



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 11.12.23

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic

IDA and WCC Collaboration for Enniscorthy Tech Park

As part of Wexford County Council's economic strategy to provide high quality property solutions for investment by companies with potential for job creation, Wexford County Council has secured an MOU with the IDA to collaboratively develop a property solution for an advanced factory at Enniscorthy Technology Park. This phase will see a tender for design and planning of the advanced building solution.

Tourism



Fáilte Ireland support PR Media to drive demand to County Wexford

Wexford County Council received a contribution of €10,000 ex vat from Fáilte Ireland to support radio and print advertising to promote County Wexford driving demand in the off-peak months of November 2023 to January 2024.

The marketing activity include the following:

- 25 x 20 sec radio advertising spots on Today FM on week commencing 13th November.
- A weekday giveaway with the 2 Johnnies Show on 2FM
- Audio Xi - digital audio pre-roll (Alexa/ google home/ phone/ etc) 120,000 imps over 2 weeks, with geo and demo targeting included.
- A full-page colour print ad in Irish Country Magazine and Visit Wexford featuring on their social media channels.

Condé Nast Traveller is a long-running travel publications, known for unearthing hidden gems and they have listed **Wexford and Waterford as “Best Place to Go in the UK & Ireland” list for 2024.** These are the only Irish destinations to make the list.

Local Enterprise Office

Sustainability Conference and Launch of Green Cluster for the South East

An action in the Southeast Regional Enterprise Plan is the development of four regional micro-clusters in Pharma/ Lean Manufacturing/ Green and Digitalization. LEO Wexford is leading out on the development of the Green cluster, LEO Kilkenny on Lean Manufacturing, LEO Carlow on Digitalization and LEO Waterford on the Pharma cluster.

An inaugural conference on **"Making Sustainability Happen: Funding Pathways and Success Stories"** was held in Wexford County Council on 16th November 2023 with an objective to create awareness and encourage the uptake of sustainability supports via the Local Enterprise Office and partner agencies, to encourage the business community in the South East to urgently integrate sustainability as a KPI for their business. The aim of the conference was also to generate a

pipeline of clients who will become members of a Green cluster for the region. The Green cluster will be managed by Mandi Stewart, Business Development Manager with HPBA (Green Hub).



Renowned Irish biologist, environmental consultant and radio and television presenter Eanna Ni Lamhna was master of ceremonies and moderated 2 panel discussions. Over 60 business leaders heard first hand accounts from successful businesses owners Simon Lynch, Wicklow Wolf Brewery, Catherine Murphy Brady, Brady's Coffee, and Michael Griffin, Griffin Group how they have implemented changes in their businesses to improve their sustainability credentials. Michael Griffin detailed how the Griffin group have successfully incorporated solar panels as a key measure to reduce energy consumption. The benefits of renewable energy was reiterated by Simon Lynch who also outlined how Wicklow Wolf have focused on local sourcing of their ingredients while Catherine Brady spoke about the positive impact of the LEO Green for Business support on her coffee roasting business. With the help of a LEO appointed environmental consultant they have identified and implemented practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing their packaging usage amongst other measures. Information on the various supports was outlined at the event by speakers including Ankush Shirsath from Enterprise Ireland, Mandi Stewart, HPBA, Breege Cosgrave, Wexford County Council, Onyedikachi Onwusor of the South East Energy Agency and Michael Crowley of Microfinance Ireland. LEO staff and Green Consultants were also available to assist businesses in applying for Green for Business and the €5000 Energy Efficiency Grant.

12 Client companies were identified as possible member for the Green cluster going forward.



Seasonal Retail Trading and Merchandising support Programme



In conjunction with Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce, the Local Enterprise office ran a pilot programme to assist retailers in Enniscorthy town to maximise sales opportunities over the Christmas period. The support comprised 2 elements; an online webinar delivered by retail expert James Burke highlighting trends and sales growth ideas and a merchandising session delivered by Lisa McCarthy. Eight businesses signed up for one-to-one session in their respective businesses on merchandising.

Regeneration Unit

The new Regeneration Unit headed by the Town Regeneration Officer will support measures to bring vacant and derelict properties back into use. Currently the unit is looking at options to support vibrancy and the nighttime economy. The section will apply for an additional resource to support the work of the unit.

Town Centre First

Both New Ross and Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plans are now complete, and the New Ross pathfinder Town plan has now been forwarded to the DRCD. Both plans have been reviewed by the National Town Centre Office and positive feedback has been received on both. We are currently procuring designers to professionally design these plans prior to local and National Launch.

The Town Centre First teams are meeting monthly in both Enniscorthy and New Ross developing ideas and contributing to the finalisation of plans and discussing how best to progress the interventions outlined in their respective plans.

Town Centre First plans are mentioned extensively in the recent RRDF fifth Call for Category 1 applications. With the completion of this plan, New Ross is now in a strong position for application along with projects that may have received RRDF Category 2 funding in the past. Discussion is ongoing at National Level on future Town Centre First plans for more Towns and Villages with details expected to emerge on this in the coming weeks.

Vacant Homes

The Regeneration Unit has taken on the functions of the Vacant Homes Officer namely Croi Conaithe and ready to build scheme.

The Vacant Homes Officer is also carrying out a countywide Vacant Homes Survey, the objective of the survey is to capture data, granular and high level, on the number of vacant and derelict dwellings, their condition and the reason for vacancy, across the County. This will then provide a data base for WCC to use, which can be added to, as vacant properties come to our attention and properties can be removed from, when they are activated.

The database will also be used by WCC to identify properties to enter the CPO activation programme and capture data on all properties / owners who we are engaging with, and the various schemes used to activate those properties - Repair and Leasing etc. and in some cases CPOs or Compulsory Acquisitions
Croi Conaithe Scheme Outline

- Refurbishment Grant – A maximum Grant of €50,000 is available for refurbishment of a Vacant property with an additional €20,000 available if the property is confirmed as derelict.
- Applicants can live in the property as their private principal residence or rent out the property.
- The Property can be in an urban or rural area and has to be vacant for a period of 2 years.
- The property must be built /substantially completed by Dec 2007.
- Works covered are renovation works.

Current Wexford Croi Conaithe Stats as of end of November 2023.

Actions	Number
Applications Received	196
Approved	78
Refused	2
Awaiting Inspection	15
Awaiting Information from Applicant	97
Queries received via email to date	Over 2,100
Outstanding Queries	43

Ready to build.

In relation to Ready to Build we are looking at some possibilities for 2024. Brief details of Ready to build are as below,

- Local authorities will make available serviced sites at reduced cost to support self-build home ownership.
- The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the LA before the sale of the site, but will not exceed €30,000 (being the max amount the Local Authority can claim from Dept to get services to the site).
- Have direct access to adequate mains water supply and mains wastewater disposal infrastructure.
- Local Authorities will manage the prioritisation of applicants in line with the framework of priorities as outlined by Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 28th of October 2023 until the 24th of November 2023.

No. of valid applications	93
No. of invalid applications	12
Extension of Duration	0
Exempted Development Declaration	9

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2023 until the 24th of November 2023

No. of valid applications	1,236
No. of invalid applications	171
Extension of Duration	26
Exempted Development Declaration	68

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 27th of November 2023

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2023	304
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2023	340
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 27/11/2023	88
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	76 days

Pre-Planning Meeting Day

A pre-planning meeting day was held on the "the Street" in County Hall on the 29th of November 2023. Applicants who were on the pre-planning waiting lists were invited to attend, on the day there were 52 slots available for meetings with the planning staff, an evaluation of the event will be undertaken in due course.

Major Pre-Planning Data 2023

- Meetings Held **54 No.**
- Proposed Commercial Development **61,962 sqm. approx.**
- Total No. of proposed Housing Units **765 units approx.**

Building Control (28th October 2023 – 24th November 2023)

- Validated Commencement Notices: **10**
- Number of Building Control Inspections: **33**
- Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: **09**

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The Pre-draft Consultation Report and the Social Infrastructure Audit were presented to the Members of Wexford Borough District at a meeting held on Monday, the 20th of November.

The Pre-draft Consultation Report provides an overview of the public and other stakeholder consultation undertaken and a summary of the issues raised in the 73 submissions and observations that were received.

The Social Infrastructure Audit provides the evidence-base to identify where there is a current under provision of social infrastructure. The outputs of the audit will be an important consideration in determining future social infrastructure requirements, and in the spatial planning of the town including the implementation of the 10-minute town concept.

Work on the Infrastructural Assessment Report continues. This is a significant piece of work which requires a review of all lands in the plan area to determine if the lands are currently serviced or could be serviced during the plan period. The outputs of this assessment will be an important consideration in the spatial planning and land use zoning in the Draft LAP.

The Local Transport Plan is progressing well with the Baseline and Context Reports almost complete. Work has commenced on the Options Report.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also underway. The consultants have carried out their initial review and walk over of the town. They have also been informed of flooding events that occurred during recent weather events.

The tenders received for the Urban Design Strategy (including Master Planning) and the Rainwater Management Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy are currently being evaluated.

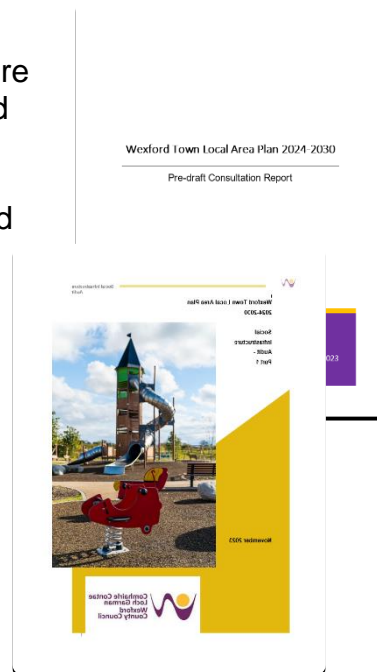
Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Local Transport Plan for the LAP.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 28th October 2023 to 24th November 2023 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website on 19th of September 2023.
- **48** property inspections/visits conducted.
- **4** Derelict/Dangerous Site files opened.
- **5** Derelict/Dangerous Site files resolved and closed.
- **2** properties entered onto the Derelict Site Register - Section 8(7).
- **12** Section 8(2) Notices issued.
- **12** Section 11(1) Notices issued.
- **3** Dangerous Structure Notices issued.



Planning CSO Returns 2023

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

Month	Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	One-off Houses
January	50	3	26
February	15	1	17
March	154	30	33
April	156	89	16
May	65	30	26
June	6	2	25
July	155	16	22
August	14	22	28
September	12	9	19
October	4	9	21
TOTAL	631	211	233

* Figures to 31 October 2023

- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use.

