



Chief Executive's Report

December 2021

Economic Development & Planning:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:



High Performance Buildings Alliance is Designated a UN Centre of Excellence at COP 26

Minister Darragh O'Brien and Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Chairperson signed an MoU designating the High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA) as a designated UN Centre of Excellence, at a prestigious virtual event at the COP 26 Climate Change conference. The initiative signals Ireland's commitment to the sustainable and energy efficient development of buildings in an initiative led by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe outlined by Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary and Scott Foster, Director of Sustainable Energy at the UNECE .

Wexford County Council (WCC) and Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) worked together to establish the centre of excellence as the first local authority provider of NZEB social housing and the first Education and Training Board to provide NZEB training nationally with over 1,000 people trained to date at the WWETB NZEB training centre in Enniscorthy.

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy-Chair addressed the COP 26 event and outlined how the High Performance Building Alliance aims to be a leader and champion of high performance energy buildings and to increase knowledge, capacity and demand for low carbon emissions buildings. In particular the HPBA will advance innovation and lead in the use of sustainable solutions through collaboration with the global Network of Centres of Excellence.

The UN Centre of Excellence at Enniscorthy is already named as a key driver in plans for reducing carbon emissions in the built environment and providing training for the construction industry in the National Development Plan. The UN status now elevates the HPBA to represent not just Ireland but to be a global leader working in collaboration with UN centres from other Nations.

The built environment and construction sector is central to tackling climate change, with buildings consuming as much as 70% of the electricity generated globally and accounting for 40% of Co2 emissions. High performance buildings are designed to use minimal amounts of energy for heating, cooling, lighting and ventilation with a range of benefits for both the environment and the people who live and work in them.

Providing education and training and other critical resources the centres will support their local industries to move forward in line with the UN framework guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

The WWETB flagship Enniscorthy training centre model funded by SOLAS, is now being rolled out by the Irish government to 4 other regional centres in order to ensure the industry has trained and skilled staff in working in the delivery of energy efficient buildings both new and retrofit. Wexford County Council are currently recruiting a new Chief Executive for the HPBA and establishing the HPBA headquarters with the UN centre in Enniscorthy.

The Board of the HPBA involves a number of key stakeholders government departments, state agencies, NGO's and Industry.

It is expected in 2022 that the HPBA initiative will host an international event to launch the UN centre in Enniscorthy and to showcase international speakers on how the built environment can address climate change while providing warmer, and better homes for people.



Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy -Chair of HPBA & Minister O'Brien sign MoU with UNECE at Government Buildings



Wexford Delegation with Minister O'Brien at the virtual signing of the centre of excellence MoU



Tradebridge

Tradebridge aims to develop new export, FDI and job creation opportunities for companies and SME's who operate in the South East of Ireland and the 16 Counties of the State of Georgia, America. The project received funding from Enterprise Ireland, and at regional level by the Local Authorities /Local Enterprise Offices of Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford, Tipperary and Carlow. The project expanded its scale and economic ambition following the successful initial pilot implemented as a collaboration of Wexford County Council and Wexford Enterprise Association with Savannah Economic Development Association and the World Trade Centre Savannah.

The first week of November a planning retreat was held with a delegation from Georgia to develop the workplan for implementation with meetings in Wexford and Kilkenny. Wexford County Council is lead partner on behalf of the regional local authorities and are currently recruiting a Head of Enterprise Development to support the project in developing tangible economic trade opportunities leading to commercial income generation and fostering entrepreneurship.

Georgia Southern University

A part of the visit representatives from Georgia Southern University also travelled for business meetings. The GSU meeting aimed to put in place plans for the first intake of academic students with a small group pending covid planned for 2022 and programmes for the academic year to commence in 2023. Wexford County Council representatives and the delegation had a live stream meeting from the GSU campus with the Board of GSU Housing Foundation and the President of GSU to progress plans.



Cllr. Garry Laffan, Mayor Wexford Borough hosts the Georgia delegation in early November

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021

The scheme was announced by Minister Humphries, Department of Rural and Community Development in August based on the number of towns/ villages with a population of 500-15,000 in the county.

167 applications were received by the deadline of Friday 10th September. The Economic Department following assessment made the case for additional funding and a total of €283,444 has been approved to 115 applicants by the DRCD. Works under the scheme have commenced.

	No of Applications received	Amount of Funding Approved
Enniscorthy	36	€72,625
Gorey	27	€66,536
Kilmore Quay	6	€11,987
New Ross	41	€111,925
Villages outside of nominated areas	5	€20,371
Total	115	€283,444

Tourism



Fáilte Ireland hosted an online international tourism conference on Monday 29th November 2021. The event featured tourism experts, destination managers and international case studies from a variety of destinations across Europe including the UK, Denmark and Slovenia. The speakers included Brian O'Flynn, Head of Ireland's Ancient East, Fáilte Ireland, Prof. Terry Stevens, Stevens and Associates, Claus Rex, former CEO Visit Copenhagen and Misa Novak, Alohas Consulting who shared their insights on how international tourism destinations are preparing for the future and also shared their views on global tourism best practice.

Faile Ireland as part of the international drive for tourism are developing a designated Destination and Experience Development Plan for Wexford which is now being developed by the Ireland's Ancient East team of Fáilte Ireland. This plan will be a five-year sustainable tourism destination development plan for the county. Wexford County Council and Visit Wexford are key stakeholders in the process.

Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses (OSAS)

The Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland and is administered by Wexford County Council. The scheme opened on 12th April 2021 and closed on 8th October 2021. A total of 244 applications have been received with a value of €584,579.52



Most recent stats below:

DATE 24 November 2021	15-Apr-2021 to 24-Nov-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
OUTDOOR SEATING & ACCESSORIES FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY BUSINESS SCHEME		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	70	€164,781.99
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	51	€126,295.99
APPLICATIONS PAID	103	€293,501.54
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	20	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	244	€584,579.52

The closing date for submission of claims by Wexford County Council to the department is the 30th November 2021.

Local Enterprise Office Women in Business Network

Twitter's Managing Director in Ireland, Sinéad McSweeney, was guest speaker at November's network meeting. Sinéad also leads Twitter's Public Policy team in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. She is Vice President of Global Public Policy & Philanthropy at Twitter. Sinéad shared her insights about her career from her roles as Director of Communications for An Garda Síochána, Director of Media and Public Relations for the PSNI, special Advisor to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to her progression to her current position with Twitter.



The network currently has almost 800 female entrepreneurs on its Facebook group, offering peer support and insights into individual businesses. LEO is now showcasing develop profiles for individual female led businesses which can be used in social media and on their websites, for example, ***Sugar & Storm*** who develop a sustainable eco friendly children's clothing range in Wexford.



[Profiles will be used to promote the Wexford “Look for Local” campaign which will start in early December and run up to Christmas.](#)

Direct Financial Incentives

In 2021, €492,077 has been approved in financial aid across feasibility/priming and business expansion grants for businesses across county Wexford. In addition LEO have supported 2 businesses with GradStart support for employing a graduate, 2 Technical Support for Micro Exporters (TAME) and a large research and development grant (RD&I).

Trading Online Voucher

Applications for the TOV voucher to support online trading, remains strong with 159 approvals to the value of €324,237 to date assisting SME's with a digital presence to expand their customer base.

Client Stimulus

Sixty clients received support under this scheme which included financial aid of €294,984 and three consultancy days support in selected areas such as financial strategy, leadership, lean, export development, digitalisation, and innovation. We are currently finalising the consultancy element of the scheme.

Student Enterprise Programme

In 2020/2021, 897 students across 16 second level schools participated in the programme. This year's programme commenced in September 2021 with 19 schools currently involved. Nationally online resources including video podcast, teacher and student workbooks and support at local level through our school's coordinator providing on site and online supports have ensured that engagement remains strong. To celebrate 20 years of the programme a national event will be held on the 18th May 2022 in the Helix, Dublin.

National Employment Survey

All client companies in receipt of grant aid have now completed their employment survey. This is fed into a national system and the results of this survey will be available in the new year. Clients were also surveyed on sales performance and issues around Brexit and Covid. Preliminary indications are that LEO Wexford has had a record performance in job employment numbers in 2021 despite the challenges of covid and Brexit and that this could be one of our best performances yet for Wexford businesses who pivoted, were innovative and expanded operations. SME's have stated that the LEO mentoring and training programmes have assisted businesses to meet these challenges.

Training/Mentoring

LEO Wexford offered a comprehensive range of training in 2021 supporting businesses across the county. Participation rates have been strong with a total of 1,480 individuals availing of training and a further 208 businesses receiving one to one mentor support. The total number of individual mentor sessions to date is 430.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

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

No. of valid applications	1674
No. of invalid applications	124
Extension of Duration	44
Exempted Development Declaration	70

Numbers are those received from the 16th October 2021 until 19th November 2021.

No. of valid applications	191
No. of invalid applications	13
Extension of Duration	5
Exempted Development Declaration	11

Pre-Planning Applications

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

No. of open pre-planning requests	69
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	641
Average waiting time to meeting	32 days

Forward Planning

Enniscorthy Town Centre Urban Renewal Framework

On Wednesday night, 3rd November, a public consultation meeting took place in the Riverside Park Hotel to discuss the regeneration of Enniscorthy centre. Wexford County Council along with Loci Urban Design Consultants facilitated the meeting were close to 100 people attended to give their views on the future of the town.

Speaking at the event Cathaoirleach of the Enniscorthy District Cllr Cathal Byrne said, “The Government has confirmed that there will be funding made available in 2022 for the regeneration of Towns across the Country. It’s vital that a comprehensive and well thought out plan for the Town is prepared as part of any application for this funding. This public meeting offered local residents an opportunity to have their say and give feedback directly to Wexford County Council. If anyone has any feedback on what they wish to see in a regeneration plan for Enniscorthy they can still do so through the Councils website.

After some short presentations the meeting moved into workshop mode and the groups were asked to work on questions posed by the Urban Designers. Detailed feedback was then presented back to the meeting by representatives of each group.

Conor Norton of Loci said; - “It was a hugely productive workshop. We gained a lot of new insights into the critical issues, opportunities and the general way forward for the town centre. The commitment of the community to the future of the town centre was more than apparent in the enthusiasm and contributions on the night.”

The consultation process will be continuing over the next few months. Individual comments and information updates on the process can be accessed through the Council's Web page on consult.wexfordcoco.ie





Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Further to the Special Planning Council meeting in September 2021, work is continuing on the environmental reports relating to some of the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan which must undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. When the assessments are completed and circulated to the members the proposed material alterations, and the assessments, will then be placed on public display for a four-week period during which written submissions and observations relating only to the proposed material alterations or the assessments can be made to the Planning Authority.

Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage

Built Heritage

- Conservation works have recently been completed by Wexford County Council at Fethard and Mountgarrett Castles, with support from the Community Monuments Fund of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. These works have helped to secure the monuments and to build resilience against future climate related deterioration.
- Streetscape enhancement works are nearing completion at Slaney Street in Enniscorthy, with funding from the Historic Towns Initiative, local property owners and Wexford County Council. The works involve the painting of properties, repair of historic sash windows, as well as new sash windows being installed
- Calls for applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022 and the Community Monuments Fund 2022 have been made by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Application forms and details of how to apply can be

found on Wexford County Council's website in the 'Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage' section.

Cultural Heritage

- Work is nearing completion on interpretive panels for the 'Revolutionary Wexford' series. Two panels are in design for Enniscorthy and Wexford which will outline pivotal events during the War of Independence and Civil War. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Library Section with funding under the Decade of Centenaries programme.
- A project is underway to interpret the Yola dialect in south Co. Wexford. An interpretive panel will be installed with information on the dialect and examples of words and phrases. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Library Section with funding under the Creative Ireland programme.

Natural Heritage

- Liaison is being undertaken with the Water Section of WCC and the Ecology Section of Irish Water to determine sites of interest in Co. Wexford for natural planting and rewilding.
- A review of wetland sites is underway with the aim of establishing a new Co. Wexford wetlands project.
- The Historic Graveyard Invasive Species Mapping project is nearing completion. 10 historic graveyards were selected to be part of this survey with funding under the National Biodiversity Action Plan (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage). The results of these surveys will be used to inform a schedule of biodiversity training for local communities in the care of historic graveyards during 2022.
- Planting of apple trees is on-going at housing developments selected as part of The Changing Landscapes Pilot Project, with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Rewilding Wexford sites are all now mapped and available to WCC staff to view on i-maps.
- Applications went in for the three Woodland Creation sites, Ballycullane, Boolavogue and Cushinstown with the Cushinstown application approved. Land preparation and planting has commenced at Cushinstown.

