road transfer of services completed in Nov 2020.</li> <li>○ Tranche 5 proposals were forwarded to IW for 2021 funding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Find resources were concentrated in Enniscorthy and South Regional during Oct – Nov '20.</li> <li>○ An additional Find crew commenced in Riverchapel DMA in Oct '20 and have moved onto Gorey North DMA in Nov '20.</li> <li>○ Find crews currently preparing a list of leak repairs for the Fix crews. Fix will resume in Dec '20.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

## **NATIONAL ROADS**

### **N25 New Ross By-Pass**

Some minor outstanding works and snagging remains to be completed and it is anticipated that all side roads will be taken over by Wexford County Council before the end of the year. Remaining works continue to be completed in strict accordance with guidelines for construction sites under the current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

The PPP Company continues to provide operation and maintenance services in accordance with covid-19 guidelines. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the final completion of all outstanding works and final close out of all project related matters.

### **N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour**

The eight primary scheme option corridors intersect at various locations and 97 separate possible option combinations have been identified and developed for further assessment. The assessment of these 97 separate options combinations is ongoing and will continue through the remainder of 2020 and into early 2021. It is currently anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed in March 2021. A public information campaign will be launched once the preferred scheme option has been identified and will be implemented in compliance with any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place at the time.

The project is also considering public transport measures, options or alternatives as part of the option selection process in order to identify the optimal scheme that will achieve the project objectives and adhere to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. Consultations are ongoing with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and public transport service providers in this regard.

All project services are being delivered in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines and the delivery programme is being monitored on an ongoing basis for potential impacts.

All update information is published on the project website (<http://oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie>)

### **Rosslare Europort Access Road**

The option selection process has been completed and Scheme Option C has been identified as the Preferred Scheme Option that can best deliver the project objectives following an appraisal of the three scheme options under the specified criteria. A public information brochure outlines the option selection process and the reasons why Option C has been identified as the Preferred Scheme Option. The brochure has been published on the project website [www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie](http://www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie) and has been made available at outlets in Rosslare Harbour. The brochure has also been issued to all those who made a submission to the public consultation process in June 2020. Wexford County Council has also published a public information page in the Wexford People. The option selection process and outcome is presented in detail in the Option Selection Report which can be viewed on the project website.

The Preferred Scheme Option will now proceed to the next phase of the project which is Design & Environmental Evaluation. The Preferred Scheme Option will be further developed to refine the design of the road alignment, junctions, accesses,

and structures. These design developments will also allow the land take required for the scheme to be defined and will facilitate more detailed engagement with affected landowners, local residents and other project stakeholders. The environmental evaluation of the scheme will progress in tandem with design development. The project is highly integrated with Rosslare Europort's approved Masterplan development, the Rosslare Europort to Waterford Greenway project, the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Road Project, and the N25 Ballygillane Roundabout Road Project. The project team will continue to liaise closely with all of these projects to develop a high quality, integrated multi-modal transport solution for Rosslare Harbour and Rosslare Europort.

## **2020 National Road Pavement Schemes**

Allocations were received from TII for the following pavement improvement schemes in 2020:

- N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme
- N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme
- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great Pavement Scheme
- N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

For logistical reasons the *N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great* scheme was subsequently replaced by the *N25 Holmestown to Tomcoole* scheme

### **N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme**

This scheme runs from the newly constructed Mountelliot Roundabout to the R731 Ballyanne junction in New Ross.

This scheme was tendered in May. The contract was awarded in August.

Preparatory works commenced on 28 September. Civil works should be substantially completed by the end of November.

Surfacing works will be weather dependent but may not be completed until the first quarter of 2021.

### **N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme**

This scheme runs from the Ferrycarrig Bridge to the Maldron roundabout on the N11.

This scheme was tendered on 19 August with a tender return date of 11 September.

A Letter of Acceptance was issued on 19 October. Works commenced on site on 16 November and will be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

### **N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme**

This scheme runs from Holmestown junction to Tomcool junction on the N25.

This scheme was tendered in October with a tender return date of 29 October.

Wexford County Council is awaiting approval from TII to award the contract.

### **N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme**

Preliminary archaeology investigations were carried out in 2019. Further archaeological investigations are underway. These are required to be carried out in advance of the pavement scheme going ahead. These investigations were completed in July.

It is expected that the pavement scheme will be tendered in late November.

Construction is likely to commence in the first quarter of 2021 subject to approval from TII to award the contract.

The contract duration will be 8 to 10 weeks.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 21 January 2020. Wexford's allocation was €17,088,007, up €2,646,207 on 2019.

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

The strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 21 February. It was postponed from 30 March to 18 May due to public health measures.

71km of 74km in total have been resurfaced to date.