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 24th of November 2023 are as follows:

- Live Cases **352**
- Cases Opened from 1st January 2023 **212**
- Cases Closed from 1st January 2023 **190**

Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 24th of November 2023 are as follows: -

- Live Cases **11 (2020 - 2023)**
- Cases Opened since 1st January 2023 **3**
- Cases Closed since 1st January 2023 **12**
- Inspections Carried out **4**

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2023 up to and including 24th of November 2023, totals **84**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	11	0	1	10	0
Gorey	25	0	4	19	2
New Ross	9	0	0	9	0
Wexford	22	0	2	19	1
Rosslare	17	1	0	15	1
2023 Totals	84	1	7	72	4

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	69
Major Pre-Planning (from 1st January 2023)	11

Access Items

Purple Lights

In celebration and recognition of UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd, the Access Section have arranged for buildings in each district to be lit up purple from Saturday December 2nd to Monday December 4th.

The following locations will be included: -

- Borough District of Wexford Office
- County Hall, Carricklawn
- Enniscorthy Castle
- Gorey Municipal District Office
- Harbour Master's Building in Kilmore
- The Tholsel & St. Mary's Church, New Ross

This is a great opportunity to raise awareness as part of an international event highlighting that here in Wexford all our public offices are accessible.

Have Your Say Survey

As part of a programme of activities to mark UN International Day of Persons with a Disability, we are launching the Have Your Say survey to give people in County Wexford the chance to inform on issues which impact access to services and amenities.

We are hoping to gather information and feedback relating to people's interactions with the County Council, their visits to public buildings and use of amenities, as well as footpaths, transport, and connectivity.

The survey will run from December 4th – 15th inclusive with findings from the survey feeding into the next Access for All Disability and Inclusion Strategy.

Story Board

The Access Section is re-launching the accessible story board to highlight accessible walking trails and destination parks around Co. Wexford.

The aim of the initiative is to inform of different outdoor options that are accessible in each of the five Municipal Districts of Wexford. The story board will have descriptions and pictures of the eleven trails that have been selected, helping people to understand the facilities available before their arrival, with a map also showing the locations of accessible toilets, accessible parking spaces, changing places facilities and playgrounds in addition to the parks and trails.

Disability Inclusion Strategy

The three-year term of Wexford County Council's Disability Inclusion Strategy has come to an end, with data for the final overarching report collated on June 26th.

The snapshot report reveals the level of activity and compliance over the lifetime of the strategy. Details will be presented to the Executive Team at their next meeting.

Collaboration with An Garda Síochána

The Access Section are delighted to announce a collaboration with An Garda Síochána for UN International Day of Persons With Disabilities, where the "We can't move until you move" campaign will take place in all districts. Parking on footpaths and in disabled parking spaces will be targeted to ensure equal ease of access for all.


Water Services



1. Rural Water Programme

Water Services



1. Rural Water	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<p>➤ Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole. ○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution. ○ Communication has been received from the Dept. regarding reallocate funding to nitrate monitoring. ○ Group Scheme Committee is in discussions with Employer's Representative TJ O'Connor's and Contractor EPS regarding obtaining a detailed quotation for the proposed nitrate monitor installation at the WTP. ○ GWS received a quotation from EPS for the full installation of the Nitrate Removal System. This shall be submitted as part of the next MARWP submissions. WCC has asked the GWS to confirm with EPS as to whether the nitrate monitor can be installed prior to the main nitrate removal system. If so, these works could potentially be carried out under this MARWP cycle.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<p>➤ Blackstairs GWS</p> <p>➤ There has been little movement on the proposed works as the scheme lost their manager and had some issues at the plant, they have had an interim manager in place.</p> <p>➤ Acting Senior Engineer WCC facilitated on recent interview board, new manager to be appointed 1st December 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage Tank - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants. ○ A report has been provided and assessed. ○ Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution. ○ GWS have reviewed and discussed at committee and have confirmed they are agreeable to recommended option. ○ Currently engaging suppliers and contractors regarding obtaining a quotation for the installation of a bypass with prv. ○ Reservoir Bypass -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works. ○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December. ○ The Dept. have approved request for increased funding. ○ The Group Scheme, Employer's Representative (TJ O'Connor's) and contractor (EPS) have all been informed of the Department's decision and are progressing with the proposed works. <p>➤ Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulk Meter Installation – Contractor David Walsh attended site to install bulk meter at Limbrick Junction, within Break Pressure Tank compound on 28th August 2023. Civil works completed satisfactorily on Wednesday 30th August. ○ David Walsh specialist operative attended site to install electrical components within the BM kiosk. ○ Works complete, WCC engineer recommended GWS to complete payment to Contractor. ○ Payment has been made to contractor and recouped from Dept.
<p>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</p>	<p>➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</p> <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. ○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. ○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites. ○ Update given to Dept. on progress to date. ○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000. ○ Amendments were made to scope of SI and project re-tendered; submission closes 2nd June. ○ SI re-tender completed; 3 submissions received are currently being reviewed. ○ IGSL Ltd awarded contract ○ ROL submission progressing by IGSL and submission to the RMO imminent. ○ In tandem, Archaeological investigations have been carried out at both proposed pumping stations sites. ○ Archaeologist is satisfied all in order and that no further involvement by Archaeologists on the project is expected. Received no issues. ○ WCC have engaged with contractor requesting a detailed programme of works, among other items

Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme. ○ WCC staff attended the NFGWS annual conference in September. Principal Officer from the Dept. assured us that an announcement would be made shortly.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Well Grants ➤ CLO attended workshop with members of the Dept in September. Dept were seeking input for the updates to measure 8 in the new round of MARWP. ➤ We are hopeful following our input that grant amounts will be increased for water treatment and new supplies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 32 new well grant applications were registered in November 2023. ○ 20 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €33,000. ○ 79 inspections carried out in November. ○ Workflow prototype has been developed to final stage – due to staff shortages IT have not been able to finalise yet.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 ○ Submissions requested from all local authorities. ○ Deadline 15th September 2022 ○ Matrix was constructed for Priority funding. ○ Limited to two applications ○ Feasibility studies submitted to the Department for Ramsgrange and Glynn for review by expert panel. ○ Further information regarding the option for Glynn was requested from the Dept. which has been submitted. ○ Awaiting announcement from the Minister regarding Ramsgrange.
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 applications received to date on revised grant, 3 paid, 4 approved, 1 awaiting further documents. ○ 1 application received in the month of November.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Ground investigation works have been completed on all lands where permission for access was granted by the landowners. Outstanding ground investigations will re-commence in spring 2024. Laboratory testing has commenced.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- Archaeological geophysical surveys are near completion.
- Additional topographical surveys are near completion.
- The design of the development is being updated considering the revised TII Service Area Policy 2023 and Climate Action Plan 2023. Park and ride facility in the vicinity of the Duncannon Road Roundabout is being utilised as a part of the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Project.
- Departures from standard applications are being dealt with by the Project Team.
- Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.
- Preparation of the Periodic Report in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding is near completion.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

- The standstill period of 8 weeks on the approval decision of Planning Application for the development of N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road has ended on 28th November 2023.
- Website update in relation to the approval of Planning Application by the Bord is being finalised and will be live in early December of 2023.
- Project Team is finalising the Phase 4 deliverables and processes and TII's approval to progress to the Phase 5 (Tendering and Construction) of the Project is requested to commence early in 2024.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2022 Pavement Schemes

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

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

Pavement works commenced in May and were substantially completed by 16 June. Line marking was completed by the 30 June.

2022 Safety Schemes

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

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

Works commenced on 23 May 2022. The roundabout is substantially completed.

Works outstanding: Landscaping works to be completed subject to weather conditions.

N30 Ballymackesy – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €23,000)

Retexturing Works completed on two sections. One short section in Clonroche and a 950m section at Ballymackesy.

N30 Tominearly – Feasibility and Options report completed and issued to the TII for agreement.

2023 Pavement Schemes

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 2 - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme has been tendered and awarded. Construction is expected to commence in early 2024.

N25 Orristown to Ashfield Cross Pavement Scheme - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme is being designed at present with expected tender in December and construction to commence in Q2 2024.

HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly Pavement Scheme – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost is €1,000,000).

This has been tendered, the contractor has been appointed, construction expected in March 2024.

2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations

Wexford County Council applied for additional maintenance funding from TII in 2023:

- This includes a section on the N30 at Moneytucker, which has been tendered with construction expected to be completed in Quarter 4 2023.
- Wexford County Council secured additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11 and N25.
- Verge and hedge cutting is completed on sections of the N11 and N25. A section of the M11 at Scurlocksbush roundabout and the Frankfort junction were included and completed.
- A Fencing Retrofit contract (190 linear metres) was completed at Moyeady on the N80 in November 2023.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since 25 December 2021.

- A preliminary meeting was held with the consultant on site in January.
- A topographical survey was carried out in November.
- A design report is due in the first quarter of 2024.

Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

- R772 Tinnock to Gorey (1.4km)
- R723 Rosbercon (0.8km).

Funding of €500,000 was received for the R772 Tinnock scheme, amounting to 50% of the scheme. A consultant has been appointed to look at the possibility of including a cycle facility as part of the scheme.

The funding was allocated to the R723 Rosbercon and the scheme was tendered and awarded for work is due to commence in January 2024.

VRS Maintenance 2023

This contract commenced in 2023. To date, fifteen locations on the N11, N80 and N25 are complete under Planned Maintenance. One location was completed as an emergency replacement on the N11.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 14 February 2023 to be €22,811,650. A special allocation includes €1,000,000 for Christmas Day 2021 flood damage and €1,500,000 and the Deeps Bridge remediation works. The strengthening programme received an additional €822,816 allocation on 3 July 2023.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2023 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 25 January 2023 at Bucks Bridge, Ballindaggan.

Roads resurfaced in the last month were:

Creagh to Fort road; Motoabower; Aughnamalameen; Buckstown; Racecourse; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Redmond Square to Westgate; Faythe; Corlican Killurin; Ballyboggan Upper; (All in Wexford Borough MD).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in Enniscorthy District at Tomanoo, on the 12 June.

The surface dressing programme is complete.

Community Involvement Schemes

€502,650 was allocated in 2023 for 7 roads and all 7 are complete.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Wexford County Council was allocated €610,000 to repair 17 bridges in 2023.

12 bridges are complete. The remainder are nearing completion.

Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. It is planned that work will commence early next year.

Wilton Bridge in Enniscorthy District - Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 30 June 2023. The bridge was repaired to its original form of masonry arches. Repair works are complete and the road was reopened Friday 17 November 2023.



Wilton Bridge opened 17 November 2023

Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March 2021.

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. All concrete and steel repairs are complete. There was a substantial increase in the number repairs required. This increased the project construction time and led to the temporary road closure being extended from 31 August to 1 December. The bridge and road was reopened on the 1 December 2023.



Deeps Bridge picture dated 29 November. Road opened 1 December 2023

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council was allocated €682,000 for 15 projects in 2023.

All projects are nearing completion.

Local Improvement Schemes

€411,705 was allocated to County Wexford in Round 1, 2023. A second allocation of €619,230 was received 28 July bringing the total to €1,030,9354 for 2023.