Building Control 16th October 2021 to 19th November 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	61
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	39
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	13
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	3

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 16th October 2021 to 19th November 2021 as follows:

- 24 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 7 Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- 1 property placed on the Derelict Site Register.
- 1 property removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- 3 property owners currently carrying out works on their properties.
- 1 Dangerous Structure Notice issued.

Planning Enforcement

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

- Live Cases 449
- Cases Opened 317
- Cases Closed 160

The number of planning enforcement actions as at 15th November 2021 are as follows: -

- Warning Letters Issued 372
- Enforcement notices issued 44
- Legal proceedings instigated 12

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as at 15th November 2021 are as follows:

- Properties advertised on websites 92
- No. of warning letters served 54
- Cases Closed 47

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2021 up to and including 19th November 2021 totals **52**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	13	0	1	11	1
Gorey	13	0	3	10	0
New Ross	9	0	0	9	0
Wexford	12	0	2	10	0
Rosslare	5	0	1	4	0
2021 Totals	52	0	7	44	1

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	140

Access Related Items

Access Trails and Destination Parks

Works for accessible parking provisions for Rosslare Harbour to support the accessible trails initiative has been completed, with further retrofit to parking at the harbour's beech area. Additionally, access via a new boardwalk in conjunction with Environment Departments as lead has been completed.

2021 Disability Participation and Awareness Fund

Two submissions were forwarded for the DPAF as follows:

- Advanced Digital Access Participation Project (ADAPP) Developing access to public spaces through a digital experience, total amount sought €20,000
- Interactive Community Engagement (ICE) total amount sought €60,000

Each of the Borough and Municipal Districts were afforded the opportunity to consider likely spaces/amenity areas within their respective District which might benefit under the ICE project. A community space, garden, or amenity which would benefit from intervention to provide for improved access and supported engagement with advocacy groups and individuals in and around the locality to inform the works and thereafter use and engage in the space.

Both submissions have elements of training and awareness as part of the outcomes in line with the objectives of the funding.

LEADER Fund 2022

An expression of interest has been submitted for the 2022 LEADER funding. The suggestion prompted by the Local Community Development Committee, (LCDC) via an 'In house project' under the LEADER Transitional Funding Programme, with the consideration of equipment purchase, a pilot for beach mats.

Access and Walkability Audits for Enniscorthy

The Access Section was involved in the recent walkability audits for Enniscorthy Town which is being led by the Age Friendly Programme. On-going collaboration will continue with Age Friendly and other stakeholders on this key initiative.

Special Projects:

SPECIAL PROJECTS

1.1 Min Ryan Park

Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA is due to be opened on 6th December 2021. Completion of the Skate Park has been delayed and is now expected in March 2022. Public lighting at these installations will follow.

1.2 Carrigfoyle Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark

This project is practically complete. Final snag works are ongoing including the sewer connection which is completed.

Carrigfoyle Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:

The pre-planning design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) were prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed.

A detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design. This will inform the planning consent application.

Consulting Engineers have been appointed to design and prepare tender documents for the boat house and associated access road and wastewater pumping station.

A brief is also being prepared for consultancy services to develop the management and operational aspects of the project and provide advice re building design.

1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1

Phase 1 – the development of three serviced sites is substantially complete and the construction of the first building is well under way.

1.4 Gorey Town Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12th August 2021. Completion of the building works has been delayed and is now expected in Q1 2022.

The new playground and adult gym equipment installation is now substantially complete and in use.

1.5 South East Greenway

The rail lifting and site clearance contract has been completed and initial contracts have been awarded for the construction of the greenway from Raheen to the Red Bridge and for the New Ross and Ferrybank urban sections with works advancing.

The tendering for the subsequent works packages are progressing on a contract by contract basis. The Greenway is due to be completed by Autumn 2023.

1.6 Trinity Wharf

Tenders for a works contract for the new access road to serve the site have been assessed. WCC is advancing the works licence agreements required from CIE for the construction of the access road and for the new level crossing with a view to works commencing in early 2022.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. Pre-qualification submissions have been received and are being assessed.

1.7 New Ross Fire Station

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station has been awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site on May 6th following lifting of Level 5 restrictions and will take 9 months to complete. On site the building is watertight with the installation of windows and doors, M&E installation is approx. 40% complete and the drill tower has also been erected. Completion is expected in March 2022.



1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension

The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site on May 6th following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. Construction of the second floor is currently underway on site and completion is expected in June 2022.



1.9 High Hill, New Ross

The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, currently derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery.

The works contract for the development of the Norman themed garden on the site was awarded to MJS Civil Engineering in July 2021 and works are progressing well. The contract is expected to be substantially completed by Q2 2022.



1.10 Kilmore Quay Link Road

The works are now substantially complete and the link road was officially opened by Councillor Jim Moore on 15th of October.



1.11 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme

The contract has been awarded for the advance supply of natural stone paving materials. Delivery is expected in December.

Tenders have been received for the main works contract and are being assessed. A January 2022 commencement is now planned due to the late arrival of paving materials.

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

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

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

A Part VIII planning consent submission for the development of the public realm space on the site is being prepared and will be advertised in Q4 2021.

1.13 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:

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

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

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

WCC is engaged with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to a further funding application to support regeneration in Enniscorthy.

1.14 John Street Building Regeneration Project

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

The CPO process to acquire outstanding property in relation to this project has been approved. It is planned to serve notice to treat in the coming weeks followed by notice to enter. Design development can then commence with a view to making a Part 8 submission in Q1 2022.

1.15 Esmonde Street

RPS consultants are progressing with the detailed design. Priority Geotech Ltd undertook site investigation works in September. This information will now feed into the design. Irish Water have now approved proceeding with the design sewer upgrade and CCTV and survey works will be procured and RPS will start work on this design.

Following the recent unsuccessful RRDF funding application for works, a budget of €1.5m has been committed by WCC to advance the project.

1.16 Gorey Market House

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

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

1.17 Mechanics Institute

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders will be re-advertised in December 2021. A works contractor will be appointed in Q1 2022. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

Gillespie LLP has won the contract for the provision of tourism, master-planning and detailed design of the Vikingar project and have commenced working on the project. Some ecological surveys were carried out over Winter 2020/21 and appointment of our environmental and infrastructural consultant is imminent.

Tenders for the tourism and environmental services required to support the Hook tourism project have been assessed and an award of contract is planned for Q4 2021.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman Centre in New Ross has been completed and was presented to the Members of the New Ross Municipal District in June 2021. The contract for tourism co-ordination and management services for the project was been awarded to Alan Sherwood & Associates in November 2021.

1.19 Enniscorthy Tourism Project:

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

The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC in July 2021. A tender brief for design services for preliminary design and planning consent applications required for Phase 1 of the project has been circulated.

1.20 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

RPS is currently preparing specifications for the intrusive and environmental surveys and investigative works required to develop the preliminary design for the project which are expected to commence in Q1 2022.

1.21 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

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

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

1.23 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

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

It is planned to commence a route selection public consultation in Q1 2022.

1.23 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford

A Part 8 submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site and for construction of a temporary surface level car park. The plan was

presented to the Wexford MDC September meeting and the Part 8 process commenced formally on 26th October 2021.

1.24 Crescent Quay – Dredging

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

1.25 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

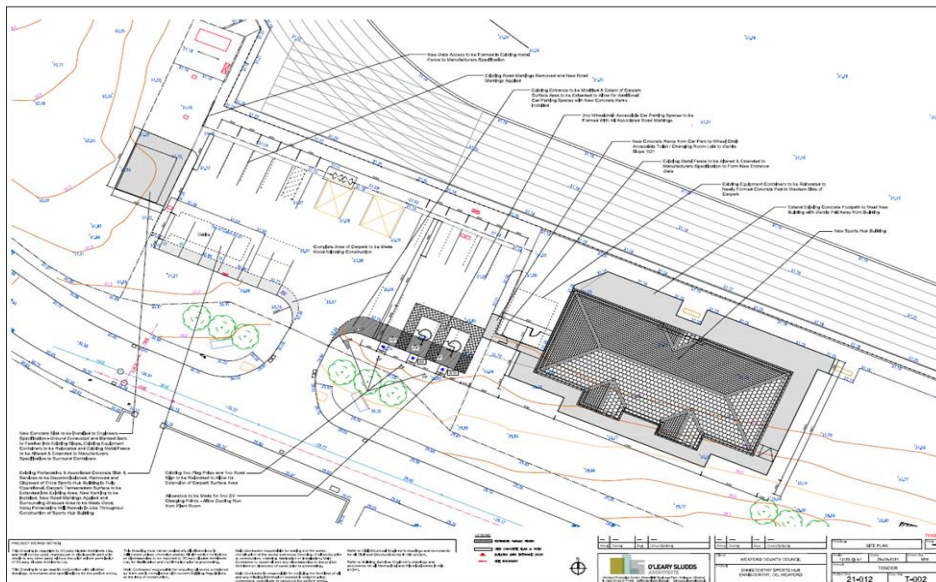
In May 2021, a draft masterplan of this project was presented to the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District followed by a public consultation in late June.

The final masterplan has now been completed and presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October meeting. A contract for the initial phase 1 works is expected to be advertised in January 2022 with works commencing in Q2 2022.

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

1.26 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. Tender documents are now complete and are being issued to the Department for Tourism, Culture, Art, the Gaeltacht, Sports and Media for approval. Tender advertisement will follow DTCAG approval and it is expected that a tender award for works will be made in Q2 2022.



1.27 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

WCC has received Stage 1 approval in principle for the development of facilities to support water sports activists at Whitegap in Curracloe, to include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers. WCC is currently working with Fáilte Ireland towards obtaining Stage 2 approval.

Given the early stage of the project, the timeline for delivery is uncertain. Preparation for the procurement of consultants is ongoing with appointment expected early in 2022.

2. Flood Defence Schemes

2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme awaits statutory confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) to proceed. The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by DPER and a public consultation process.

WCC issued supplementary environmental information to the OPW on the 27th April 2021, which was submitted to DPER on the 30th April 2021. A decision is expected in December 2021.

In the meantime, we will continue to progress the detailed design, 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.

Shortlisting for contractors for the new River Slaney Road Bridge contract was retendered on the 19th May 2021. The closing date for the competition was the 30th June 2021. Eleven tenders were received, and all candidates have met the pass / fail criteria. The qualitative assessment was completed on the 15th October 2021.

The legal agreements required for the diversion of Irish Water services have been completed. The wording of the bridge agreement required for the construction of the new road bridge has been finalised with Irish Rail & CIE. 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 closed in December 2020. The Foreshore Licence is expected to be issued in December 2021."

2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:

The project brief for design services for this Flood Relief Project was advertised on Etenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9th July 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process will be commenced in the coming months.

REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS 1st NOVEMBER TO 23rd NOVEMBER 2021

Type	1 st November to 23 rd November 2021
Freedom of Information	10
Customer Complaint	5
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	1
Total	17

2. Status of Cases – Closed, Open, Resolved and Exceeding SLA 1st November – 23rd November

Section	Closed	Open	Total	%	Resolved	> SLA
Customer Service	0	2	2	3%	0	2
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	1	1	2%	0	1
Environment	1	3	4	6%	2	0
Finance	0	1	1	2%	1	0
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	2	2	3%	0	2
Housing	2	34	36	55%	7	23
Planning	0	1	1	2%	0	0
Roads - Enniscorthy MD	0	7	7	11%	4	3
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD	0	4	4	6%	0	4
Roads - Rosslare MD	0	1	1	2%	0	0
Roads - Wexford MD	1	4	5	8%	4	0
Water - Non Irish Water Queries	1	0	1	2%	0	0
Wexford Municipal District	0	1	1	2%	1	0
Total	5	61	66	100%	19	35

3. CRM / CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT REPORT ON ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER 2021

Area		November	
Agricultural Burns		3	
Environment Complaints		229*	
Change of Circumstances		29	
Housing Validation		112	
Quick Calls		731**	
Road Faults Log		36	
Emails		865	
	<i>1. Incoming External Emails</i>	236	
	<i>2. Incoming Internal Emails</i>	96	
	<i>3. Emails sent by CSU</i>	533	
Total		1910	