#### ***Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month were:***

Old Charlton Hill & Southknock (New Ross District)

#### ***Roads completed (clause 804) in the last month were:***

Woodlands and Mangan (The Springs) (both in Enniscorthy District). Taghmon to Mulmontry and Kilmore to Ballyhealy (both in Rosslare District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 22 June. The surface dressing programme of 110km was complete 3 September 2020.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

6 of 9 roads in total are complete to date.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

All 13 lanes are now complete.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

All 10 bridges have been repaired.

### **Active Travel Measures**

Co. Wexford received € 1,351,098 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 28 projects. The following were completed in the last month:

New footpaths on Bellfield Road (Enniscorthy District).

Footpaths in Rosslare and Ballygillane (both in Rosslare District).

Footpaths at Carrigfoyle (Wexford Borough District).

### **Climate Change Adaptation Measures**

Co. Wexford received € 460,000 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 16 projects. The following were completed in the last month:

Ballybro resurfacing and drainage works (Rosslare District).

Ferrycarrig road resurfacing (Wexford Borough District).



## **Specific Improvement Works**

Ballywilliam Culverts Replacement Project. The village was flooded in 2015. The service station had to close for a period. Roads in the village were also impassable. Following a competitive tender process Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. was awarded the contract for €435,423.00 excluding VAT. Construction works commenced on site in mid-September. The works primarily entailed replacing undersized concrete pipes with two large precast concrete box culverts. The two box culverts have been installed and local natural stone parapet walls are being constructed at present. The works are expected to be complete by the end of December.

## **General Maintenance**

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

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

### **LED Upgrade (Non National Roads)**

Over 7,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 5,700 lanterns on non-national roads and housing estates by March 2021.

Design work is nearing completion with 80% of the lanterns already designed.

75% of the lanterns have been delivered with 60% of the lanterns installed to date.

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

- Newtown Road Wexford Town (Completed).
- Clonard Village, Clonard, Wexford Town (Completed).
- Castlebridge Village southern end (Completed)
- Castlebridge Village -Crossabeg road. (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Ferns Village – rear of funeral home (Completed).
- Puddle Lane, Ballycanew (Completed).
- Fishers Row, Trinity Street, Wexford Town (Completed).
- Marian Terrace, Camolin (Completed).
- Tomhaggard Village (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Kilrane Industrial Estate Access road (Awaiting ESB connection).

## **TII Energy Efficiency Schemes**

Wexford County Council applied to TII to upgrade the remaining non-LED lights on National routes in 2020.

The locations are listed below:

- N11 Oilgate
- N25 Kilrane and Rosslare Harbour
- N25 Ashfield cross Roundabout
- N25 Barntown
- N25 Larkins Cross
- N25 Balinabola
- N30 Clonroche
- N80 Ballycarney
- N80 Bunclody

TII approved all schemes on 16 April. Installation was completed on all locations at the end of October.



## **Finance:**

### **COVID -19**

The COVID 19 emergency continues to impact negatively on the finances of Wexford County Council across all income sources when compared to 2019. The decline in Income levels had slowed but are now showing further signs of decline during the Level 5 restrictions. In addition unplanned emergency expenditure on our response to the crisis is now in excess of €1.1m and continues to be incurred.

Funding has been received for the 6 Month (27<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> September) Rates Waiver scheme for eligible businesses as set out in circular Fin 11/2020 and a total of €10.5m in funding support for this scheme has been received from DHLGH. Circular Fin 16/2020 in relation to three months extension of the rates waiver scheme was received at the end of October and this additional credit has now been applied to customer accounts. The value of this extension to the waiver scheme is estimated at €5.3m bringing the total value of the Waiver Scheme funding to approx. €15.8m. representing approx. 38% of the total rates warrant for 2020. Credit Control are continuing to engage with ratepayers to make arrangement for the payment of remaining balances on their rate accounts.

### **Finance Report Q3**

The Q3 Finance Report is included on the agenda for December and is reporting a €1.6m deficit in the Revenue Account for the period to 30<sup>th</sup> September. This is not surprising in the current crisis and without support funding for Commercial rates would have been much worse. The September position is largely informed by additional unplanned expenditure and losses in Goods & Services income associated with the public health crisis. Confirmation of potential additional government support funding to meet these additional costs and income losses is still awaited but it is anticipated that there will be some level of support and this will inform the eventual outturn in the Revenue Account for 2020.

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

Ministerial Sanction remains in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €30m to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Ministerial Sanction has also now been received confirming borrowing by way of overdraft for 2021 in the amount of €20m, as approved by members at the November meeting.

### **Audit Committee/Audit**

The Audit Committee scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October was postponed in light of the worsening Covid situation. The meetings are scheduled to resume once the government restrictions permit.

The 2019 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service is now completed and the Statutory Audit Report will be circulated to members and is listed on the agenda of the December meeting for consideration. A copy of the 2019 audited accounts will also be circulated to members and published on the Council's website. In accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the statutory audit report will also be submitted to the Audit committee for consideration and the committee will meet with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2019 Accounts and the Audit findings. The Audit Committee will then prepare their formal report for the council on the 2019 Accounts and Audit.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**