All 21 lanes have been resurfaced.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance commenced the 16 October 2023 and will continue to 30 April 2024. There have been 6 preventive salt treatments to date.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Newtown Road (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

The sod turning on the Newtown Road Cycle Scheme took place on the 7th of November followed immediately by construction commencing on site. The project is being constructed by Glas Civil Engineering contractors. The expected duration of the construction phase will be nine months. The project will result in the delivery of protected cycle paths and footpath upgrades on both sides of the road from the Maldron Hotel to the Racecourse on Newtown Road.

This first phase will be followed immediately by the second phase which will include the section from the Racecourse to the Hospital Junction with Newtown Road/Beechlawn/Clonard. This project has just been through a Section 38 process and was approved by the Elected Members at the November meeting of the Borough of Wexford Municipal District. The final detail is now being drawn up in house and will go to tender shortly.

The third phase will be the junction outside Wexford General Hospital – the junction of the Newtown Road with Carriglawn/Beechlawn to town, terminating at Wygram. This section of the route went to Section 38 earlier this year and received the approval of the Elected Members. This will also be constructed in 2024 to ensure continuity from the Ring Road to town centre.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SRTS

Safe Routes to School – Construction outside **St. Mary's National School Rosslare** is well advanced resulting in reduced car parking in front of school, improvements to walking infrastructure and safe crossings of the public road, all with the aim of encouraging more walking to school and less car dependence.

Paddy McGee's contractor is currently on site and making good progress. The scheme has applied and granted funding for additional footpaths on the Coast Road in Rosslare to the value of €90,000 which, in addition to agreed works brings the project value to €136k.

Preconstruction



Fig.1 – Completed works prior to full road re-surfacing

Pre construction





Fig.2 – Junction tightening to ‘The Haven’ estate Rosslare.

WX/21/0015 Safe Routes to School - Scoil Naomh Abbain, Adamstown National School – works are almost complete and a small ceremony to mark the completion of the project will take place on the 7th of December.

Significant improvements have been made to footpaths, reduction of parking to the front of school and introduction of pedestrian crossings.

The scheme has benefitted from substantial support from local stakeholders which has allowed the project scope to expand.

An initial allocation of €80k has progressed and a projected spend of €400k will complete the works.

Planting has been added to newly created green areas. Planting will assist in holding on to surface water run-off and releasing it slowly to the drainage network, thereby reducing flood risk in times of heavy rain.



Pre construction



Fig.3 – Completed Adamstown SRTS works
Scoil Naomh. Abbáin, Adamstown – works outside front of school

St. Aidan's, Enniscorthy, Safe Routes to School scheme is also well under way with works the school to enhance the environment for pedestrians, thereby encouraging more walking to school. A new zebra crossing and installed with new footpaths and junction tightening works ongoing. Many people live within walking distance of the school, and it is hoped that these safety measures will encourage less car dependence for short journeys and will lead to less congestion around the school zone.



Fig.4 – New footpaths next to St.Aidans School, Enniscorthy

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

The proposed cycle lane upgrade in **Roxborough** has now moved to preliminary design following approval from the NTA to proceed following the consideration of the Project Options Report.

A FWD (fall weight deflectometer) survey which tests the structural strength of the road is complete, which will inform the final design. Consultants DBFL are working with the Active Travel Team to prepare documents to proceed to Part 8 planning towards the end of 2023.



Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy ABTA – Following a competitive tendering process, consultants Arup have been appointed to carry out the Enniscorthy Area Based Transport Assessment. A commencement meeting will take place imminently to kick start the project.

A Wexford Town ABTA is currently underway by Atkins Consulting Engineers and at Options Development stage. A cross departmental meeting with Wexford County Council was held in November to examine proposals and findings to date in the Options Development and Baseline reports as these will ultimately feed into the development of the Local Area Plan for Wexford.

The next stage of the process in early December is to form agreement and consensus as to what aspects of the Options Assessment shall be pursued from an Executive level. This is an important stage to give Atkins direction to further explore Options.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

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

A plan to upgrade the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years is being drafted.

Lighting stock should be fully LED by the end of 2024.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting will be installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund in 2023.

- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch. Lighting design completed with tender received.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – Lighting design complete and contractor appointed for works to complete works in January 2024.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove to regional road. Lighting design completed and contractor appointed for works to complete works in January 2024.
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly Roundabout to Spawell Road. 2 quotations received. Contractor appointed and works to commence in December.
- Wexford Town - Kennedy Park. Works were completed in early November.
- Ballymitty – civils and lights erected, ESB connection awaited.
- Redshire Rd, Murrinctown – Civils and lights erected, ESB connection awaited.

Other locations will follow further to consultations with Municipal District Engineers

Work has commenced on 3 National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP) contracts across the country.

This is leading to a delay in getting our Development Fund lighting contracts designed, tendered and completed.



Housing Supply



Capital Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings to Complete in 2023	23
Dwellings to Complete in 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025	70
Dwellings Funded to complete 2026	132
Dwellings to be funded in HFA	12
Dwellings in Design	181
Affordables	90

Dwellings Complete under Housing for All in 2022				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District		
Carleys Bridge	17	Enniscorthy		Dwellings complete in Feb 2022
Glentire, The Ballagh	7	Gorey		Dwellings complete July 22
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare		Dwellings complete December 22
Rosetown Phase 1				
Glascanny	1	Wexford		TAP Dwelling complete June 22
Total	48			

Dwellings Under Construction to complete 2023				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Status	Comment
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete in Q4 2023. Landscaping and water connections by end of November
Whiterock Hill 22 Phase 1				
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Complete	Complete June 23
Total	23			
Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024				
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. To Complete 2024.
			Womens Refuge 12, Maudlintown	
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction commenced June 23. To Complete 2024. On Target.
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced April 23 To Complete Q3 2024

Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow) To Complete July 2024.
Ballyhine 8, Wexford				
Total	54			
Dwellings to complete in 2025				
Wexford Street	30	Gorey	Under Construction	Commenced on site July 23. Progressing to programme.
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Stage 4 Approved	Funding approved 15 Nov 23. Appoint contractor end Nov and commence site work in Dec 2023. DB Contract.
Tagoat 18, Rosslare				
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 4	Stage 4 application submitted to DHLGH 22 Nov 2023.Expect Approval in Dec 2023. Commence on site Q1 24. DB Contract



Creagh 22, Gorey

Total	70			
Funded Projects for delivery 2025 - 2026				
Francis Street	2	Wexford	SS Approved	Tender November 2023. To Commence on site Q1 2024
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete. Stage 3 and Tender in Q1 2024.
Rosbercon	50 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Invasive Species removal complete. Site Investigations to commence Q1 24.To proceed as a DB contract.
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Stage 3 and tender documentation for submission in Q1 24. Delay as proposal is with An Bord Pleanala (ABP) re EIAR. Cost Plan prepared, awaiting ABP decision.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Combined Stages	Bundle A for 2 projects. –Monomolin and Ballygillane. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding application. Part VIII to be approved Dec 2023. Funding Q1 24
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Combined Stages	Bundle A as above. Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding Q1 24
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Combined Stages	Bundle B for 2 projects. – Grogans Road and Adamstown. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Part VIII submitted Dec 23. Funding application Q2 2024
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Combined Stages	Bundle B as above. Part VIII submitted Dec 23. Funding application Q2 2024

Adamstown 3 New Ross			
TOTAL	132		

Dwellings yet to be funded in Housing for All Programme				
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Archaeology nearing completion. Other appointments will follow Archaeology report. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q4 2023
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. Part VIII decision Dec 2023 SS Submission Q1 2024
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Lodge Part VIII Application Q4 2023
TOTAL	12			

Projects in Design

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment
Clonard	42	Wexford	Pre Preparing 12 Dec 23. Part VIII Q1 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 35 social dwellings received. Assessment underway.
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Clear site and Pre Planning Q1 24
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief
The Lyre	75	Enniscorthy	Preliminary master plan. Site Investigations and surveys in Q1 24.
TOTAL	181		

Affordable Dwellings

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tenders received Sept 23. Tenders being assessed. Contract Q4 2023.
<p>Ramsfort Park 20, Gorey</p> <div>   </div>			
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 70 affordable units received Oct 23. Assessment underway.
TOTAL	90		

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Projects at Planning Stages

1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

The Planning Department in collaboration with Special Projects has developed a strategic plan for Enniscorthy town centre, which was adopted at the Enniscorthy MD meeting in December 2022.

Regeneration works to the Market Square, Enniscorthy Castle Quarter and Templeshannon will form part of the Call 4 URDF application expected in Q3 2023.

The Part 8 process for Market Square and town centre street enhancement was commenced on 4th October 2023, which was designed by Moloney O'Beirne Architects & Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project has now also commenced and it is intended to submit a Part 8 planning application for this in Q1 2024.

ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This masterplan will be completed in time for the forthcoming URDF application.

ILLUSTRATED VIEW 01

VIEW FROM CASTLE STREET INTO MARKET SQUARE SPACE



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

Phase 1 – Forth Mountain Activity Park, Trails and Carpark is complete.

The activity centre building was lodged for Part VIII planning in March 2022. In response to a request from An Bord Pleanála for further information relating to the project was completed and submitted to the Board.

The Part VIII planning application was withdrawn in October 2022. A process to procure a consulting team to prepare an EIAR and prepare a planning submission to ABP is now required.

The part VIII for the proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site was approved by WCC in February 2023. Tenders for works were received on May 31st and have been assessed. Contract award is subject to confirmation of funding.

1.3 Gorey District Park

The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public.

The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a contract awarded. The Changing Places unit will be on site for the second last week of December & completion is expected before the end of December.



1.4 John Street Building Regeneration Project, New Ross

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement and the CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are appointed and undertook a preplanning meeting for the building in February, with the Concept Design Report being presented to the New Ross MDC at the May meeting. Preliminary design is ongoing with Part 8 planned to commence in December, subject to the outcome of a screening for appropriate assessment and Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment.

1.5 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.

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. The preliminary design has been extended to include a design for a new Visitor Centre in order to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2024.

Hook Lighthouse

The tender competition for interpretative design services for the Hook Lighthouse was advertised in February with closing date for tenders on 30/03/23. Tandem Design have been identified as the successful tenderer and have been formally appointed. A commencement meeting took place on 6th November and subsequent site visit took place on 22nd November where the Consultants met with the Manager and Board of Hook Heritage and representatives from Irish Lights and Fáilte Ireland. A preliminary design for the Interpretive Design of the project is expected in Q1 2024.

The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be issued in Q1 2024 as part of the framework created for architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the preliminary design will be completed in 2024 and submitted to ABP in Q2 2025.



New Ross Tourism Project

Tenders for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience have been received and a contract awarded to EPIC Design, based in Dublin who have completed the detailed design for the development. The procurement for works will take place shortly. Installation and fit out works on this project are planned to be completed by Q2 2024. Tenders for the Interpretive and exhibition design of the Norman Visitor Centre have been completed and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Preliminary Design on this will begin in the coming weeks.