* 62 (27%) of these calls relate to Community Clean Ups

** 332 (45%) of these calls are in respect of various Housing Services, 157 (47%) of which are for Housing Maintenance.

4. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY NOVEMBER 2021

Tenders	
No uploaded	3
No of tenders received	6

Water Services



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation

Water Services



COVID -19

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

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model. ➤ A schedule of high priority works has now been identified and is to be considered for funding ➤ The concept design report for the required works to Enniscorthy Network is due in November '21
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023 ➤ It is now expected that the distribution main and plant upgrade to Vinegar hill will be included within the scope of this project and may all be done as one larger scale project. This may impact delivery timescales.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Model verification ongoing.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<p>Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m³ reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ Commissioning of new Treatment plant and pipework modifications ongoing. Completion certificate to be issued December 2021 ○ Borehole works to be completed Q2 2022
Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works commenced in April 2021 and it is programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement. ○ Works are ongoing on all elements of the project within the three villages and on the treatment plant in Arthurstown. A number of road closures will be needed to facilitate pipeline construction. ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tender assessment has now been completed and a preferred contractor has been selected. ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted ○ Irish Water Board approval was granted in July and a construction contract is likely to be signed this year for construction to begin early 2022
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find & Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focusing on mains rehabilitation and will revert to Find & Fix as required. We have external finding resources at present with fixes being completed by WCC operational staff. ➤ Mains Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mains rehabilitation began in September on 1.1km of water main on Rectory Road Enniscorthy
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes


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

IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
 - The pump controls at Keelogue WWPS will be upgraded during Q4 2021.
 - Pump controls at Distillery Road WWPS are currently being upgraded.
 - Pump and controls upgrades will take place at Taghmon and Piercestown WWPSs beginning December 2021.
- **Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades**
 - Upgrade of existing SCADA at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy is in progress.
 - SCADA will be upgraded at 9 No. WWPSs across the Wexford Town collection network beginning December 2021.
 - Funding has now also been approved for SCADA upgrades at 3 No. WWTPs (Ballymoney, Blackwater and Ballaghkeen) to take place Q1 2022.
- **H&S Improvement Works**
 - New valve chambers and access covers and controls to improve H&S at Carne PS is now completed.
- **Invest to Save**
 - Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with design underway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civil works are currently underway at Blackwater WWTP to improve energy efficiency and process control necessary to deal with fluctuations in loading.
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2021 has been increased to €1.4million. ➤ The latest available report from Irish Water spend to end of October is €1.04m
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ October 2021 Figures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enquiries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 24 pre connection enquiries received for drinking water ○ 19 pre connection enquiries received for waste water ➤ Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18 connection enquiries received for drinking water ○ 5 connection enquiries received for waste water ➤ Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 connections sent for tapping drinking water ○ 19 new connections completed and WO closed
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Civil works to the PS are now complete on site and M&E works are 90% complete on site. Foul flows are not being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020. More to follow during Q4 2021. ➤ Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new WWPS is now complete on site, with foul flows being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP. Decommissioning of the now redundant communal WWTP will take place in Q4 2021.

DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Close, Oulart- Connection works are in progress • Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. Decision awaited from the Department regarding design proposal. • Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress • Cois Cuan, Arthurstown
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<h3>3. Rural Water</h3>	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilanerin GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist has been engaged and awaiting phase 1 of study into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole. ○ Awaiting Report. Draft copy has been circulated for comment.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage Tank - consultant appointed to carry out the hydraulic model assessment has been finalised. ○ Consultation has commenced with Consultants re: delivery of a hydraulic model and report. ○ Reservoir Bypass -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works. ○ WCC are reviewing information submitted. Once reviewed the report will be sent to the Department.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned ○ An Bord Pleanala Submission, Ground Investigations and main contract tender preparation. ○ Archaeologist Impact Statement has been completed and will be included as part of ABP Submission ○ Curtailment of the public sewer resulting in the requirement to not submit to ABP is currently being investigated.

Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Battlestown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers. Group was written to again in October 2021. ➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability. Group was written to again in October 2021.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 228 new well grant applications were received to 1st November for 2021. ○ 242 Well Grants have been paid up to the end of November, totalling €431,769

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consumption Countywide consumption for October was 43.11MLD. This figure is up 1.4MLD on 2020 figures. Overall consumption is trending high.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repairs Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 36nr operational leak repairs were completed in October 2021. ➤ Planned Leak Detection (PLD) Planned leak detection was focused in Wexford and Gorey areas.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehab Submissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, commenced construction Oct 2021. ○ The Forth Road Gorey, rehab project design has been completed, construction funding req. ○ Rehab and BYS submissions for 2022 have been submitted to Irish Water Asset Planning. Pearce Road BYS is already approved for 2022 funding. School St BYS in Wexford was approved in 2021 but works are delayed awaiting the archaeological licence. ➤ Find and Fix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LA Find resources were concentrated in New Ross Town Centre and Hewitsland North DMA. ○ The contractor Find crew complete Wygram DMA in Wexford Town investigations and moved to Bunclody DMA. ➤ BYS Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffey Northumberland have yet to complete Bellfield Road decommissioning works in Enniscorthy.

- 4nr. properties on High St. Wexford town had funding approved.
- Shareridge commenced investigations in Nov 2021.
- **Pressure Management**
 - Funding was received for PRV replacements at Rowe St., Bride St., Colestown, Ballinra and Askamore. Advanced control for 6nr. PRV and additional Telemetry capabilities was also funded. Works are ongoing and are to be completed in 2021.
- **First Fix**
 - Shareridge have commenced First Fix investigations and repairs around the county.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Services for Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) of the project have commenced. Transport surveys are currently being undertaken to measure current traffic demand and further surveys are anticipated next spring. Ecological surveys are currently progressing throughout the 33km scheme corridor and there has been extensive engagement with land and property owners over the past 3-4 weeks to agree permission and arrangements for accessing lands.

Environmental surveys will proceed throughout 2022, some of which will require further access to private lands. Preparations are also being made for the procurement of a geotechnical investigation contract is spring 2022 to inform the engineering design of the scheme.

This contract will also require extensive advance engagement with land and property owners. A project newsletter will be published in early 2022 to provide the public with further information on the project's plans for 2022.

N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project continues to consult closely with Iarnród Éireann, Rosslare Europort, OPW and their designers to ensure the full integration and coordination of the respective designs for the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road, the Rosslare Europort Masterplan Phase 1, and the new customs terminal at Rosslare Europort.

This process is critical to ensure full compatibility of the respective schemes which are all reaching significant milestones in early 2022, with N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road being submitted for planning permission and the Masterplan Phase 1 & customs terminal being tendered for construction. The project is also engaging closely with Iarnród Éireann on the design of the new railway bridge which forms a significant part of the overall project.

Upon the completion of this coordination process, the planning application for the scheme will be finalised and submitted to An Bord Pleanála in Q1 of 2022.

A project newsletter will be published in advance of the planning application to provide the public with further information, and the project will continue to engage with directly impacted land and property owners.

National Road Pavement Schemes

2021 Pavement Schemes

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

The tender for the archaeology monitoring project was awarded on the 16th August.

The tender for the construction contract was awarded on the 11th August. Works commenced on 26th October and are due to be completed by mid February 2022.

HD28 Pavement Improvement Works N11 Oilgate Village

The extent of the works was agreed with TII on 19th August. The scheme was tendered in November. A contractor will be appointed in early December. Due to the traffic volumes on the N11 this scheme will need to be carried out at night. It is hoped to carry out the scheme in April once night-time temperatures are suitable.

HD28 Pavement Improvement Works junction of N25 at Larkins Cross.

Minor pavement repairs at the junction with the N25 and R738.

TII have now indicated that funding will not be made available until next year. It is still hoped to tender this scheme in early 2022.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 6 April. It was postponed due to latest C-19 restrictions.

85km of a total of 89km has been resurfaced to date.

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme (Machinery Yard) commenced 28th June in the Enniscorthy District and finished 12th October Enniscorthy District.

The surface dressing programme of 122km is fully complete.

Community Involvement Schemes

All nine roads have been resurfaced of total length 12.5km.

Local Improvement Schemes

Wexford County Council was allocated €349,878 on 17th June from the Department of Rural and Community Development to resurface 12 lanes on the priority list.

On 29th July Wexford County Council was allocated an additional € 303,908 to resurface 10 more lanes. This brings the total grant allocation to €653,786 for 2021.

22 lanes (total length 9km), have been resurfaced.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

14 bridges have been repaired on regional & local roads throughout the county.

Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

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

A structural inspection of the bridge has been completed. This will inform the detailed design. A Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was completed, and the planned works did not screen out, requiring a Natura Impact Statement that is now complete and has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning application. Design options will be developed over the coming months. Works are expected to commence Q2/3 of 2022.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council received €650,830 for 13 projects on 4th June. This funding was received from the Department of Transport following submission of an application on 31st March.

Works are nearing completion on 11 of these projects.

Active Travel Measures

Wexford County Council was allocated €3,603,000 for 50 Active Travel projects in the County on the 29th March. An additional €2,310,008 was allocated on the 26th July for 21 extra projects. This brings the total Active Travel allocation for 2021 to €6,188,563 including increased amounts to 4 of the 71 projects in total.

16 are complete, 23 are at construction stage, 4 are at detailed design stage and 28 are at preliminary design stage.

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

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

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure

€673,000 was allocated to Wexford County Council under the Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund (2021) for 11 projects throughout the county on 26th May. This funding was received from the National Transport Authority following submission of an application on 31st March.

7 projects are complete and works are nearing completion on the remaining 4.

Winter Maintenance

The 2021/22 winter maintenance commenced Monday 12th October 2021. There have been 5 planned treatments of salt to Priority 1 & 2 routes up to 25th November 2021. Routes treated by Wexford County Council have been increased this season by 56km to a total of 419km following acquisition of two 9m3 salt spreaders earlier this year.

New Routes added:

- R739 Kilmore Quay to N25 junction at Sheepwalk
- R730 Ardcanrisk to Ballymackesy
- R738 Waddingtown to Taghmon
- R745 Killealy to Bunclody to County Bounds (Carnew road)

General Maintenance

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non National Roads)

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

Design work are completed.

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

Public Lighting Development Fund

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

- Craywell Road New Ross. Works completed. Awaiting ESB Connection
- Marshallstown Village. Contract awarded
- Railway Square Enniscorthy. Contract awarded
- Milehouse Road Enniscorthy, lighting infill.
- Ballygarrett Village – Contract awarded
- Balintray, Courtown – Contract awarded

Public Lighting – Active Travel Footpath Funding

Additional public lighting is being installed under Active Travel Footpath funding.

- Kilann Village. Installation complete. Awaiting ESB connection
- Campile Village. Installation completed. Awaiting ESB connection
- Duncannon Village. Installation completed. Awaiting ESB connection
- Fethard Village. Installation completed. Awaiting ESB connection

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

HOUSING

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

An integrated Homeless Service Centre (HSSU) was opened in Wexford in 2019 where relevant service providers proactively work in partnership with clients who are homeless or facing homelessness. The Centre offers homeless supports, advice and services in one location, with an emphasis on homeless prevention and supports.

This is a collaborative initiative by Wexford County Council working in partnership with the HSE and Focus Ireland. Some of the main services being provided by the HSSU are:

WCC Services	Focus Ireland Services	HSE Services
Homeless Assessment	Tenancy Sustainment Services	Substance Misuse Outreach Services
Homeless Prevention and support services through early intervention	Housing First Project	
HAP Place Finder Service	Advice & Information Service	
Links to external agencies where appropriate		
Advice and information		

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

There were 767 calls to the HSSU from 1 st January 2021 to 5 th November 2021, the following is the breakdown of same:-	
409	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
106	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
181	Ineligible at the time presentation for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise housing situation.
71	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.

The Severe Weather Protocol was activated on Monday 22nd November. In accordance with the Protocol, male and female rough sleepers were directed to Ozanam House, Thomas Street, Wexford. The Outreach team from the Homeless Services and Support Unit endeavored to contact all known rough sleepers to advise them of the shelter arrangements.

Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2021

Wexford County Council is currently carrying out a review of the Social Housing Supports List (Housing List) and has written to existing approved applicants requesting that they update their details. Only **915** applicants will receive a SSHA 2021 form. Applicants who have applied, or been reassessed, since 30th July 2020, will not receive a form. Also, transfer applicants, including those in Private Rented accommodation receiving HAP (Housing Assistance Payment), will not receive a form.

Final reminder letters were sent to applicants who had not returned their SSHA 2021 form on 5th November. A total of 219 applicants made no contact with Housing Dept despite numerous reminders. If a completed form isn't returned, the Area Housing Officers will be required to close their housing files.

Housing for All Programme

The Housing for All Programme, 2022 – 2026 was launched by Minister O'Brien in September 2021. A target for 2022-2026 of 1150 social housing units for the county has been notified to the Council*.

A draft programme outlining delivery across the programme years is to be submitted to the Department by 17th December, 2021. In January, briefings will be made to each District and following final amendments, the programme will be submitted to the Department.