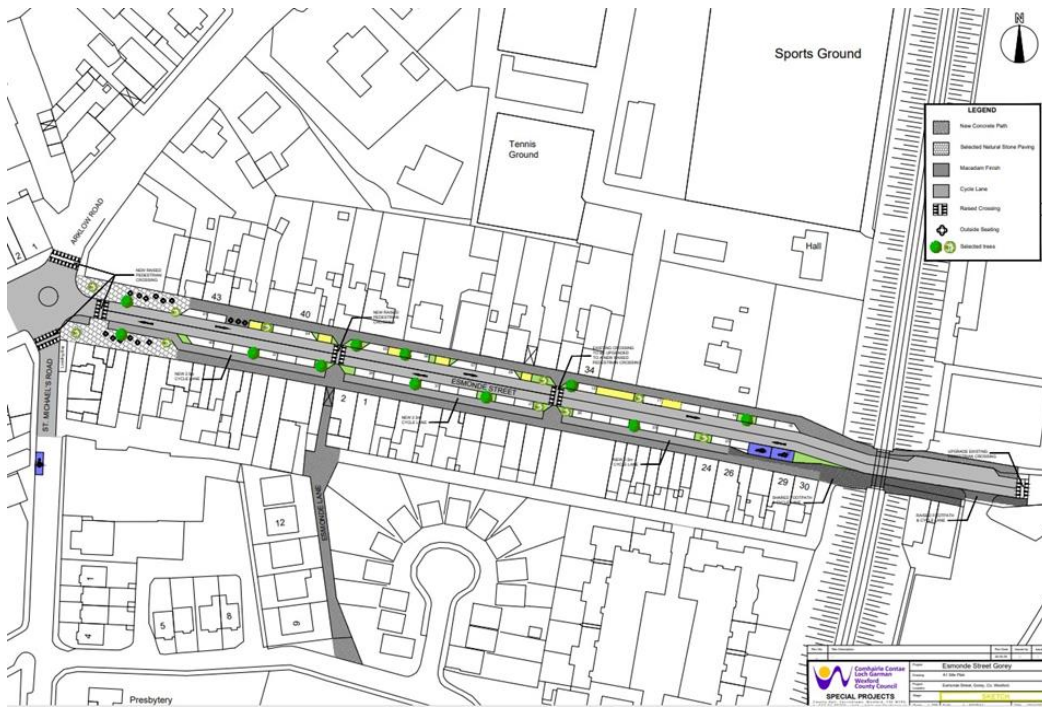
A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment now complete. Tenders will be invited from shortlisted candidates in November for the Norman Centre project, with award of contract anticipated in Q1 2024.

1.6 Esmonde Street, Gorey

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans, with works expected to commence on-site in January 2024. €2m of own funds is committed to the Esmonde Street project.

The scope and phasing of this project is currently under review.

A further redesign of the proposed public realm improvement project, which included an increase in on-street parking from previous proposal and a revised layout for cycling infrastructure, was presented to the members of GKMD in November 2023. The members approved implementing the plan as proposed, with minor amendments. The project will now progress to detailed design and then to tendering for a works contractor with the aim of commencing works on-site in September 2024.



1.7 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project was paused, pending the publication of the All-Ireland Rail Review. The draft report issued in July 2023 appears to promote reopening of the train line in future.

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

1.8 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022. It is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is likely to happen in Q3 2025.

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works that have been carried out over the past two years by Irish Rail. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024, with an expected Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.



Route Options with Viewing Points for bird surveys.

1.9 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

A contract for the initial phase 1 works was advertised in January 2022. Hughes and Hennessey Ltd were appointed to commence construction of the ENBD – Enniscorthy North Business District (Old Dublin Road) Phase 1.

This work involved the enhancement and improvement of the footpath streetscape, enhanced gateways and pedestrian safety.

This stage 1 of the project included footpath, drainage and road improvements together with the installation of two bellisa beacon pedestrian crossings.

This work was completed in September 2022.

An application for further funding has been prepared and submitted to the NTA, in conjunction with the Roads & Transportation Section, for the active travel elements of the masterplan. No funding was forthcoming for 2023.

1.10 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

Priority Geotechnical Ltd. is appointed to carry out the marine and land-based surveys and boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the May 2022 and the site investigation work is complete.

Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited. An application to the Marine Foreshore Dept., was submitted in December 2022, for permission to carry out benthic grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted.

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in Q1 2024.

1.11 Crescent Quay – Dredging

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete and results have been assessed. Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

1.12 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 Sports Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. Further ‘top-up’ funding has now been being sought under the LSSIF scheme and it is intended to retender the project in January 2024.

1.13 Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, Wexford:

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tenders received in September. Tenders exceeded the available budget, so a design review for the building is currently being undertaken by the Design Team.

Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site, following confirmation of €100,000 in grant funding through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023. Completion is expected in January 2024.

1.14 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

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

Following the tender process for design services in Jan 2022, Neville Conroy Architects was appointed. Surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023. It is planned to tender for works in November 2023 with works to commence in Q1 2024.

The process to procure replacement technical advisors for all remaining components of the Southeast greenway project has commenced. The first priority for this technical advisor will be for Lot 4 – Mount Elliot. It is planned to issue this service contract for tender in November.

There was a public consultation meeting on the South East Greenway held by Failte Ireland on 22/11/23.

Failte Ireland have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG.

The event was well attended by the public across counties Kilkenny & Wexford



2.2 Trinity Wharf

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2nd March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Works are ongoing on site with completion expected in January 2024.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The preferred tenderer is identified, and the standstill period has expired. The formal appointment of the design services consultant is imminent.



2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park

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 complete in July 2021.

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023.



2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

The works contract for essential maintenance works at the Mechanics Institute has been awarded to Roger Doyle Contractors and works commenced on site in January 2023. Completion is expected in January 2024.



2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford

A Part VIII submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site, including the construction of a temporary surface level car park. The Part VIII was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting. A further Part 8 submission has been made for erection of a temporary performance structure and public realm area, instead of a surface carpark.

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

The demolition contract was awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd, with works on the initial contract for the old Tesco site now largely complete. WCC has also agreed an extension to the main works contract to undertake the demolition of the former Dun Mhuire Theatre, which is now complete.

The procurement process is ongoing for the provision of the temporary performance structure at the site. Initial submissions from tenderers are due to be received in December.



2.6 Murphy Floods Redevelopment

WCC has recently acquired the former Murphy Floods Hotel site, and adjacent derelict properties, in Enniscorthy Town Centre. The Council now seeks to advance a proposal to redevelop this vacant plot, which has previously secured Part 8 consent in July 2022. O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers were appointed in May 2023 to undertake full stage design services for the demolition and site preparation elements of the scheme. A tender competition to appoint a works contractor for the demolition works onsite has commenced. Tender assessment is underway, with phase 1 works anticipated to commence onsite in Q1 2024.

3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

	Project	Date Delivered
1	Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1: Trails & Carpark	2021
2	Enniscorthy Technological Park, Phase 1	2021
3	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy Active Travel, Phase 1	2022
4	Gorey District Park	2022
5	Min Ryan Park	2022
6	Wexford Arts Centre Extension	2022
7	Monck Street Enhancement Scheme	2022
8	New Ross Fire Station	2022
9	High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross	2022



4. Flood Defence Schemes

4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

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

Flood Defence Scheme – The project baseline data is to be updated, scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. It will then be necessary to decide on the most appropriate planning route for the scheme. The hydrology and environmental baseline data is currently being updated; ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024.

A flood event occurred on the 24th October 2023. WCC's Flood Plan was activated. River Level gauges upstream were monitored, WCC crews were on standby, and sandbags were ready for deployment. Fortunately, flood levels receded on the 25th October, residential and commercial properties in the town were not flooded by the river on this occasion.

New River Slaney Bridge - It is intended to obtain planning consent for the construction of the new bridge as phase 1 of the flood defence scheme. The baseline data is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024. The planning application is to be submitted in Q1 2025.

4.2 Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for engineering and environmental services for the Wexford Town & Environs contract was signed by WCC and Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd on 23rd March. A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will be fully funded.

Wexford County Council, OPW, Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer and the sub consultant NIRAS completed a coastal walk over along the Quay, railway tracks (from the RNLI station to Carcur), RNLI Station, Ferrybank, The Heritage Park and Ferrycarrig Hotel.

A public consultation event will be held on 13 Dec 2023 between 4 and 8 pm in Clayton Whites Hotel for members of the public, business, and interested parties to meet the design team. A separate event will be held prior to the public event for all elected public representatives in the county. This event will be held from 3 to 4pm on also on the 13 Dec 2023. The next steering group meeting will be held in person in the am of 13 Dec 2023.

With agreement of the OPW survey work will be carried out in the Heritage Park to investigate the flooding issues in the park. A budget of €5,000 has been allocated for this work.

Information continues to be shared between the Council and the consultant.



UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

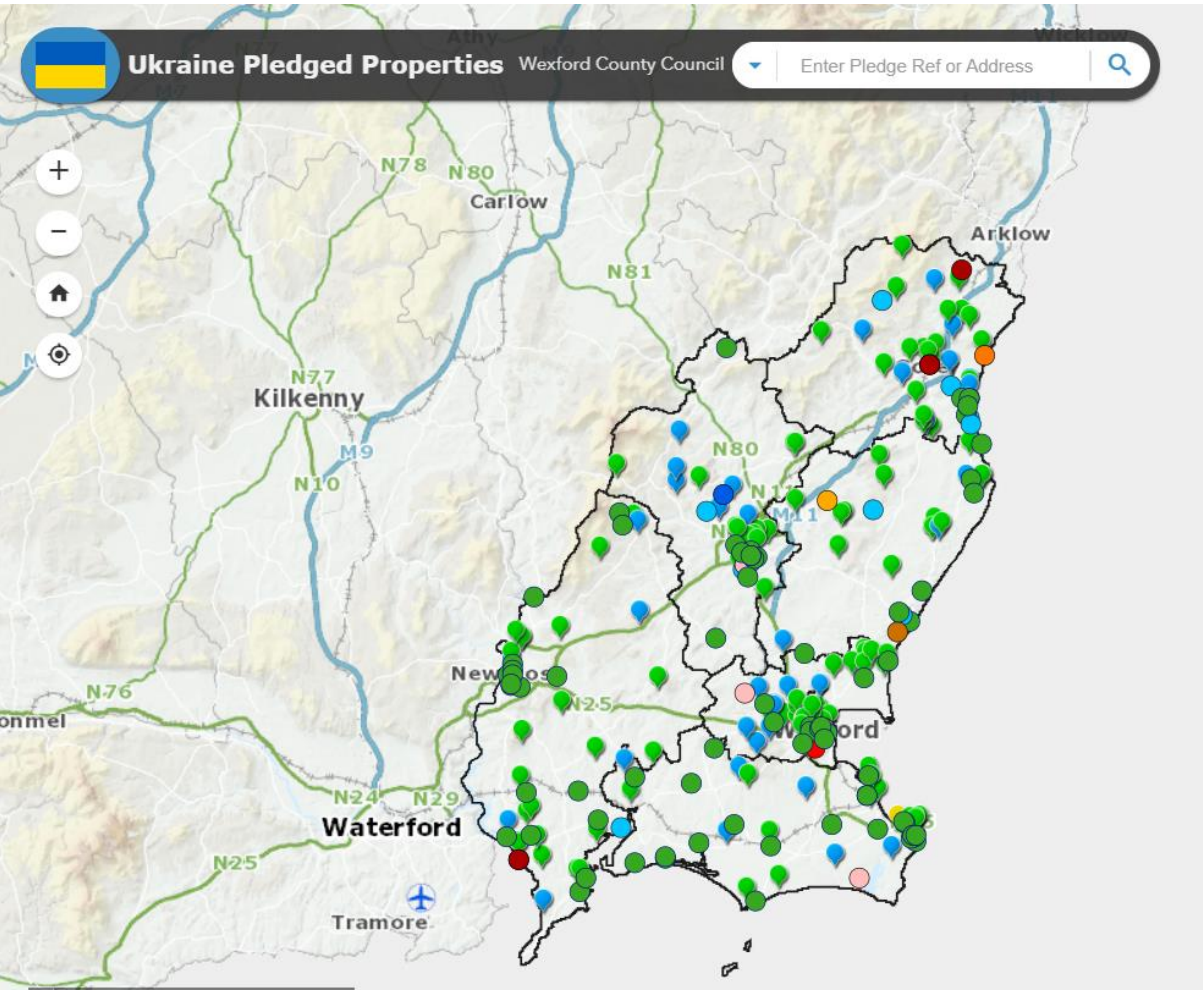
Accommodation

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTP’s) in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas.

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	170	597
Irish Red Cross	58	195

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 28/11/23 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

Below is an infographic showing the location of both Offer a Home and Irish Red Cross pledged properties currently housing Ukrainian people (BOPT’s) in Wexford.



Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum met on the 15th November 2023. They adopted the revised Terms of Reference to incorporate the work of the Local Authority Integration Team. This included changing the name of the Forum to the Integration Support Forum. It was agreed that the next meeting of the forum would be in person in the new year with a facilitated session(s) to consider the revised remit.

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Letters of consent issued for the following properties:

Address	Eircode	Occupancy	Completion Date
Unity Square, Roches Road, Wexford	Y35CX25	57	December 2024
22 Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	Y21CD50	15	May 2024
Borrmount Lodge, Enniscorthy	Y21VP8A	37	April 2024
New Projects			
1 & 2 Michael Street	Y35AD62	19	April 2024
94/96/98 South Main Street, Wexford	Y35H220	58	September 2024
Templeshannon House, Enniscorthy	Y21HK18	15	March 2024

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	14
Customer Complaint	10
Ombudsman Complaint	2
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	1
Total	27

PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

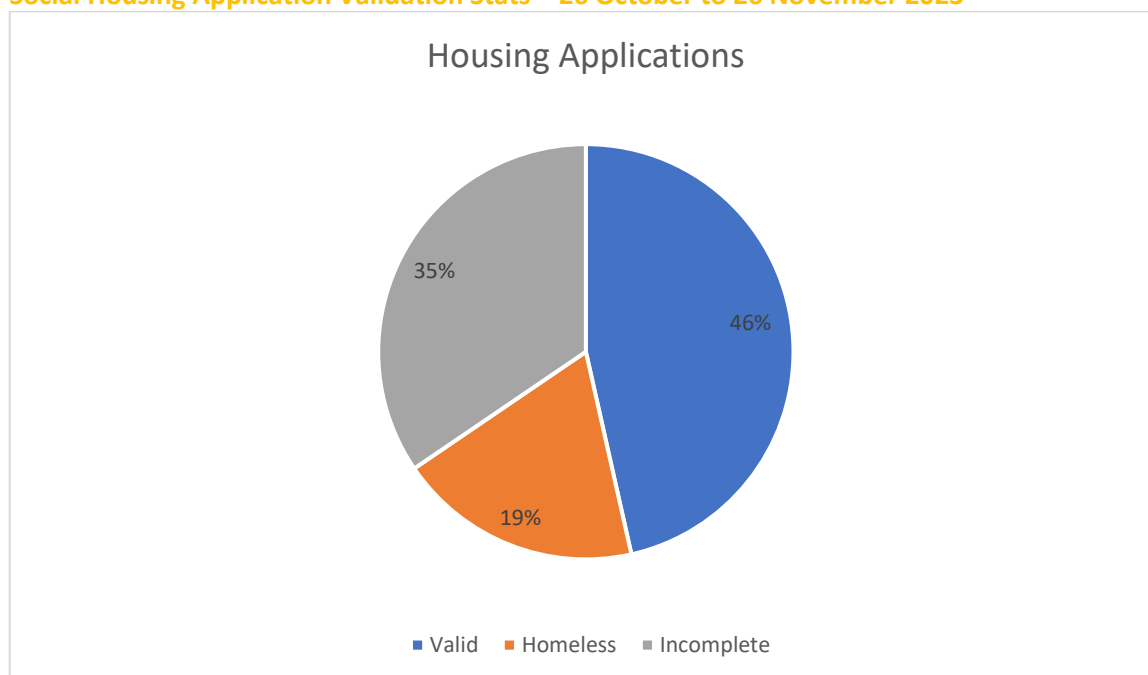
Tenders from 1st November, 2023 to 30th November, 2023

No. uploaded	4
No. of tenders received	34

CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 26 October to 26 November 2023

Area	26 October to 26 November 2023
Phone Calls	4820
Environmental Complaints	311
Change of Circumstances	45
Housing Validation	142
Quick Calls	3614
Roads Fault Log	113
Emails (Received & Sent)	3218
Web Updates / Consultations	88
Newspaper Adverts	71

Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 26 October to 26 November 2023



Members Portal Queries by Section – 26 October to 26 November 2023

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Customer Service	0	2	2
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	5	5
Environment	2	5	7
Finance	0	2	2
Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	1	1
Housing	10	67	77
Planning	0	5	5
Roads	0	6	6
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	1	19	20
Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD	0	15	15
Roads – Rosslare MD	0	1	1
Roads – Wexford MD	4	5	9
Water – non Irish Water Queries	0	1	1
Wexford Municipal District	0	1	1
TOTAL	17	135	152

COMMUNICATIONS

Top Performing Posts

Christmas Free Parking



31.1K views

Christmas Free Parking



12,620 Impressions



Press Release - SETU/Sports Facilities



2.7K views

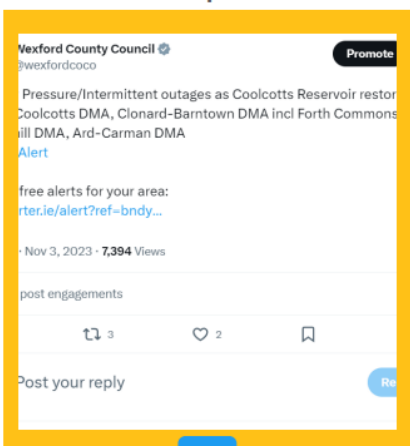
Top Performing Posts

Fleadh Cheoil Public Meeting



6.6K views

Water Map Alserter



7,323 impressions






Firefighter Recruitment Video



1.4 K Views

Monthly Social Media Stats

	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	57,041	13,783	8,084	63	35
	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	4,349	1041	2,829	126	30
	IMPRESSIONS	PAGE FOLLOWERS	NEW FOLLOWERS		
	113.1 K	14,323	46		

We're working on improvements to analytics.twitter.com. In the meantime, you may see some metrics are missing. You can access your Tweet Analytics and download reports [here](#). You can try the new version of account analytics beta [here](#).

Monthly Social Media Content

- Recycling Centre Christmas Opening Hours (Env)
- Remembrance Tree New Ross (NRMD)
- Library Opening Delay (Library)
- Keep Wexford Beautiful Videos (Env)
- Temp Road Closure (NRMD)
- Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme (Capital Projects)
- Christmas Light Switch On (Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross)
- Press Release - Proposed Direct Provision Centre (Corporate)
- Fire Fighter Recruitment Video (Fire Services)
- Fleadh Cheoil Public Meeting (Fleadh Cheoil Committee)
- Happy to Chat (Healthy Wexford & Library)
- Christmas Free Parking (Roads)
- Environment Awards (Env)
- Greenway Public Meeting (Tourism)
- Recruitment (HR)

- Street Enhance Measure Video (EMD)
- Community Calendar (Community)
- Press Release - SETU/Sports Facilities (Corporate)
- Duncannon Fort Strategic Masterplan Launch (NRMD)
- Light Up Your Life Campaign (Active Travel)
- Wexford/Wicklow Strategic Road Safety Forum (Roads)
- Sod Turning - Newtown Road Cycle Scheme (Active Travel)
- Opera For All (Community)
- Making Sustainability Hapen (LEO)



Monthly Engagements

TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.

Just wondering if you have improved the blue badge parking around the town ? Specially in Keyzers Lane ..High Street ..and the Quay .A lot of these parking spaces are at the top of hills and not very helpful to blue badge holders ...thank you to the traffic warden who offered to carry my shopping for me in Keyzers Lane ..I did appreciate it



Hi, I'm principal in Monaseed NS and would be interested in setting up Junior Traffic Wardens in the school. Would you have any contact information for this? Thanks

Press Releases November 2023

- 6.11.23 Wexford County Council Annual Residents Awards make a welcome return.
- 6.11.23 School Roadshow to encourage more young women into politics and bring diversity to council chambers.
- 07.11.23 Sod Turning on Newtown Road Cycle Scheme
- 13.11.23 Launch of Community Calendar
- 14.11.23 Master Plan Proposal for SETU Campus Schools Housing Sports and Community Facilities presented at Council Meeting
- 15.11.23 Talking Encouraged in Wexford Libraries as Happy to Chat Initiative Extends
- 16.11.23 Red Carpet for Green Communities
- 21.11.23 Proposed Direct Provision Centre at Rosslare Harbour
- 24th Nov - Hook Lighthouse Development Project begins
- 24th Nov - Staff & Stakeholders get Virtual Dementia Experience at County Hall.
- 24th Nov - South East Businesses embrace Sustainability message at Local Enterprise office conference

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexford-county-council-press-releases-2023>

Press Queries
November 2023

3 Press Queries received in November.

Query 1: Peter McVerry Trust query

Query 2: Housing NTQ HAP

Query 3: Dog Attacks

3 responses issued.



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,161 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below.

Housing For All 2022-2026					
1,161 Target	—	(430 Units Delivered	+	713 Units Projected	=
				1,143 Delivery Pipeline) =
					-18 Shortfall/Over

It is the Councils intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists, and Department funding is available.

The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report.

Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. The current Expression of Interest closed on the 24th November, 2023. The next Expression of Interest is due to open in January 2024. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Project Address	No of Units	Unit Profile	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross 2 (includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	8 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2	2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Mangan, Hollyfort	2	2 x 3-Bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To Deliver Q3 2024
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	160			

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	4 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd	12	6 x 3-bed 6 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	6 to deliver Q4 2023, 2 to deliver Q1 2024, 2 to Deliver Q4 2024 2 to Deliver Q1 2025
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 x 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	4 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units Delivered Q3 2023 2 units to deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered Q4 2022, 2 units to be delivered Q1 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 x 2-bed 2 x 2-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units to deliver Q2 2024 2 units to Deliver Q1 2025
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	2 x 3-bed 7 x 3-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. Amendment to planning permission being sought. To deliver on phased basis from Q4 2023.
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delays on site To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	62			

Approved Housing Body Delivery

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
	Cluid			
Bridgemeanows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024
Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q3 2023
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	86	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q2 2026
Beechfield, Clonard	50	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2024

	Tuath			
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q2 2023
Ramstown, Gorey	74	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units Delivered Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q2 2024. An additional 6 units will also deliver Q2 2024
	Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)			
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units delivered Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q1 2024
TOTAL	386			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 520 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	164
Gorey	100
New Ross	43
Rosslare	68
Wexford	145
Total	520

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 28th November 2023:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 st – 28 th November 2023)	201	133	178	208	83	803
Repair Requests Year to Date	1552	1040	1641	1676	1055	6964
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 28 th November 2023)	142	94	127	154	66	583
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	1194	806	1175	1238	751	5164
CLOSED Repair Requests (1 st – 28 th November 2023)	101	61	104	109	61	436
CLOSED Repairs Requests Year to Date	1068	640	1088	1060	699	4555

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

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022 was the second year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets set by the Department for Wexford to date.

Department Targets for County Wexford	
Year	No of Properties
2021	54
2022	68
2023	51
Total	173

The range of works undertaken in the properties include external wall and attic insulation, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting, high efficiency boilers, and upgraded heating system and controls. All properties received a minimum of a B2 BER rating after the works were completed.

Of all targets, the Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 37 properties in 2022. We propose to complete the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value the grant funded works planned for completion in 2023 will exceed €3.1 million.

The following table shows the status of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program to date.

Status update January to November 2023	No of Properties
Properties completed	123
Works Ongoing/awarded	34
Tender Stage	31
Total	188
<i>Tender Preparation /Survey Stage (2024 programme)</i>	157

Properties current at survey stage will be tendered and awarded in first half of 2024 to allow us to deliver in line with department objectives and have work in progress and completed in 2024. We are current approaching candidate properties for our 2024 program with surveys to commence in Q4 2023 continuing in 2024.

Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Status update January to October 2023	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	In Progress Circa 50% complete
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – Windows and Doors	In Progress Circa 30% complete
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	Contract awarded Survey in Progress Works to commence 2024

Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford District 1offs	Contract awarded Works to commence 2024
Doors Only Tender – Countywide	Tender Preparation Works to commence 1H 2024

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

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 1,359 calls to the HSSU from 1 st January 2023 to 27 th November 2023 the following is the breakdown of same:-	
1078 (79%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
92 (7%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
139 (10%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
50 (4%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

Affordable Housing

Wexford County Council has appointed a full time Administrative Officer to the section to support delivery. Co. Wexford is deemed not to have an affordability constraint by the Department. However the Department have confirmed they will consider applications on a case by case basis from Wexford County Council.

	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tenders received Sept 23. Tenders being assessed to complete in 2 weeks. Contract Q4 2023.
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 70 affordable received Oct 23.
TOTAL	90		

Choice Based Letting

Wexford County Council introduced Choice Based Letting in August 2023. All applicants approved for social housing supports including approved transfer applicants received a login to the system.

To date there has been significant positive interest. The following table shows the number of properties advertised on the Choice Based Letting website, to 28/11/23, together with Number of Views & Expressions of Interest.

Municipal District	Number of Properties Advertised	Number of Views	Number of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	8	5861	613
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	11	7820	1333
New Ross	9	5000	475
Rosslare	7	2616	288
Wexford	5	3928	698
TOTAL	40	25225	3407

Wexford County Council – AHB Forum November 2023

Wexford County Council's Approved Housing Body (AHB) Forum was held on the 29th November 2023 in the County Hall. The Forum was chaired by the Director of Services. The meeting was very positive with representatives from 13 different AHB's who operate within County Wexford and are interested in providing Housing solutions within the County.

The aim of WCC AHB Forum is to promote co-operation and develop partnership opportunities between Wexford County Council and Approved Housing Bodies to achieve our shared objective to deliver and manage homes for individuals and families who need support in meeting their accommodation needs. The representatives from the AHB's engaged with each other along with key staff from Wexford County Council involved in the delivery of such services.

Some discussion on the day included the important contribution of AHB's for Wexford County Council's delivery of units under Housing For All and around aligning our housing needs, both for general housing and specific housing clients, with their delivery proposals through various housing models. There was plenty of opportunity also to share experience and learnings between housing managers and the networking carried on over lunch after the meeting.

The Forum will be meeting again in the early part of 2024 to discuss up to date relevant topics.

Residents Awards Day 2023

On Thursday morning, 2 November in The Street, County Hall, the Housing Section hosted the Residents Awards Day. This was the first time the event was run since 2019. Residents of Local Authority Estates were invited to enter their estate or individual gardens in a countywide competition. Entries were received from 39 Residents Associations and 27 individual local authority tenants for the Best Estate prize as well as prizes for Best Garden, Best Window Box Display and Best Balcony. This year there was a new award for Best Biodiversity Initiative.

28 members of the public representing Local Authority Estates throughout the county as well as Housing Staff and Elected Members from all five districts gathered together in the Street for a series of informative talks. This was followed by refreshments and an opportunity to chat and view information stands. The event concluded with the presentation of awards for Best Garden and Best Estate by the Cathaoirleach of each district and finally Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, John Fleming presented the individual awards and Special Achievement awards as well as the much-coveted Best Estate in County.

The winners included:-

Best Garden in district

- Gorey/Kilmuckridge John Doyle, Orchard Way, Camolin
- New Ross Rosemary Rossiter, St Martins
- Enniscorthy Kathleen Fortune, Rosemary Heights
- Rosslare Mary Tubritt, St James Drive, Tomhaggard
- Best Window Box Display to Sinead & Siobhan O'Leary, Greenwood Avenue
- Best Biodiversity Initiative to Paul Lenniston, Garan Beithe, Coolcotts
- Special Award for Upcycling Initiative for Cois Abhainn Estate, Blackwater for re-purposing hub caps into Sunflowers
- Special achievement award to Denis Redmond, for his garden at Abbeyview, Campile
- Special achievement award for improvement to Cum an Tobair Estate, Oylegate
- Special Achievement Award for Croghan View Estate, Coolgreaney

Best Estate

- Gorey/Kilmuckridge Ounavarra Park, Ballycanew
- New Ross Beechview, Newbawn
- Enniscorthy Cloney Park, Davidstown
- Wexford Mill Haven, Castlebridge
- Rosslare St Brendan's Estate, Rosslare

Overall winner is **St Josephs Terrace, Ballymurn**



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LECP - Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2027

The development of the next iteration of the LECP is nearing conclusion with the 2- year implementation plan now at the latter stages of development. The Southern Regional Assembly has ratified the framework document subject to minor amendments. The full LECP framework document and 2-year implementation plan will proceed for signoff by the LECP Advisory Steering Group, the Economic and Community SPC's, the LCDC and all 5 Municipal Districts in December before being presented for adoption by the Council in early 2024.

Community Calendar

Our Community Calendar was launched in November with the first Calendar being presented to Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Fleming. Approximately 3,000 Calendars have been distributed among communities in the County with the ultimate aim of highlighting the Community services we deliver and providing contact details for the various projects and initiatives. We are delighted to see the calendars have been well received by communities.



2014 – 2022 LEADER Project Claims

28/10/2023 – 28/11/2023

The Article 48 team processed **2** claims in November under the 2014 – 2022 LEADER Programme. The value of these claims was **€33,416.29** which will support **1** community group and **1** enterprise throughout County Wexford.

These claims can be broken down as follows:

Payment Processed:

Trudie's Catering Kitchen	€8,625.00
Bannow-Ballymitty GAA Club	€24,791.29

Traveller Interagency Group

On November, 27th, 2023, members of the Traveller Interagency Group, following an invitation from the WWETB, hosted their last quarterly meeting of 2023 on site at their newly opened College of Further Education & Training in Whitemill.

This was a fantastic opportunity for all the group to view the facilities and training opportunities which they hope to share with their stakeholder groups.



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme -SICAP

The tender process for the 2024-2028 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is nearing completion. It is envisaged that contract documents will be issued by Pobal in the coming days, with contract signing to follow.

The SICAP programme provides funding to tackle poverty and promote social inclusion and equality in Ireland at a local level, by supporting communities and individuals using community development approaches, engagement and collaboration.

Pride of Place

The IPB Pride of Place 2023 in association with Co-Operation Ireland Gala Awards Ceremony was held in Armagh City Hotel on Friday 10th November. The entries for Wexford were Clongeen Community Development and Enniscorthy Community Allotments. Enniscorthy Community Allotments were the runner-up winners in the Community Wellbeing 'Holistic' Category. These awards acknowledge the achievements and invaluable work undertaken by the volunteers and those involved in local community development.



Community Recognition Fund

A total of 16.5% of the Community Recognition Fund has been drawn down to date, with an estimated further 9% in process of being accessed by end of year, for works part completed to date. Projected 70% of funding expected to be drawn down by end of Q1 2024. Fund closes October 2024.

Projects supported/completed this period:

- **Gorey Family Resource Centre** - development of counselling rooms at new Family Resource Centre building in Gorey **€63,378.00**
- **Enniscorthy District** – disability and special needs bicycles **€12,000.00**
- **Templeudigan Parish** – refurbishment of playground **€4,000.00**
- **St James GAA Club** - refurbishment of walking track **€19,994.00**
- **Write-By-The-Sea** - Audio Visual equipment in Stella Maris Centre **€4,000.00**
- **Cois Barry Community House** - updating of toilets at Cois Barry Community House **€10,000.00**



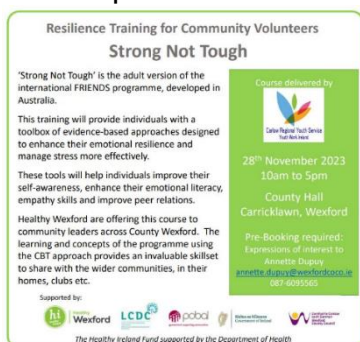
Some projects, Gorey FRC, Sample of Disability bike at Enniscorthy MD and Walking track at St. James GAA, Duncannon.