*Note: Affordable Housing is not included in this figure.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Parapet capping works complete and scaffolding down. Internal inspections and finishing works to proceed week of 22 Nov 21. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022. On Target
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	More changes requested by Irish Water at final connection. Paperwork complete, awaiting work order for connections and ESB sign off for pumping station. Will complete in Q4 2021
Ballycullane	2	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Due to complete Q1 2022
Rosetown, Rosslare	35/36	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction works commenced on site on 24 th May 21 for Phase 1 of 23 units. Progressing well. Phase 1 due to complete in Q2 2022. Phase 2 has Stage 2 approval and Part VIII. We will be negotiating fees with existing consultants and aim to seek Stage 3 approval and negotiate a cost with contractor in Q1 2022. Part VIII granted for 13 but an ESB wayleave may restrict us to 12 units.
Creagh	18	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q1 2022. Appointing new consultants and we have increased numbers to 18 for VFM, higher densities and to

				incorporate more smaller units in line with requirements and the housing need in the Gorey area.
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved for €8.3m Pre Planning complete. Part VIII submitted Nov 21. Stage 3 Q1 2022
Rosbercon	35	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q4 2021 which will establish number of units feasible. 35 is included as an estimate. Engineers seeking a Knotweed specialist. Final consultant QS appointment will be complete within 3 weeks. Enabling works to commence on site Q1 2022
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Part VIII underway. Stage 3 Q1 2022
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 4 approved (Phase 1 for 22 Units)	Stage 4 approved for €5.9m for Phase 1 (22 Units) Construction commenced 1st November 2021. Discussions re pump station to enable Phase 2 (22 units also) have progressed and our consultants are reviewing IW proposals and agreements now.
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Site cleared and surveys complete. Stage 3 Submission Q4 2021
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Preliminary Scheme designed. Documentation sent to OGP to tender for a fully integrated design team on 22 Nov 2021. OGP will review our documents and commence mini tender to establish relevant tier framework. Tidy up site in Dec 2021
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be lodged in Q1 2022
Francis St.	2	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 1 approved on 4 th Oct. 21. Pre Planning submitted 9 th Nov. 21. Proceed to Stage 2 when consultants are appointed.
TOTAL	254			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required. Shortfall of €42,300. Discussions have been taking place with DHPLG about additional funding. This will be confirmed by the department towards the end of next week.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. Management Plan required. Cost Benefit analysis being conducted for this project.

Bride Street	3	Wexford	Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed and 1 no 1 bed apartments on the site has been submitted for pre planning on 18 th Nov. 2021. If Planning approves proposal, Stage 1 will be submitted in Dec 21.
TOTAL	5		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. We have reviewed design for better density, value for money and we have pre-planning approval for 18 dwellings now. Stage 1 Q4 2021.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others to cater for schools. Once we have road location and levels we can re-commence
TOTAL	44		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved. Substantial additional funding required. Funding approval received, granted with a shortfall of circa €172K. WCC are to revert to the Department with an option of constructing a new dwelling on the adjoining site in Q4 subject to agreement between WCC and the applicant family.
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW confirmed that there is no capacity in Adamstown so this job is on hold. We have appealed this decision and we are hopeful we will be allowed 2 houses on this derelict site with a total population equivalent (PE) of 8
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs. IW to confirm feasibility for 5 new dwellings to connect into treatment plant. Stage 2 will be submitted in Q1 2022. Pre Planning lodged. Appoint Consultants Q4 2021
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity with IW and land availability in Q1 2022. Awaiting a decision as to whether the site will be transferred back to Housing.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Derelict house on site to be demolished. Pre-Planning approved. Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 application Q1 2022. Irish Water have approved Feasibility.

Grogan's Road	3	Wexford	Proposal for 3 Apartments. Pre planning approved. Stage 1 approved 16 th Nov 21 – DHPLG are looking for a fourth apartment. Review design and proceed to Stage 2. Awaiting confirmation of feasibility from IW.
TOTAL	46		

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	15 units delivered. Remaining units to deliver Q1 2022.
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	Approval received June 2021. Currently under construction. To deliver 2022.

Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	30 units delivered. Remainder to deliver Q4 2021.
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2022.
Tobar Muire Place	17	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver late 2022 /early 2023.
Tuath			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	All units delivered.
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	All units delivered.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered.
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered.
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver on a phased basis from 2022.
TOTAL	408		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver 2022.
Cluain Beag, Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2021 & Q1 2022.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	4 units complete. Remaining unit to deliver Q1 2022.
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023.

Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022.
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received June 2021. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023.
TOTAL	99		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	All units delivered
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	All units delivered
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	All units delivered.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered.
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022.
Cluain Beag, Clonard	20	Wexford	To deliver from Q4 2021 & Q1 2022.
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	All units delivered.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2021. Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022.
Clonard Little	10	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received Oct 2021. Delivery expected Q1 2023 (includes 1 Part V).
Ard Uisce (Ph 3)	8	Wexford	DHLGH approval received Nov 2021. Delivery expected Q2 2022.
TOTAL	237		

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

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 31st October, 2021:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 st – 31 st October 2021)	119	81	153	153	87	593
Repair Requests Year to Date	1190	846	1295	1243	764	5338
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 31 st October 2021)	97	70	123	121	69	480
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	630	482	663	713	398	2886

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER PROGRAMME -

The Article 48 team processed **8** LEADER claims in November.
The value of these claims was **€388,100.38** which will support **3** enterprise projects and **5** community groups throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

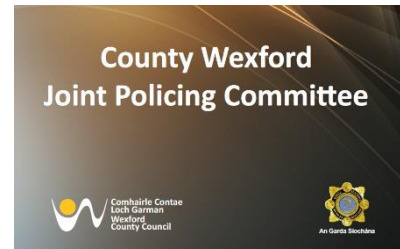


Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
Omni Pro Management Solutions Ltd	€ 48,400.00
Coatek Ltd	€17,115.75
Visit Wexford Tourism CLG	€ 11,745.93
Kiltealy Hall Development Group	€ 4,267.50
Knockingall Organisation Community Centre Ltd	€ 4,073.20
	€85,602.38

Approved for payment	Approved Payment
Three Sisters Cruise Company Ltd	€200,000.00
Inish Pebble Company Ltd	€77,500.00
Wexford Local Development – <i>Training Programme</i>	€24,998.00
	€302,498.00
Total	€388,100.38

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING -

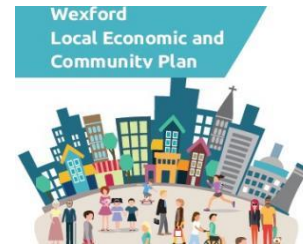
County Wexford Joint Policing Committee - 'Public Meeting'
In light of government advice & in support of efforts to limit social interactions, it was agreed to postpone the 'Public Meeting' of the Joint Policing Committee which was scheduled for the 17th November 2021 in St. Michaels Theatre, New Ross.



It is hoped to reschedule this event once conditions allow
The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 13th December 2021.

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN –

The LECP Guidelines were officially launched on the 11th November. The new revised guidelines build on the lessons learned from the current LECP cycle, as well as reflecting the needs of communities as we emerge from the Pandemic. The new approach to the process, with a Framework LECP coupled with Implementation Plans covering a shorter period, will ensure LECPs are more agile and allow for emerging needs.



DRCD in collaboration with DHLGH will continue to support the development of the LECPs through a series of events over the coming months, starting with an online Introductory Event scheduled for 9th December. This event will be an overview of LECP Guidelines, highlighting what is new, planned timeframes and will highlight linkages with relevant strategies and initiatives. This initial session will be followed by a series of training webinars to ensure each LCDC will have the necessary skills to develop and implement their LECP.

The Introductory event is open to all LCDC & economic SPC members as well as Chief Officers and support staff involved in the preparation of the LECP.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) MEETING -

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 2nd December 2021 via MS Teams.

Items to be discussed include – *SICAP, Local Economic Community Plan, Community Activities Fund.*



LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) MEETING -

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 2nd December 2021 via MS Teams.

Items to be discussed include – All aspects of the LEADER Funding Programme, including the Expression of Interests received following the recent targeted call accepting applications for community projects under the Transitional LEADER Programme budget.

Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26

Work on the Age Friendly Strategy continues with 582 surveys having been returned from older people throughout the county following an extensive period of public consultation. The results of these surveys have been collated and evaluated and the results will inform the content of the Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26. These results were presented at the November Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council meetings and are available on request from Ann Marie Laffan. The next step will be the production of a draft strategy document followed by one to one meetings with members of the Age Friendly Alliance committee.

Enniscorthy Age Friendly Town

Work has begun on the process to make Enniscorthy the county's first Age Friendly town. This involved:

- **Walkability audit of the town on 13th October.** This involved bringing together a group of individuals with different abilities and needs through the town, and documenting any issues encountered. Members of Wexford Older People's Council were among those participating as well as the Town Engineer and Technician, Senior Planner, Special Projects and WCC Access Officer and Age Friendly Programme Manager. The results were examined by an Implementation Team comprising council staff including Enniscorthy District Engineer and Technician, District Manager, Access Officer, Special Projects engineer and Age Friendly Programme Manager. This team will examine the issues identified and prioritise and plan for short, medium and long term work required.



- **Age Friendly Business Training with Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce** Continuing our Age Friendly work in Enniscorthy, on 4th November 2021 Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce hosted in person Age Friendly Business Training delivered by Orlaith Carmody.

20 people from a diverse range of local businesses attended the training session and have committed to implement a number of practical actions to make their businesses more age friendly. We are looking forward to hearing from the businesses in terms of implementing these actions and presenting them with their Charters and recognising their work in due course.



Wexford Festival Opera & Pop Up concerts in Nursing Homes & Day Care Centers

Wexford Festival Opera with support from the Wexford Age Friendly Programme arranged two events for older people as part of their 'pop up' opera events during this year's 70th Anniversary Wexford Opera Festival. The first event took place at Knockeen Nursing Home on the 26th October with four singers and a pianist performing to the residents and staff of the nursing home.



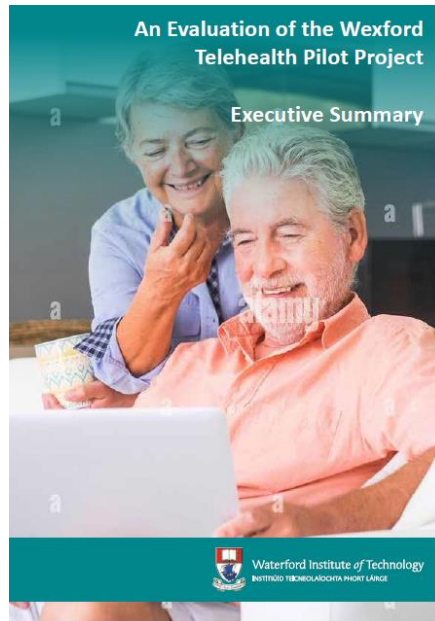
The second event took place at Tagoat Day Care Centre on the 28th October with four singers, one pianist and 11 children from Music Generation for a performance titled "Little conductors".



One of the clients in Tagoat said it was the best event they had experienced and they felt so involved. The young people were not only performing and encouraging involvement, they were so interested in meeting the older people that they stayed for refreshments with them afterwards.

Telehealth

This pilot telehealth trial with 50 patients in Wexford finished at the end of August and Waterford IT have produced their draft of their evaluation report. The Telehealth Steering Group met and reviewed the findings and are planning to move to Phase 2 of the project which will take place in a number of counties including Wexford in the HSE CH05 area from January 2022. A launch of the research report is planned for December 2021 in Wexford.



Creative Ireland Funding - Creativity in Older Age 2021

Enniscorthy Activity Garden at St. Johns Hospital, Enniscorthy – The creative enhancement of Enniscorthy Activity Garden on the grounds of St Johns Community Hospital is a placemaking initiative by Wexford County Council (Culture & Creativity Team and Age Friendly Programme) in partnership with the HSE and Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation. Following feedback and suggestions received so far the Creative Team are progressing their plan for the garden to create a journey through the space which has multiple resting and viewing places for the wide range of users and their sensory needs.

Music Programme of storytelling and song for Alzheimers clients and their spouses/carers.

The 6 week Community Music programme for people living with dementia in the community and their carers has finished with very positive feedback from the participants. The sessions which were run by musicians Emily Redmond and Anne Marie Stafford were funded by Creative Ireland and managed by WCC Arts Department and Wexford Age Friendly Programme. Some feedback received:

“Clients and carers sang along for the full hour we were moved to see some even start up songs on their own. Some beautiful impromptu performances and we are already looking forward to next week” (Emily Redmond)



Libraries and Castlebridge Day Care Center IT training

Wexford Libraries in collaboration with Wexford Age Friendly secured funding from DRCD and Dormant Accounts for grant funding under the 'Programme for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities' to deliver IT training to older people who attend Castlebridge Day Care Centre. Demand for training has exceeded places with 13 older people now signed up. Training takes place at one to one sessions weekly over 6 weeks with Frank from TekCentral running the sessions. An awards presentation ceremony is planned for 8th December to recognise the effort and progress of all participants.