Healthy Wexford

Healthy Ireland Round Four

Some funded activity of Lets Get Moving Social Dancing and the Healthy Home Environments completed in November, while the Lets Get Moving Activator activity and Strong & Steady courses continue into December.

Strong not Tough Resilience Training for Community Volunteer also took place in November and further courses are planned for 2024.



Social Farming placements, supporting participants from Reach Ability, continued and our Healthy County Coordinator completed a farm visit in November also.

Planning work for the new Womens Health Through the Ages pilot continued in Q4 with plans to roll out the pilot through ARC FRC in early 2024.

Project funding for Year 2 of Healthy Ireland funding has been increased and the Healthy County Committee will make recommendation to Wexford LCDC in December on allocation based on identified need.

Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

The Healthy Wexford supported **Meet Your Neighbour** series continued in November with events in Gorey & Killanne. Following the success of the initiative in 2023, the Mental Wellbeing Working Group of the Healthy County Committee are looking at the opportunity to extend the initiative into 2024.



Following the success of the pilot **'Happy to Chat' Café** initiative rolled out in Summer 2023, the initiative is now to extend with local businesses and organisations encouraged to get involved. In tandem, Wexford Public Libraries are also getting involved, with Happy to Chat cards to be placed on tables in your local library and the monthly library conversation hour at Wexford Town Library to be rebranded as the 'Happy to Chat' Conversation Hour. The initiative was formally launched on 14th November.

Edermine Ferry Rowing Club 50th Anniversary Sporting Memories Event and launch of their Memory Book happened in Bree Hall on Sunday 19th November.

Healthy Wexford supported production of the Memory Book, along with other Community Department colleagues.



On Monday 20th November, supported by Healthy Wexford and Wexford County Council, a number of staff and stakeholders got to experience a Virtual Dementia Tour from Experience Training Ltd, offering a brief insight into life with Dementia.

In tandem, The Alzeimhers Society of Ireland Mobile Information Service attended County Hall, offering both staff and those visiting County Hall the opportunity to pop in and gather some information on local resources and supports.

Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP)

Enniscorthy Interagency Group meeting

An interagency group has been set up in Enniscorthy to identify issues in housing estates in the town using a place standards approach (<https://www.ourplace.scot/About-Place-Standard>) and to identify possible solutions and actions. Membership of the interagency group includes Council representatives from Enniscorthy Municipal District, Community, Planning, Active Travel, Housing and Climate Action as well as agencies including An Garda Síochana, HSE, WWETB, Wexford Local Development, FDYS, Schools, Tusla and Approved Housing Bodies.

A meeting of this group was held on 23rd November and it was agreed to carry out place standard audits at Gimont and Forgelands estates in the town. Engagement will take place with the community in advance of the audits being carried which are scheduled for 24th January 2024. The next meeting of this group will take place on 8th February 2024.

Slainte Healthy Communities Retrofitting pilot project

Work has commenced on a research project with South East Technological University (SETU) to identify the health and wellbeing benefits of getting homes retrofitted. Approx 100 local authority homes that are being retrofitted in 2023/24 will take part in this research project which will focus on the health benefits of getting homes retrofitted e.g. changes in incidences of illnesses, hospital and GP visits, prescriptions required, etc. A spotlight will focus on the Southend area of Wexford town where sensors have been installed which will measure changes in areas such as temperature, humidity and damp/mould. The improvements seen from improved energy efficiency can have significant positive impacts on the health of people in the homes. Reduced damp and mould can help with respiratory illnesses for example.

Coolcatts Halloween Festival

FDYS Coolcott's annual Halloween Fest, a community festival that brings together families from the Coolcotts, Ferndale, Belvedere, Ashfield and wider Clonard areas of Wexford Town took place on 31st October. The event was first conceived in 2015 as a means of drawing young people in the community away from antisocial behaviour and instead to be part of a more positive and celebratory experience at Halloween. The festival has grown and with support from Wexford County Council and collaboration with artists, has introduced various styles of performance such as parades, stilt walking, music, fire performance, drama and drumming.

This year SCHP continued their work with FDYS. A successful funding proposal was made to Creative Ireland for young people to take part in 10 week drumming workshops with Nickey Bailey from Extreme Rhythm. Nickey taught the young people drumming skills and techniques which culminated with them performing on stage at the festival.

The festival created a positive experience for all who participated or came to spectate and builds awareness for families and young people of their local FDYS Youth Service and the support services that are available locally.

Taghmon Drumming workshops

Taghmon Family Resource Centre (FRC) also played host to Nickey Bailey and his drumming workshops starting on 3rd November for 10 weeks. The workshops are an opportunity for local people who normally do not use the FRC to visit and learn about the supports they offer.



Loreto Sculpture workshops

Students from the Loreto Secondary School are taking part in workshops with the artist and sculptor Imogen Stafford. Starting with small pieces the students are gaining the skills and knowledge which will culminate in making a large centrepiece sculpture for their wellbeing space in the school. This project is another phase in their green therapy and Ark project which is funded by Slaintecare Healthy Communities.



Opera For All

WCC Community Section worked in partnership with Wexford Festival Opera (WFO) and WCC Arts Office as part of WFO's 'Opera For All' initiative which aims to make opera more accessible to more disadvantaged groups and individuals and enable those who otherwise would never go to an opera the opportunity to do so. 200 tickets for a variety of operas during the opera festival were distributed by the community section to many groups including Family Resource Centres, a direct provision centre, youth groups, childrens disability network, travellers and Ukrainians amongst many. The intention is to continue the programme in 2024.



WEXFORD PPN

"Garden Fork to Kitchen Fork"

Wexford PPN hosted a Community Growers event in association with Healthy Wexford, at the Templeshannon Community Centre in Enniscorthy. This involved a wonderful demonstration of seasonal vegetable soup from the fabulous Bree ICA Ladies and expert garden advice from Jonathan King, including how to prepare, grow, and maintain flower & vegetable pots and containers and support insects and bees as well.



PPN Governance Training

Wexford PPN hosted a free online workshop on Governance. This was delivered by Carmichael and explored Board members' roles and responsibilities as well as outlining the purpose of the board as a whole in relation to governance and management.

National PPN Conference

Wexford PPN sent a delegation of 9 to attend the PPN National conference in Arklow, Co. Wicklow. This was a great opportunity for networking and attending various workshops and field trips.

PPN Updates

- PPN District meetings have been completed.
- Upcoming Grant Writing & Social Media workshops are due to take place in the coming weeks.
- Wexford PPN's autumn Plenary will take place on 11th December in Oylegate Community Centre.



SPORTS ACTIVE

Georgina Gaul has been recruited as the New Ross Community Activity Hub Coordinator. Georgina will be based in New Ross to develop the hub under the Dormant accounts funding.

Strong and Steady – Coolcotts

On Wednesday the 4th of October SAW in partnership with the HSE started Strong and Steady in Coolcotts Community Centre. This is a 20-week falls prevention programme for older adults. HSE Physiotherapist leads the first 6 weeks and SAW staff and Tutor then take over for the final 14 weeks. SAW began delivery on Wednesday 15th November with a full class of 5 older adults.

Age Friendly Awards

The Strong and Steady programme has been shortlisted for the 'Active and Healthy Ageing Award'. The Award Ceremony will be hosted on the 30th of November.

Residential Nursing Home Exercise Classes

Tuesday the 17th October saw the start of a 9-week exercise programme in 4 nursing homes being run by SAW in conjunction with Age Friendly Wexford (Kerlogue, Knockeen, Cherrygrove and Castlegarden)

This will continue until the 14th of December.

- Kerlogue: 25 participants (average)
- Knockeen: 10 participants (average)
- Cherrygrove: 22 participants (on average)
- Castlegarden: 18 participants (on average)

Inclusive Adapted T.Y Module

SAW has begun delivery of an inclusive adapted module for transition year students in Our Lady of Lourdes on the 4th of October. The module covers different types of disabilities, assessing suitability of facilities in their local area, adapting games and sports tailored to different abilities. The module takes place over 6-weeks until December 13th.

Walking Rugby

In partnership with Leinster Rugby, two programmes have begun in Gorey and Wexford on the 7th and 9th of November. Both programmes run for 5 weeks, finishing the programme with a blitz in Astro Active on Thursday 14th December.

- Gorey: 16 participants (10 female, 6 male)
- Wexford: 12 participants (6 female, 6 male)

Teenage Girl Adventure Programme

Day Three of the teenage programme occurred in Min Ryan Park & Creative Art Centre; the girls completed a collage of their memories and of the programme.

12 teenage girls are attended the programme. Programme was funded through Creative Ireland. The girls are set to have a launch in Wexford Library on Saturday 9th of December.

Traveller Women's Exercise Groups

The 6-week yoga programme for traveller girls in Clonroche finished on Monday November 6th. The attendance during the programme ranged from 6 to 8 participants.

Syrian Community Exercise Group

A six-week exercise programme started on November 6th in Coolcotts Community Centre for women in the Syrian Community in Wexford Town. Currently 6 ladies enrolled in the programme.

IPP Badminton

An 8-week badminton programme started on Tuesday 10th of October for individuals in Cedar Lodge and Slaney Manor Direct Provision Centres. The attendance for this programme ranged from 23 participants to 32 participants per session. So far 26 females and 15 males have registered with Badminton Ireland.

Social Soccer

A 4-week social integration soccer for Slaney Manor and Cedar Lodge began on November 9th in Glynn Barntown FC. The attendance has ranged from 16 to 22 participants (all males).

Female Conditioning classes

Female Conditioning classes in Astro Active, Enniscorthy. 15 women attended the first two evening sessions on Tuesday the 14th and Thursday the 16th of November. These classes are specifically catered for women going through perimenopause, menopause and post menopause.

Playground Leaders

The last of the playground leaders' courses were conducted for Term 1. Horeswood NS and Tagcoat NS completed their Playground Leader course on Friday 17th and 21st of November where a total of 38 children participated.



Woodlands for Health

Woodlands for Health started in Tintern abbey on the 7th November, this is a 12-week walking programme being run in conjunction with HSE mental health service occupational therapists and Tintern Trails Development Committee. The programme will run for 6-weeks up to the 12th December and 6-weeks in the new year. So far, on average we have had 14 service users participating.

Safeguarding

- 14 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 210 participants.
- 4 x Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 35 participants

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 25 projects under this scheme with total construction cost of €1.79m. A number of the projects are completed, some are ongoing and some are about to commence.

Note that WCC must pay all non-construction costs including design, environmental reports etc.

Operations -

The regularization of the public lighting system on the Barrow is ongoing, new lights have been fitted to Marshmeadows access road and Jetty. Further lighting upgrades on the site have been completed in October to facilitate new business activities.

A new traffic management system and weighbridge upgrade commenced in October. Further clearing of the site has been completed.