Colaiste Abhain – Intergenerational Technology Project

Work has commenced on a pilot intergenerational project with transition year students from Colaiste Abhain in Adamstown and older people using Acorn tablets.

'Azure' Training

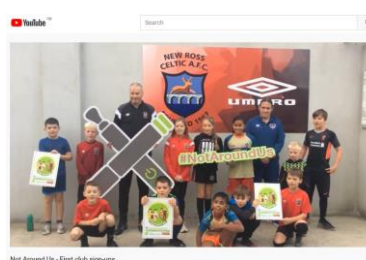
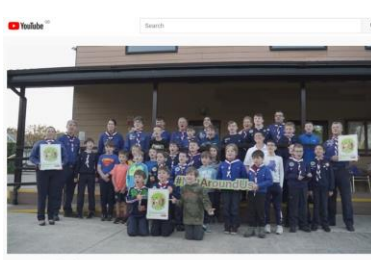
The HSE's National Dementia Office and Understand Together Campaign in collaboration with Wexford Age Friendly and WCC Arts Office ran 'Azure Training' for trained art facilitators that are connected to an art institution. The training was carried out over 4 days and gave participants an understanding of dementia and empowered them to host inclusive art tours.



**Healthy
Wexford**

December Report (21st October – 24th November 2021)

The '**Not Around Us**' campaign continues with our most recent video highlighting some of the early sign ups across the county. This video can be viewed on our social media channels or on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jkk7jXdncNU>



Partners are also engaging with a number of groups who have expressed interest in the initiative, and who are working through the steps required prior to sign up. Plans are also in place for further dissemination of the campaign message through key local networks.

More information on 'Not Around Us' in Wexford available here <https://bit.ly/NotAroundUs>

The '**Seeds to Success**' video series from Healthy Wexford, which features six local community growing initiatives of varying types and development stage, is currently being finalised and it is expected to release the series in early 2022.



A sharing of community growing experience, this Seeds to Success series aims to provide insight and inspiration around community growing to Wexford communities. It is designed to support delivery of the community growing action set out in the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022.

Healthy Ireland Fund 2019-2021 - Round 3

Healthy Ireland Round Three Funded Activity continues, with Action Partners working to review activities for the final budget revision deadline and in light of the further fund extension to March 2022. The ongoing impact of Covid is being felt and partners continue to adapt where necessary.

The Healthy County Coordinator continues to build on the social media presence and profile of Healthy Wexford, with regular activity on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



SICAP

The LCDC approved the Statement of Priorities, and the Emerging Needs target group for the 2022 Annual Plan on the 21st October 2021. The agreed Statement of Priorities for the remainder of the programme to the end of 2023 includes;

- New Communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision.
- Traveller and Roma.
- Young People- 16-24 NEETS- Not in education, training or employment and not connected with mainstream services.

The 2022 draft annual plan is due to be submitted by the Programme Implementor during November, with final approval by the LCDC due by the 28th February 2022.

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021

Wexford LCDC recommended grant aid of €37,063.30 under the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021, during October. Grants can be provided to social enterprises towards small scale capital projects. In line with Dormant Accounts Fund legislation, the Minister for Rural and Community Development must approve each project before funding is awarded. Final approval is expected in Nov/Dec.

Burial Grounds

Plinth and walkway works were completed at Enniscorthy cemetery during October.

Garda Youth Awards

A low key Covid19 compliant Garda Youth Awards event was held in the County Hall on the 22nd November, where 10 nominees were presented with their award, which included two national winners.

Community Activities Fund

Funding of €300,129 was allocated to County Wexford during November, under the Community Activities Fund. This once-off fund is being allocated under the DRCD's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

1. The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility (Electricity, Heating charges) or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.
2. Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment.

Specific scheme guidelines will be approved by the LCDC in December. The national closing date for applications is the 28th February, 2022.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Workplace Activity Programme	Online Yoga takes place every Wednesday from 6-6.40pm. Those who sign up have the option of doing the class live or receive the recording to do in their own time over the next 7 days. Participants:18
Walk and Tone	The Walk and Tone programme in Min Ryan Park, Wexford which is targeted towards older adults has been extended by another four weeks. On a weekly basis, approximately 7 people attend.
Activator Poles	Purple Paddlers Dragon Boat Club This group are breast cancer survivors. A 4 Week Programme started on Tuesday 19 th October. Total number of registered participants was 13. With an average attendance of 10 participants per week. Dr. Patricia Sheehan will deliver an online zoom presentation of the effects of exercise in cancer recovery for this group on Tuesday 23 rd November at 7pm.
Healthy Woodlands	Sports Active Wexford have facilitated a walking group in Tintern Abbey for Havenview service users. Havenview service users typically have a combination of intellectual disabilities and mental health difficulties. A total number of 5 participants and 2 staff members from the ward attend on a weekly basis.
Slaintecare IEP	Two of the IEP's have completed induction and are now delivering exercise programmes in the HSE Mental Health Services. CAMHS have a current caseload of 8 participants and the South Sector has a case load of 9 participants. The third IEP is now in

	process of garda vetting.
Equine Therapy Programme (CAMHS)	<p>The Equine programme has been running as a pilot with 15 girls and 1 boy attending for the past year. Based on positive outcomes of this, we have successfully secured the support from The MAED funding stream with WWETB. Community Education Section.</p> <p>A Partnership Equine Therapy Programme for Young People attending Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).</p> <p>This programme will run as a partnership between Rag Tree Equine Assisted Learning, Sports Active Wexford, and Occupational Therapy (OT) in Wexford CAMHS. Teenagers who are out of school completely, on reduced timetables. or in receipt of home tuition, will be invited to attend the programme. We aim to develop the project to offer a longer-term outcomes-based programme. Young people who attend would attend for 1 day weekly/two half days where they would engage in educational modules centred around equestrian work but with an emphasis on developing communication skills, assertiveness, self-efficacy etc</p>
Havenview Activity Sessions	Activity sessions for the residents of Havenview Residential Services began on 4 th November. The sessions take place every Thursday from 11-12 in Halfway House GAA, Bunclody and includes activators, soccer, and circuits. Participants: 4
Wheelchair Tennis	Wheelchair Tennis takes place every Tuesday in Enniscorthy. The sessions are a collaboration between Enjoy Tennis (Tennis Ireland), IWA-Sport and Sports Active Wexford. Participants: 4
Walking Rugby	Walking Rugby - Leinster Rugby began a four-week Walking Rugby programme in St. Joseph's Community Centre in Wexford. Three Intellectual Disability Day Services are represented at these sessions. This is a trial programme by Leinster Rugby as it is the first time the sport has been tried in Ireland. Participants: 21
Traveller Women's Programme	<p>A Kayaking day was delivered to Enniscorthy Traveller Women's group at The Bunclody Outdoor Adventure Hub. Six women took part and this was supported by WLD and Shielbaggan OETC.</p> <p>SAW are currently delivering a four week Walk and Tone programme in Astro Active to the Enniscorthy Women's group due to finish the 1st of December.</p>
Traveller's Girls Group	SAW delivered an introduction to exercise programme in Clonroche Park to 5 teenage traveller girls on the 26 th of October.
Rosslare Soccer Blitz	<p>Rosslare Soccer Blitz took place on 4th November. This was the final night of a six-week programme. Sports Active Wexford worked in collaboration with Brendan Corish (FAI), Emily O'Rourke (WLD) and Paul Walsh (RHAC) on this and was funded by the HSE. On average there were 25 participants for the first five weeks and over 60 on the final night at the</p>

	blitz. Participants: 63
Safeguarding	Safeguarding Courses 13 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 217 participants. 5 Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed with a total of 61 participants.

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

14 minor projects on harbours and marinas were approved by the Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) under their annual harbour development programme; the total estimated project cost is €445,000 with 75% funding from DAFM. Work is progressing to complete these schemes.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Part XI planning application is being prepared for submission.

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

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

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

Beaches –

Ballymoney – bathing water quality results have returned to blue flag standards. Therefore, Wexford County Council will submit a blue flag application for Ballymoney for the 2022 season.

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

Coast -

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: consulting engineers are about to be appointed for this scheme.

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council appointed consulting engineers to carry out the design of a suitable coastal protection scheme and a beach access. A contractor was appointed to carry out emergency works and these started on site November 2021 to protect the access road.

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

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

Morriscastle Dune Restoration: The project involves installation of fencing and maram grass planting to restore and manage the dune system at main beach entrance. WCC received €11,475 in funding for this project under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding. Works have started on site.

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

Ballyhealy Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: Wexford County Council issued this study to tender recently. Tenders are being assessed. This project involves assessing the erosion risk of 5 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk.

Grange, Fethard on Sea: tender documents being finalised on works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion. This work is funded under the Climate Change Adaptation programme by Roads Department.

B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

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

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Septic Tank Inspections:

Works have been completed on inspections for 2021. 91 inspections were carried out in 2021. Work has commenced on selecting areas and sites for Septic Tank Inspections in 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on a number of sites in order to close the Advisory Notices

Progress is being made with open files. Letters were sent to owners requesting updates on works carried out, to enable the closing of files or offering extensions of time, as appropriate. 9 files have been closed and 1 extension of time have been granted in 2021. 19 Grant applications are being processed in 2021 to date.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2021
2019	156	48	108	23	11
2020	111	38	73	33	16
2021	91	24	67	58	9

There are currently 14 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 4 of these are for hearing and 10 are for mention.

2. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 99 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and a number of licence reviews have been completed.

Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences will be dispatched in June. Reminder invoices were issued in October 2021.

3. Climate Action

In 2020 Wexford County Council adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

The focus is now on the implementation of the 85 actions specified in the strategy under 6 thematic areas.

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations
Goal: Mainstreamed and integrated into all functions and activities
Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment
Goal: Effective management of climate risk and informed investment decisions
Theme 3: Landuse and Development
Goal: Influence positive behavioural changes to low carbon resilient society
Theme 4: Drainage and Flood Management
Goal: Understand risks and consequences of flooding etc
Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure
Goal: Implement meaningful approaches to protect natural and key cultural assets
Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing
Goal: Empower cohesive communities with strong understanding of climate risk,

Many of the actions are underway and have varying timeframes from short term to long term to fulfil these goals.

Climate Action Raising Awareness Training programme has commenced. This training programme is designed to increase awareness amongst all Local Authority indoor staff of the challenge posed by climate change, the role and actions being taken by the Local Government Sector and the opportunities for individual Local Authority staff, both at a professional and personal level.

To date the training has been offered to the Climate Action Team and Grades 5, 6, 7 and equivalents. The training is mandatory and will roll out to all indoor staff during 2021.

Climate Action Training

Number Offered Training	Training Successfully Completed	Training currently in Progress
266	133	25

Further training specific to staff in the Climate Action steering Group will be rolled out in October and November 2021.

Climate Action Training targeted at elected members and senior staff including Chief Executive, Director of Services, Senior Executive officers and Senior planners/Engineers is scheduled for November 2021.

Decarbonisation Zone

Under Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 each Local Authority is required to identify a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ). *A Decarbonising Zone is an area in which a range of climate mitigation measures can co-exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs. The DZ will at a minimum reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 7% per annum* from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade) and will become a demonstrator area, either urban or rural, for other areas in the county

The work undertaken was supported by 3CEA and extended to 5 workshops with cross-departmental representation from within the Local Authority and with input through the sustainable Energy communities. It involved gathering of available relevant statistics and information to profile the various candidate areas.

Enniscorthy was identified as the preferred area for the pilot decarbonising zone in Co. Wexford and this was submitted to the DHLGH.

The arts & creative sections in collaboration with the environment section has applied for funding under the Creative Climate fund. The Decarbonisation zone was selected as the theme for this application.

4. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 102 farm inspections undertaken as a result of pollution incidents or complaints, 50 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon five farms and Section 3 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon two farms where deliberate direct discharges to watercourses.

A total of 114 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed and a further two planning permissions were queried to assess if the applicant had complied with the conditions of planning permissions granted.

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

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	14	11	2	0

5. Duncannon EIP Project

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

The project is now engaging with 36 farmers covering over 950ha of the 1300ha catchment. To date, engagement with all farmers continue with approximately 4 visits to each farm every year where baseline and final “Pollution Potential Zone” surveys are carried out.

The project runs a results based reward scheme where an annual payment is made to each farmer based on their PPZ survey which ranges from €1,000 & €4,000. The farmer can also avail of a water protection improvement works grant which can be used to carry out like fencing watercourses, establishing arable grass margins, resurfacing clean yard areas, hedgerow establishment, riparian margins etc. To date, the EIP project has paid €130,000 in annual payments to farmers while funding of approx. €25,000 has being paid to farmers that have completed works.

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

D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites October 2021	Recycling out (End October) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End October)2021 (t)
Glass bottles	109	3521	3645
Aluminium Cans		90	98
Total	109	3611	3743

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- Oct 2020	Recycling out Jan - Oct 2021	Recycling out Jan -Oct 2020	Recycling out Jan- Oct 2021
Total Recycling out	537	539	637	603	835	744	487	486
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2108	2288	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Jan-Oct	71	67	117	117	131	125	75	86

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

2. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end Oct 2020	Oct 2021	To end Oct 2021	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	2666	149	2230	-16.3%
Gorey *		45		
Enniscorthy *		40		
Wexford *		35		
New Ross*		20		
Rosslare		9		
Total Bring Site Inspections	4385	805	7452	+70%
Gorey		195		
Enniscorthy		189		
Wexford		283		
New Ross		110		
Rosslare		25		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	13380	1338	13380	0%

Gorey	North	398		
Enniscorthy *				
Wexford*	South	940		
New Ross*				
Other Works	4432	483	4046	-9%
Gorey		50		
Enniscorthy		72		
Wexford		133		
New Ross		87		
Rosslare		141		

3. New Recycling Items

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

E. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	179
Fines Paid in Full●	78	29
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	56
Successful Prosecutions**	20	11
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	28
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€5,190

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

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

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

Wexford County Council had five successful prosecutions in Gorey District Court on the 27th of October 2021. The Judge awarded fines ranging from €120 to €250 plus a minimum cost in each case. Below are two photographs of dumping from waste cases in Enniscorthy and Gorey.



Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

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

F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	1 Jan to 31 Oct 2021
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	4371
Closed	3526	4563	3775	3731	3148
Closure Rate	98%	99%	79%	75%	72%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 31-10-21)
Dogs collected	532	357
Dogs reclaimed	127	113
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	227
Dogs put to sleep	32	20
Dog Fines	5	17

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

To-date in 2021 9 horses have been in-pounded. The figures impounded for 2020 was 30 and 33 for 2019. All of the horses for 2019-2021 have been rehomed or reclaimed.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: Green school seminars took place on November 11th with the travel seminar taking place on 14th October.

School Workshops: 10 primary schools will participate in Leave No Trace workshops in November and December. The Leave no Trace workshops explore the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and highlight the key impacts facing Irelands environment such as dog fouling and littering, and how these impacts can be minimised through the Leave No Trace programme. The workshops will empower students to make the right decisions in the outdoors and give them the tools to tackle issues in their local community. The online workshops are 40 minutes duration (2 workshops per school 10 schools in total) with time for Q&A's to maintain engagement from students. The materials covered in the online course will use resources and activities adapted for online delivery covering the themes of dog fouling, littering, care for the environment to ensure that delivery is fluid and that the material covered is communicated in a fun, engaging and inclusive way.

6 secondary schools took part in fast Fashion online workshops during October for National Reuse Month.

200 students representing 8 secondary schools took part in the refill workshop which took place on 7th October.

Trees for Wexford Campaign: The Trees for Wexford Campaign is now closed for applications. The scheme received 153 applications.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. 1261 community cleans ups have been supported up to 18th November 2021.

Community Engagement: Community talks are ongoing with virtual meetings taken place.

Leader Funding: 'Understanding my Area's Biodiversity' training funded by Leader is now complete. 47 participants completed the training during September and October. The objective of the training programme was to inspire people to take action for biodiversity in their local area.

Sustainable Christmas Wreath Workshop: This online workshop will take place on Monday 29th November @ 7 pm and participants will learn how to make a Christmas wreath using simple sustainable materials from your garden. Workshop is free and is run in conjunction with Waterford City & County Council.

Clean Coasts 'Love Your Coast' Photography Competition: Now in its 12th year aims to celebrate and capture the uniqueness of our coastal communities, environments and waterways. Amateur photographers can enter photos into five categories: Coastal Heritage, Coastal Landscape, People & the Coast, Wildlife & the Coast and new to 2021 competition Creativity and the Coast. This competition is promoted by the Environment Section as part of our blue flag education programme. Wexford amateur photographers have scooped prizes down through the years and 2021 is no exception with four Wexford photographers taking top prizes in the competition. Declan Roche capturing the overall Photographer of the Year Award for his stunning image of an otter in Wexford Harbour which also came first in the Wildlife and Underwater Category.



Wexford photographer Myles Carroll was declared the winner of a new category called Creativity and the Coast for his photo titled “Seagull on Tour”, taken on the beach at Kilmichael Point, County Wexford while Ivan Donoghue won third place in the same category with his photo “Sunlight from Above”, taken at Hook Head. Myles Lambert from Caim was announced as the winner of the Coastal Heritage category with “Remains of the Day”, a tranquil image captured in Connemara, Co Galway.

National Reuse Month: National Reuse Month was officially launched by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Barbara Anne Murphy, on Friday 24th September. Reuse Month is about inspiring people to make use of the items that may otherwise go to waste. Reuse is about valuing our stuff, by using and reusing it for as long and as often as possible. Local initiatives to celebrate Reuse Month included schools and sport club competitions, Conscious Cup Workshop, Upcycling furniture Demonstration and sustainable living workshop. Throughout October we invited everyone, whether a school, sports club, community group or business, to join us for Reuse Month. Initiatives this year focused on encouraging reuse and reduction of single use. All events listed on www.wexfordcoco.ie and included:



Green Picnic Campaign: Green Picnic – this campaign ran over the Summer months in conjunction with Waterford City and County Council. The Green Picnic Campaign simply asked people to ‘Think reusable not Single Use’ and to bring their litter home. The campaign emphasised that items can be brought from home and not everything needs to be single use. It aimed to promote positive and active participation in a campaign that focused on the theme of reuse and encouraged all to take responsibility for their actions and their waste.

The campaign focused across social media, radio and press. Included in the campaign were 2 competitions;

- a competition run by Refill Ireland to install a refill bottle water station in a business in each County.
- Competitions on social media and radio to win beautiful picnic hampers.
- A series of four online workshops



Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: The campaign is result of an initiative by Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford City & County Councils. The campaign promotes a simple message “Bag it & Bin it and will run for the remainder of 2021 and is set to firmly emphasize that dog fouling is your responsibility as a dog owner. The campaign will address a range of issues surrounding dog fouling, from its effect on the public who use our streets, parks and beaches, to attitudes to cleaning up as dog owners, from health issues to civic pride. The campaign will reach across social media, local newspapers, radio, community groups and schools.



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



Coastal Erosion

The emergency works at Seaview, Kilmore funded by the OPW has commenced and the scheme should be substantially completed by the end of the year

Annual Environment Awards

The Annual Environment Awards will take place on Thursday 9th December. Unfortunately, the awards cannot be held as normal due to the pandemic. The awards will like in other years recognise and reward the many individuals and community groups who each year foster a sense of pride in our Towns and Villages. The Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition 2021 has been a fantastic success even with the changing environment we again find ourselves in with 47 community groups entering. The winners of the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition will be announced live on SE Radio on Thursday 9th December from 8 pm until 9.30 pm

Waste Priorities 2022

We received our waste enforcement high level priorities from the DECC. They are broadly the same as last year but with the distinction that they are set for the next three years. This is in recognition that it takes three years or longer for enforcement work to achieve these priorities.

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

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Libraries, Archives and Arts Chief Executive Report December 2021
LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to COVID

During November library study spaces and PC use were available to the public, libraries now offer a full range of their popular services. There is no requirement to book a visit to the library, but study and computer spaces should be reserved in advance, either on the website or by phone. The numbers of visitors in each library browsing and using study and computer spaces is limited to facilitate social distancing. The wearing of masks is mandatory.

During November there was a mixture of in-person outdoor events and online events, these included Science Week events and literacy initiatives. All the outdoor events were held in our outdoor designated zone at Wexford Library Sensory Garden.

A new campaign Drop In – Your Library is Open was launched nationwide on November 15th and is set to run until December 13th. The campaign is themed and timed to invite the public back to their library in-person following Covid restrictions, the campaign was promoted via social media.

Book Call Delivery Service

The Book Call Service continued throughout November, this service enabled those who were elderly or vulnerable to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. There has been a total of 954 contacts to the service and 7393 books and other library items delivered in 2021 to date.

2021	Total Contacts	Total items (approx.)
Jan	182	1456
Feb	235	1880
March	198	1584
April	196	1520
May	44	312
June	22	119
July	20	131
August	22	118

September	8	93
October	17	83
November	10	97
Total year to date	954	7393

E-Book Usage in County Wexford

The growth in usage of Wexford Library Service's e-book platform BorrowBox continues in 2021. There are now more than 8,000 registered users of this service in the County.

Radon Testing Monitor Loans

Wexford Libraries, in collaboration with EPA, continue to promote the Digital Radon Monitor Loans Scheme @ your local library in 2021. Monitors are available to all library members through our 5 branch libraries. Currently there are 19 radon monitors available to borrow.

Participation in a four-year EU project to conduct citizen science analysis in a County Wexford community area with high incidence level is currently being planned. Several EU countries are taking part and the results will reflect findings from across Europe.

Climate Action

Home Energy saving kits continue to be made available to library members to borrow from all 5 branch libraries in Wexford.

Dormant Accounts Funding 2021, Library supports to marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities

Hear our Stories

This programme in collaboration with WLD and Kids Own delivered a series of interactive art and storytelling workshops with Syrian children and families living in County Wexford. Trained facilitators met with the children and their families over an 8-week period to discuss the role of storytelling in Irish & other cultures and to collate personal stories and artwork that articulates the Syrian lived experience of coming to Ireland and settling into County Wexford. The resulting work forms the basis of a book telling their stories. The book will deliver an enduring record and serve to increase understanding and appreciation of different cultures and outlooks.

Comic Book Creation

The objective of this programme was to introduce a group of children from the Travelling community in Bunclody area to the world of visual storytelling. Comics are an accessible format, which help break down any inhibitions some children might have about traditional storytelling formats, such as text-only books. During this programme, the children developed the ability to express themselves in words and images, as well as the ability to think visually. A publication of their collective works and an exhibition will be made available.

Loch Garman le Chéile

The International Museum of Languages for Young Audiences (IMLYA) visited 2 libraries and 5 DEIS schools throughout the county in November. A full day of associated workshops was delivered in each of the 5 schools. The programme was developed to promote interest in and appreciation of other cultures and promote allyship in children with those from other countries and cultures. The work created by the children will be displayed in their local libraries in December and the children encouraged to visit their local library with their family to view it and discover all the resources and services available to them in Wexford libraries.

STEM

New Ross Library worked with FDYS and Tek Central to deliver this programme. Participants were introduced to STEM through a series of events including electronic circuit theory and 3D printing. The introduction to the world of STEM in a fully accessible manner has meant that these young people may now consider STEM careers thus increasing their educational opportunities and economic potential.

Online in No Time

This six-week programme involved Intensive digital literacy support and tuition to older people in Castlebridge day care centre. The sessions focused on the real-life digital literacy needs of older people the sessions were be practical, targeted and delivered in partnership with the day care centre, Tek Central and the Age Friendly Coordinator with Wexford County Council.

Sensory Toys and Assistive Resources Collection

The Sensory Toys and Assistive Resources Collection was launched by Wexford County Council Chairperson Barbara Anne Murphy with a photocall in Gorey Library on Thursday 18th November. HSE Occupational Therapists, Lucy O'Hagan and Aisling Lyons attended the photocall and remarked how valuable it will be in supporting children and young people in County Wexford. Catalogues listing all the resources available have been distributed to Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, schools, and local organisations supporting children and young people with additional needs who are living or attending school in County Wexford. There has been great interest in the collection and all resources are now available to request and borrow from library branches throughout the county. Gorey Library's Sensory Pod has also continued to generate great interest with several families having made use of it throughout November.

SEN (special educational needs) Book Stock Collection

A collection of books to support children with additional needs has been supplied to our 5 library branches.

The SEN Books include stories for children with sensory issues, those who face challenges with sight, hearing, speech and language development, children who are non-verbal and books to assist with behavioural issues.

Right to Read

Little Library First 5 Initiative

Minister O'Gorman launched the second phase of the Little Library Initiative in November. The nationwide scheme provides free book bags for all childcare services through their local library services. In County Wexford, 128 Early Childcare facilities and individual childcare providers were allocated 157 preschool bags and 42 afterschool bags. A total of 995 books were sent to Wexford library branches for allocation to their local ELC's.

Extra copies of the Little Library collection of books are also held in all Wexford library branches to be loaned out to local children and their families.

Eduroam Everywhere Initiative

Eduroam Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in all 5 branch libraries as part of the eduroam Everywhere initiative. Eduroam stands for education roaming. It provides secure and easy-to-use Wi-Fi access in thousands of locations across more than 100 countries. Students whose college/university participate in eduroam can simply open their laptop or mobile device within an eduroam hotspot to have immediate internet connectivity. Eduroam in Ireland is pioneered by HEAnet, Ireland's National Education and Research Network. This new addition to our services will work towards improving the learning experience of students in County Wexford and reducing the digital divide.

Decade of Centenaries 2021

Historian in Residence Programme

Historian-in-residence, Barry Lacey completed the series of “Wexford War of Independence & Civil War Walking Tours” with walks in the following towns during November: Wexford town, Gorey, New Ross and Murrintown. During the walks, Barry explored both periods in Wexford and the events that occurred in each town during this time.

Digitisation Day

Staff are preparing a “Wexford War of Independence and Civil War Digitization Day” for Friday 10th December 2021. Members of the public can bring photographs, postcards, letters, diaries, medals or other memorabilia, together with the stories of whom they belonged to and why they are important. Historians and experts will be on hand to discuss the significance of these treasures. Staff from Wexford Library will record their stories and will scan and/or photograph the objects and return them to the individual immediately.

Online presentation by Ronan McGreevy

Irish times journalist and author, Ronan McGreevy provided an online presentation on “The Miracle of Irish Independence” which was released on all our social media platforms on Friday, 19th November 2021.

Booklet for schools on the War of Independence and the Civil War

The written piece on the War of Independence and the Civil War has been completed. The booklet will be printed and distributed to primary and secondary schools in December 2021.

“Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade” podcast

This podcast has now had over 1.5K listens.

Views on Wexford Libraries YouTube

Presentations produced under Wexford Libraries Decade of Centenaries 2021 program have already received the following views on our YouTube channel:

“Flames along the Wexford coast” by Barry Lacey – 585 views

“Wexford’s Civil War Dead” by Aaron O’Maonaigh – 214 views

“Sport and War in County Wexford” by Paul Rouse – 77 views

“Cumann na mBan in County Wexford and the effects of conflict on women and children in the County” – 45 views

“The Railways and County Wexford’s Revolutionary period” – 140 views

Meanwhile, presentations produced under Wexford Libraries Decade of Centenaries 2020 program are still popular and continue to be viewed on our YouTube channel:

“The Burning of Wexford’s Country Houses, 1919-1923” – 1.2K views

“The Road to Independence – film on the War of Independence in Wexford” – 630 views

IT Literacy – Age Friendly Libraries

Digital Ambassadors Programme

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Libraries Development Unit, and Age Friendly Ireland have partnered to establish the Library Digital Ambassador Programme. This programme aims to help older people to access online library resources. Wexford Libraries provide an Age

Friendly Digital Ambassador in each of the 5 branch libraries. Staff are trained to assist older people to, join their local library online, access online library resources, download their favourite books or listen to audio books. This is a peer-to-peer programme which helps participants to develop the confidence to become mentors themselves.

Work Matters Business eResources online

Wexford Libraries continued to promote Work Matters Business eResources online in the November e-mail newsletters, giving mention to business and employment eBooks and eAudiobooks on BorrowBox, and business training courses on Universal Class. Customers have also been advised that they can email Wexford Libraries in advance with their business queries for Mintel and Business.ie.

Science Week – Wexford Science Festival

The Wexford Science Festival (WexSci) took place November 7-14. This year's festival was led by CALMAST at WIT with Wexford County Council as partners. The library element of the programme featured a series of online and outdoor events for all ages.

Online events included:

- Climate Change: What is the problem and what can we do? An online talk for adults with Prof. Conor Murphy of Maynooth University
- All Things Great and Small: An online talk for adults with Dr. Stephen Whelan, IT Carlow
- Wexford Science Café: Why I changed my mind. An Online discussion moderated by Brian Trench, convenor of Wexford Science Café
- Artificial Intelligence: An online talk for adults with Dr. Lizy Abraham, WIT
- Brewing up a Storm: An online talk for adults with Dr. Stephen Whelan, IT Carlow.
- Gorey Seashell Girl Guides & Seashell Senior Branch participated in a successful ANIMATION GENERATION Scratch Programming Workshop with TEKcentral during the month of October where they learned Scratch programming to create animations. They created animations to spread the message to protect our environment. The resulting animation project was then projected on to the GKMD/Gorey Library building for both Science Week and the week that followed.
- Nutty Scientists delivered two special online STEM workshops on Tuesday November 9th exclusively for Gorey Library to 50 pupils from Castletown NS and Gorey Central NS for Science Week. These workshops were aimed at 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th classes. The themes of the sessions included: W23 Elephant Toothpaste – Crazy Chemistry, Dry Ice – Properties of Matter, Boom and the Fountain of Foam, Healthy Breakfast, and a finale entitled Looney Gas Show: Fire Bubble and Fire Ball.

Family STEM Day in Wexford Libraries - Over 600 people visited Wexford library branches on Saturday 13th November for a Family STEM Day. Events included STEM based story time and associated crafts which took place in the outdoor courtyard and sensory garden area of Wexford Town Library. There were two different STEM craft kits to make at home, which were available to collect from the library. There was also the opportunity to see a demonstration of the 3D printer in action as well as STEM videos on the library screens. Book displays were in place to promote science themed nonfiction and fiction books available among both the adult and children's areas. Two online events also took place for families.

Cultural Activities

A full programme of online events including creative writing clubs and reading groups continued during the month of November with the addition of a new online book club facilitated by New Ross Library.

Wexford Libraries' Book Club Online

Wexford Town Library's Thursday morning book club continued online in November with a discussion of *Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly on Thursday 18th November.

Wexford Library's Book of the Month also read *Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly on Tuesday 16th November. This STEM themed book was chosen for both book clubs in November to coincide with Science Week and the Wexford Science Festival.

Dystopian Book Club

Wexford Library's Dystopian Book Club continued online in November with two seminars.

WWETB calendar launch

On Tuesday 2nd November the launch of WWETB 'Hot Shots' photography group 2022 calendar took place outdoors in the courtyard of Wexford Town Library. 22 people were in attendance for this event.

ArtBank Art Exhibition

'Lifting the Veil' ArtBank's Samhain art exhibition was on display in Bunclody Library for the month of November.

Services for Children and Young People

Right to Read Literacy and Numeracy

Wexford Library Services has purchased a collection of picture books focusing on assisting children develop their social skills; anxieties, making friends, special needs, visiting the doctor, dentist, bereavement, welcoming new siblings, and transitioning to primary school are just some of the topics covered. A complete set has been supplied to all branch libraries and will be promoted to early learning centres in each district.

Libraries continue to roll out Nessy Read and Spell, Touch Type Read and Spell (TTRS), Nessy dyslexia awareness and Reading Eggs licences to families and schools throughout the County. Feedback is very positive with parents and teachers noting an improvement in reading engagement. Additional TTRS literacy licences were purchased in response to demand from branches in Wexford, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey Libraries.

Language for Primary Schools

Pupils could begin learning foreign languages as early as third class under changes proposed for the primary curriculum.

Wexford pupils have been included in a project piloting the learning of foreign languages. To support the language element of the proposed curriculum, Wexford County Library Services has purchased a pilot collection of books that are available in 5 different languages that reflect the linguistic diversity in our county. Work is underway to develop a selection of associated activities to support this book collection. The sets will be available for schools to borrow from their local libraries to support the exploration, understanding of and interest in foreign languages and by extension foster an interest in and appreciation of foreign cultures.

Children's Book Festival

For the first time Children's Book Festival continued into November. Wexford libraries facilitated online events which included, creative writing sessions, author talks and illustrations workshops with Caroline Busher, Eve McDonell, Alan Nolan, Sarah Bowie and Wayne O'Connor.

Children First Awareness Week (1st – 7th November)

The first National Children First Awareness Week ran from the 1st to 7th November. The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness of Children First and remind wider society, including organisations working with children and young people, of our collective responsibility to keep them safe in our communities. This was promoted along with relevant resources on Gorey Library's Facebook page.

Stand Up Awareness Week ran from 15th-19th November

This is a national annual event to promote "standing up" against Homophobic bullying. Every year Gorey Youth Needs LGBTQi group promote this around Gorey and this year the GKMD/Gorey Library building was illuminated with the Rainbow colours on Thursday November 18th.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 63 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 12 researchers visited the Archive during November. Three Junior Cycle students accessed archival material for their respective CBAs (class-based assignments). Research topics included:

Articles in local newspapers relating to An Garda Síochána activities in County Wexford, 1922-present for a forthcoming publication on the force

An examination of extant maps showing the layout/location of Wexford workhouse (1840-82).

Local government response to the Lockout in Wexford town, 1911-12;

Access to Quaker burial records (1980-2009); History of the 1798 rebellion as depicted in archival documents and artefacts; History of the Power family, Edermine (1731-1826); Research through historic WFO programmes and extant stage manager's scores and librettos from the Wexford Festival Opera archive (1951-2018).

Digitisation

As one of the archive projects funded under the Decade of Centenaries 2021 programme, a revised descriptive list (finding aid) to the Edward Roe archive was completed in late November. Edward from Begerin Loftus, New Ross joined the Cushinstown Company of the South Wexford Brigade of the IRA in 1883 aged only 16. He was active during the War of Independence and the Civil War and worked as a rate collector (and later as an overseer) for Wexford County Council. By the end of hostilities in 1923, he was Captain of the Cushinstown Company and Quartermaster with the South Wexford brigade. Elements from the collection of personal and military correspondence, photographs and artefacts will be digitised next month.

The first in a series of three-minute books for Wexford County Infirmary was digitised during the month. Representing one of the earliest hospitals in the county, the infirmary opened for the reception of patients on 10 August 1769, with only six beds available at the outset. The minute books document the monthly administration of the institution and personnel issues in addition to changes in healthcare over the decades – the infirmary wound down in early 1923 and was shortly afterwards opened as Dr Furlong's private nursing home. The first volume covers the period 2 May 1769 – 5 May 1845 and is now available to access on the county archive website.

Outreach

To coincide with the Explore Your Archive campaign organised by the Archives & Records Association (UK and Ireland) which ran for a week on 20-28 November, the county archive facilitated online access to a recently produced digital exhibition, *Gorey Union's Earl Grey famine*

orphans. Documenting the selection procedure for the assisted emigration of 21 girls from Gorey workhouse (40 were initially selected) to New South Wales and Sydney during the period 1848-50, the exhibition provides a brief outline of life in the workhouse, the readiness of the colonies to accept workhouse girls and the names of the girls as recorded in extant minute books for Gorey workhouse. The project was researched and produced by Rosemary Hayes who completed a remote placement with Wexford County Archive earlier this year for a Master's in Public History & Cultural Heritage (UL). This has provided an invaluable means of highlighting the female assisted emigration scheme from Gorey workhouse and will hopefully provide the impetus for advanced research on the scheme in the remaining three workhouses across County Wexford.

ARTS

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Round 2 (LLPPS) November - December 2021

The Arts Department is overseeing the implementation of the LLPS scheme Round 2 funded through the Department of 'Arts, Culture Tourism' via all local authorities nationwide. The second strand of the LLPPS scheme will support employment opportunities for artists, performers and crew across every town, city and county and will help underpin the recovery of the live performance sector. The funding can be used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances by engaging the services of professional artists, musicians, crew and other staff members involved in live performances for the period from now to 31 December 2021. Three companies were awarded the tenders and are working with each district.

Decade of Centenaries Wexford Playwright Commission Award

Wexford County Council, in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre, is seeking applications for a new Wexford Playwright Commission themed around commemoration of the period 1916-23. This award will allow a Wexford based playwright to research and develop a new theatre work, addressing themes of commemoration of the period 1916 – 23. This commission forms part of Wexford County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012- 2023) and is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under their Community Strand. Closing date 8th January 2022.

TOTEM YOKES Exhibition is open to the public until 3rd December 2021 from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. Enhanced protocols and procedures in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 have been implemented for this period.

A public tour of the exhibition facilitated by Maria McKinney took place on Thursday 11th November who spoke to people about the exhibition which shows a series of new sculptures inspired by agrarian practices and pastoral traditions of six farms currently operating in the Wexford countryside. The artist visited the farms and listened to how certain practices, histories and stories have led to particular modes of food production in these townlands.

Cultural Companions - the Arts Department and the Community Department of Wexford County Council with the Age Friendly Co Coordinator encourages older people to attend arts and cultural events. The Cultural Companions returned for their monthly 'Coffee and Chat' on Thursday 4th November in Clayton Whites Hotel. The Coffee and Chat will continue to take place the first Thursday of each month.

David Begley – ‘Ancient Connections’ Community Residency Ferns

As part of the Ancient Connections Wexford Wales programme and supported through Wexford's Per Cent for Art Programme, Wexford based artist David Begley started 2-year artists in residency in the community of Ferns in August 2020. From March - June 2021, David Begley facilitated The Monk's Garden, an art, heritage and gardening project at St. Edan's National School, Ferns, County Wexford. David and the children grew fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers and used these as source for drawing and painting. For more information on this visit <https://www.davidbegley.com/themonksgarden>. Also, David is currently compiling an online exhibition for the project to be hosted on his website as a subpage of the garden later this year.

The Living Arts in Schools Project

The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Four selected primary schools have the opportunity to host an artist in residence for an 8 or a 15 week residency during the school year.

Wexford County Council Arts Department in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre are currently planning with schools for this project to resume in November 2021. Training for the 8 Wexford-based artists selected on the programming of the project has taken place.

Music Generation

A partnership between Wexford County Council, 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.

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

- Singing Programme = 9 Schools
- Instrumental Programme = 9 Schools

Atlantic Arc

Music Generation Wexford and Waterford in partnership with SoundWaves'21 presented the first of a national series initiated by Music Generation Clare - Masterclass & Concert Programmes with Donal Lunny's Atlantic Arc for young traditional and folk composers/songwriters aged 14-18 years. This dynamic weekend was from 19–21 November at the National Opera House, and included a Friday evening and Saturday daytime masterclass and a Sunday 'behind the scenes' technical experience followed by the evening concert with Atlantic Arc – a nine piece traditional music ensemble supported by Tulua.

Music workshops

Young Conductors Workshops- Are led by conductor/composer Andrew Synnott and musician educator Elizabeth Drwal. They consist of music and movement, rhythm and awareness, focus and fun over a series of three workshops. This initiative by Rosetta Cucchi, Artistic Director of Wexford Festival Opera is the beginning of a partnership between Music Generation Wexford and the Wexford Festival Opera.

Yellow Bellows Live Group Singing Workshop –is a new County Wexford Singing Group for young people aged 12-18 years, led by musician educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford with Music Generation Wexford. The young people explore singing and performing dynamic songs in a range of styles including rock & pop every Saturday at the presentation Centre, Enniscorthy

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

Filmmaker Role - County Wexford Youth Film programme is a core Arts Department programme which offers workshops in developing new film skills to young people around County Wexford aged 13-18. This programme is based in St. Michael's Theatre in New Ross. An announcement will be made at the end of December on the newly selected film maker following a procurement process.

Screen Wexford

Screen Wexford announced an end of year Showcase Event which will take place in Wexford Art Centre on Thursday 2nd December 2021. This event will include short films screenings, launch of Screen Wexford's new website, and be an opportunity to meet the team behind Screen Wexford and learn of new and exciting plans for 2022.

This showcase event will include:

NEW VOICES SHORT FILM AWARDEES

The three winning projects being presented in our showcase are:

- *'Sonny, Mammy and Patch the dog'* by Sinead O 'Quigley, Richard Deering and Adam Hart, is a dark comedy about how life can be put back together after a bereavement.
- *Samsara* by Unity, a collaboration between artists Mirona Mara and Jonathan Murphy who have made an animated short about the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth.
- *Halted* by Robert Tyrell and Joanne Heffernan – a documentary about the everyday lives of the Travelling Community in Wexford.

REMIXING THE ARCHIVE PROJECT Earlier this year, Screen Wexford ran an exciting new training programme in the field of film archive that invited ambitious early-stage career filmmakers and artists working with the moving image across Wexford, to engage imaginatively with the enormous untapped potential of archive film (from the IFI / BFI / BBC & NI Screen) whilst creating a new archive-inspired piece. The workshop was delivered by Akajava Films in collaboration with the Make Film History project with the support of Screen Skills Ireland. Nine films made during this project will also be screened.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Communities Programme

Creative Communities is an annual Arts Department programme that allows an artist from our panel to work with a community group on a creative project for over the course of six months. The artist panel is currently being renewed and an announcement on a new panel will be made at the end of December. This panel of artists will be available to community groups for creative projects during 2022.

Re-Imagining Enniscorthy

Re-imagining Enniscorthy is a public art programme that will address the overarching theme of Decarbonisation and will have public art outcomes. The aim of this public art commission is to raise awareness and encourage behaviour change amongst local communities in real and tangible ways through creative processes. The project will run over a 12-month period beginning in November 2021. The project is being supported by a range of Wexford County Council's Departments including the Environment Department, Climate Action Team, Culture Team and the Per cent for Art

Programme. It is also being supported by Creative Ireland, Sustainable Enniscorthy Committee, the 3 Counties Energy Agency and Wexford Arts Centre.

Day Care Centre Concerts

Creative Ireland Wexford in partnership with Wexford Age Friendly County Programme has commissioned the Mobile Music Machine (MMM) to perform 15 concerts countywide in day care centres throughout December and January. The Mobile Music machine specialises in delivery high quality, string and operatic workshops and will use local musicians with each performance following the strict Covid-19 guidelines in place at that time. The aims of the project are to allow service users to experience the therapeutic joy of live classical music and provide emotional and psychological respite to the service users who have been deeply impacted by Covid-19.

Digital Time Capsule

A Digital Time Capsule project will be delivered by a group of second level students in the Bunclody area. The capsule will be based on the students and local community experiences of the past 18 months. A series of written pieces and artwork by the students will be collated and stored in the time capsule, students will also gather stories from the local community including family members, neighbours, medical personnel, and nursing home residents with the aim of recording a brief moment in Wexford's history during the pandemic for future generations.

Wagon Wheels

The Creative Ireland supported short film, *Wagon Wheels*, is being broadcast as part of the Shortscreen series on RTE 2 on December 6th. Wagon Wheels is a short documentary by filmmaker Terence White about the folk art involved in painting barrel top wagons in County Wexford, and dedicated individuals who are helping to keep the tradition alive.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2022

The national Creative Ireland Programme invited applications during November from organisations who have a demonstrable capacity to deliver Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 with audience scalability nationwide through the provision of free creative activities for children and young people.

Yola Language

The southern baronies of Forth and Bargy in Co. Wexford retained the dialect known as Yola until the nineteenth century. Yola was the evolved dialect of the Anglo-Norman settlers who came to Wexford in the aftermath of the invasions of 1169-70. Yola, meaning 'old' was a mixture of Middle English, French, Flemish and Irish.

A Creative Ireland Yola Project being developed by the Heritage Officer Wexford County Council will explore the origins of the Yola dialect and present information from Poole's Glossary and placename evidence. This will be presented on a large two sided interpretive panel, which will be located at Lady's Island in the barony of Forth. The project will engage both locals and visitors with the origins of this dialect.

Creativity in Older Age: Music Therapy Programme

Research is increasingly demonstrating the positive effects of music for people with dementia in improving general attention, cognition, memory, speech and communication skills. This Creative Ireland supported six- week programme was a collaboration between the Arts Department, Age Friendly coordinator, the Alzheimer's Society and the music educators Emily Redmond and Anne Marie Stafford. Over a period of six weeks clients and their carers attended the music therapy sessions and gave excellent feedback on the positive effects of music therapy on the lives of the participants. It is hoped to extend the pilot further in 2022.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties- October

We provided ambulance cover to Six events in October 2021.

- Wexford Athletics event 3rd October.
- Field day: Parents support group- Children with Diabetes 9th October
- Wexford Athletics event 10th October.
- Colaiste Bhríde Carnew -Interschool Showjumping 17th October
- Rathgarogue Community Fun Run- Oct 31st
- Wexford Athletics event 31st October

Civic Duties- November

We provided attendance to Remembrance Day Service -Gorey Nov 14th

Weekly Training

Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross. Each class is broken into small teams, some classes are broken into 2 training periods as classrooms are small.

Weekly training is mostly completed out of doors involving search skills, communications, and water responder.

Training Courses:

EMT training commenced Oct 12th

EFR training commenced Nov 11th

FAR courses completed in Gorey, Enniscorthy & New Ross. Gorey unit to finish current course early Dec

Missing Person Search Responder Course Nov 13th & 14th

Covid 19 – Response

Patient Transports

October: We have provided transport for a person to Waterford Regional Hospital

November: We have provided transport for a person to two appointments, one to Waterford Regional Hospital and the second to Bridgetown Medical Centre.

We provided transport for a person from Wexford General Hospital to their home in Camolin.

We have provided transport for a person to Kilcreene Hospital Kilkenny.

IBTS

We have provided volunteers to help with the running of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinics in Wexford from 17th to the 28th October, 12 volunteers provided over for the clinics.

Missing Persons Searches:

Missing Person Search New Ross: We provided boat, drone & land search coverage in New Ross: November 4th-7th. Person found. RIP

Missing Person Rosslare Strand: ongoing search, land, boat, drone from Nov 18th to date

Annual County Training Day November 20th

Training included: New Comms van, Manual handling/ patient handling, Fire Extinguisher safety workshop, Ambulance workshop

Presentation Dinner: Presentation of long services medals & volunteer training certificates. Presented by CEO Tom Enright & DoS Carolyne Godkin

FIRE SERVICE

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls October 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	2 / 2 (4)	89	105
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 6 (7)	56	46
Road Traffic Accident	5	72	70
Industrial fire	0	8	11
Commercial fire	0	1	7
Assembly fire	0	3	3
Agricultural fire	0	9	4
Motor Vehicles	0	26	44
Forest/bog/grass etc	3	71	86
Rubbish	18	64	87
Non-fire rescues	6	79	45
False alarms – good intent	32	194	239
Malicious false alarms	0	1	2
Miscellaneous	5	43	43
Total	80	716	792

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	33	13	21	17	5	89
DOMESTIC FIRE	18	19	6	10	3	56
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	23	8	19	14	8	72
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	5	0	0	3	0	8
COMMERCIAL FIRE	1	0	0	0	0	1
ASSEMBLY FIRE	2	0	0	1	0	3
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	3	1	2	1	2	9
MOTOR VEHICLES	6	3	6	8	3	26
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	19	19	17	10	6	71
RUBBISH	22	13	11	7	11	64
NON-FIRE RESCUES	22	20	22	11	4	79
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	85	29	39	36	5	194
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	19	5	12	5	2	43
TOTALS	258	130	156	123	49	716

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in October 2021: 7
 Number of Applications received to date: 97
 Number of Applications to this period 2020: 88

Finance:

COVID -19 – Rates Waiver 2021

Circular Fin 20/2021 was received on 21st October confirmed a Targeted Commercial Rates Waiver for the final quarter of 2021. The circular confirmed that the broad categories of businesses the credit in lieu of rates applies to are as follows:

- Hospitality, including restaurants and cafes;
- Leisure;
- Miscellaneous entertainment;
- Certain tourism related categories; and
- Airports.

Funding for the 9 Month (January to September 2021) Rates Waiver scheme for eligible businesses amounted to €10.7m and the revised waiver scheme for the last quarter will see a further €1.5m funding support for this scheme bringing the total value of the 2021 Rates Waiver Scheme funding to approx. €12.3m. representing approx. 29% of the total rates warrant for 2021. Credit Control are continuing to engage with ratepayers to make arrangement for the payment of remaining balances on their rate accounts and to re-establish payment arrangements for the collection of commercial rates in the coming year, once government supports under this scheme are complete.

Finance Report Q3

The Q3 Finance Report is included on the agenda for December and is reporting a €0.8m deficit in the Revenue Account for the period to 30th September. This is largely informed again by the ongoing impact of the pandemic on both expenditure and goods & services income performance. Indications are that some level of additional government support funding will be provided to local authorities to contribute to the additional costs and income losses but the level of this support is not known at this point but will be a factor in informing the eventual outturn in the Revenue Account for 2021.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction remains in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m to 31st December 2021. Ministerial Sanction has also now been received confirming borrowing by way of overdraft for 2022 in the amount of €20m, as approved by members at the October meeting.

Audit Committee/Audit

The next Audit Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 15th December. The annual reports from the Audit Committee prepared in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are expected to be submitted to the Council at the January Meeting.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**