The business development plan for the port is ongoing which is expected to be completed by year end. There is strong interest from several companies, now that Wexford County Council are the Port Operators, which will hopefully see new shipping business in the coming years. Proposals are currently being examined in relation to leasing the ground at Marshmeadows for shipping interests.

KIMO AGM was held in Falkenburg Sweden 4th – 6th October, Wexford County Council was represented. Wexford County Council is expected to host the next international board meeting in May 2024 in Wexford.

Beaches –

Bathing water: weekly bathing water samples ended on 3rd September. The water quality results are published on beaches.ie website. There were 6 water quality incidents – at Courtown (2 no.), Carne, Duncannon, St Helen's and Baginbun. These incidents were followed up with investigations and discussions with HSE.

Coast -

The Environment Dept monitors the coastline regularly, focussing on erosion risk areas.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being finalised. The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries.

Seaview, Kilmore: A Preplanning meeting was held with Planning Dept on 29th August. A planning application will be submitted over the coming weeks.

Further correspondence was issued to OPW in order to progress the funding of the scheme.

B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Public Conveniences	Open	Comments
Slade	All Year	
Dunncannon	All Year	
Cullenstown	All Year	Painted June 2023
Kilmore	All Year	
Carne	All Year	Painted June 2023
Bunclody	All Year	
Rosslare Strand	All Year	
Ballyconniger	Seasonal	
Ballineskeer	All Year	New Beach Wheelchair shed now installed.
Curraclloe	All Year	New Adman steel shed installed for beach wheelchair
Min Ryan Park	All Year	Painted – June 2023
Vinegar Hill - Dryloo	All Year	
Carrigfoyle	All Year	
Morriscastle	75% of Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	Universal Access Toilet (UAT) opened Monday 23 rd July, External shower installed, completion works include concrete pad for beach wheelchair shed
Baginbun – Portaloo's	All Year	Percolation Test carried out 29 th June 2023
Cahore – Portaloo's /Dryloo's	All Year	Portaloo's now re-located beside bottle bank. Dryloo's works now commenced.
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

Cahore to receive 3 Dryloo's similar to what was installed in Vinegar Hill last year. Dryloo's now delivered to site on 19th October 2023, retaining walls works to commence Monday 13th November, followed by assembly of the dryloo's early December . These are to replace the temporary portaloo's.

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Septic Tank Inspections:

123 inspections were carried out in 2023. Wexford have a minimum of 130 inspections to carry out in 2023. 123 inspections have been carried out to date in 2023. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. 123 inspections have taken place up to the end of October with 54 passes and 69 fails. Due to time constraints, the remaining 7 inspections will have to be carried over till 2024. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2024 plus the 7 carried from 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 67 files have been closed during 2023 so far. 29 extensions of time were granted in 2023. There are currently 56 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 51 open for 2023, a total of 107 open cases. 67 files have been closed in 2023.

Twenty three applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date of which twenty have been processed/ have been sent for payment.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2023
2019	156	48	108	10	4
2020	111	38	73	6	4
2021	91	24	67	17	9
2022	139	50	89	14	27
2023	123	54	69	51	18

There are currently 8 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 2 of these are for hearing and 4 are currently for mention.

25 verification inspections were carried out in April 2023 on sites which have Advisory Notices open over 2 years.

The Minister announced the following changes to the Domestic Waste Water Treatment System grant scheme on Saturday 11th November 2023, following a recently completed review of the grants:

- an increase in the maximum grant available to €12,000, up from €5,000; and
- removal of the requirement to register the system in order to be eligible for a grant.

These changes will apply to the following 3 DWWTS grants:

- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) (under the National Inspection Plan)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance for Prioritised Areas for Action)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance in High Status Objective Catchment Areas)

The Department is in the process of finalising the new regulations, which will be published in the coming weeks. A circular and terms and conditions are also being finalised for local authorities.

The new regulations and grant will be effective from 1 January 2024. Where a grant process has commenced under the previous scheme, but has not been concluded, the Department has no objection to it being concluded under the new scheme, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

2. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 92 active Discharge Licences. Six new applications have been received in 2023 to date. Three applications were received in 2022, two of which are under review and one was formally granted in March 2023. Six discharge licences have been revoked in 2023 at present and a few more are under review.

3. Air Quality:

Vehicle Refinishers: At end of 2022, 59 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is now the largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues “On the Spot Fines” of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below. The additional facilities were identified on foot of targeted enforcement action in 2022.

Dry Cleaners: At end of 2022, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below. Due to targeted enforcement action in Q3/Q4 of 2022, a new category of facility is due to be added to this register in Q2 of 2023.

Petrol Stations: At end of 2022, 80 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. Issued in 2023 (to end Aug)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	16	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	11	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	N/A

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act 1987 (SOLID FUELS) Regulations 2022 was signed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Mr Eamon Ryan and came into effect on the 31st October 2022. Spot inspections have been carried out to ensure compliance with the 2022 Regulations.

4. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 65 farm inspections undertaken because of pollution incidents or complaints, 30 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon on 4 individuals where 2 of these farms were cross reported to DAFM.

A total of 85 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been assessed in 2023.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0
2023	46	19	2	0

D.WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. 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 [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie)

2. Landfills:

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

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

3. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites October 2023	Recycling out (End October) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End October) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles	108	3185	3015
Aluminium Cans		80	77
Total		3265	3092

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan-Oct2022	Recycling out Jan - Oct 2023	Recycling out Jan-Oct 2022	Recycling out Jan-Oept 2023
Total Recycling out	500	518	548	552	734	664	431	416
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2308	2716	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Oct	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	69	68	111	116	90	122	80	81

4. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end Oct 2022	Oct 2023	To end Oct 2023	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	2,060	253	1,966	- 4.5%
Gorey *		27		
Enniscorthy *		70		
Wexford *		44		
New Ross*		69		
Rosslare		43		
Total Bring Site Inspections	7,491	709	8,378	+11.8%
Gorey		150		
Enniscorthy		177		
Wexford		215		
New Ross		105		
Rosslare		62		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	14,802	1,491	14,926	+0.8%
Gorey	North	494		
Enniscorthy *				

<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>997</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	4,799	816	6,808	+41.8%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>119</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>230</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>185</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>210</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>72</i>		

Other Works are as follows.

- 1- Beach and lifeguard work
- 2- Black spot checks
- 3- Town inspections every morning
- 4- Trails maintenance
- 5- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep

5. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have sufficient permitted facilities throughout the county, such as Clean Soil and Stone, construction and demolition sites, ATF's / End of Life Vehicles and Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council's website.

Altogether there are 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

6. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as submitted to the EPA on 28 February 2023. The 2023 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,597 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, Mercury etc.

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

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

E. LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-OCTOBER 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	181
Fines Paid in Full●	111	54
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	49
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	22
Legal Proceedings In Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	43
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€8,478.00 litter / €3,375.00 Waste – total €11,853.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€5,010.00

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices
- Fines paid in full- data excludes fines partly paid
- Amount collected in fines- includes part payments

September 2023

One case adjourned to October 2023 for progress in relation to non-compliance with an Advisory Notice under the Water Services Act which was due for hearing. The Judge struck one case under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Act 2018.

October 2023

Two successful cases were heard in Wexford District Court under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2018, the council were awarded a fine of €300.00 and €100 in costs for one case and a fine of €250.00 and €50 in costs for the second case. Wexford County Council also had one successful litter fine whereby a fine of €160.00 was awarded.

Wexford Co. Council – National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys 2004-2020 Percentage of County Littered (Litter Pollution Surveys)

Year	Litter free	Slightly litt	Moderately litt	Seriously litt	Grossly litt
2022	24.2%	63.4%	11.3%	1.1%	0%
2021	6.9%	74.1%	15.5%	3.4%	0%
2020	9.4%	68.8%	18.8%	3.4%	0%
2019	9.8%	67.9%	18.8%	1.5%	0%
2018	10%	70.5%	17.7%	17.7%	0%
2017	18.3%	67%	14.7%	0%	0%
2016	12.10%	65.9%	21.9%	0.4%	0%
2015	10.60%	65.90%	18.43%	5.07%	0%
2014	37.40%	50.41%	12.30%	0%	0%
2013	51.92%	39.43%	7.69%	0.96%	0%
2012	26.79%	60.71%	12.50%	0%	0%
2011	7.5%	82.5%	10%	0%	0%
2010	13.2%	53.9%	28.9%	3.9%	0%
2009	0%	75.3%	21.0%	3.7%	0%
2008	9.4%	55.2%	26%	9.4%	0%
2007	5.4%	60.9%	17.4%	16%	0%
2006	0%	53%	23%	20%	3%
2004	0%	23%	56%	21%	0%

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2019	2,925		741	
2020	3,187	Up 9%	628	Down 15%
2021	2,721	Down 15%	1,331	Up 112%
2022	2,188	Down 20%	1,023	Down 23%
2023			566	

The reduction in reported dumping incidents is also reflected in a similar decline in attendances by the Environment Clean Up Crew to incidents.

Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2023(October)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2023	181	23	1920
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – Oct 2023
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	3643
Closed	4638	4861	5015	3442	2951
Closure Rate	98%	97%	97%	88%	81%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden and one part-time Dog Warden. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023 (February) – October)
Dogs collected	532	429	546	470
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117	108
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370	462
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51	33
Dog Fines	5	18	21	13

There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

To date in 2023 two horses has been seized.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Picker Pal Programme: 10 primary schools will be funded to participate in the picker pal programme, Schools will be sent Picker Packs which will contain supplies, safety card, the Picker Pals reader Picker Power and the Picker Pals Funbook for every child.

Schools also receive teacher resource materials, ongoing teacher support, access to online interactive resources, 6 Picker Pals TV episodes links sent directly to all classrooms and access to all Picker Pals competitions and projects run throughout the 2023/24 academic year.



Environment Awards: On Monday 13th November the Wexford County Council Annual Environment Awards were held at the Ferrycarrig Hotel. Over 250 children, community groups, volunteers, resident groups and individuals turned up on the night to see their wonderful efforts acknowledged by Wexford County Council.

On a night there were representatives from 11 schools and 63 community groups. The overall winners of the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition were Blackwater Tidy Towns. The schools were well represented with eleven schools receiving presentations from Councillor John Fleming, Cathaoirleach. Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, New Ross Educate Together National School and St Edan's National School, Ferns were all recognised for receiving their first green flag and presented with a nest box sponsored by The Wexford Naturalists' Field Club.

Coláiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge, Gorey Community School, Loreto Secondary School Wexford, Ramsgrange Community School and Selskar College were awarded certificates for their participation in the Rubbish Film Festival Programme.

Mercy School Wexford was awarded a Plaque as the overall primary school winner in the Christmas Decoration Competition 2022 in conjunction with South-East Radio for their group entry entitled 'The Christmas Tree'. The entry was created by students Tomás Meyler, Fionn Quirke and Blake Thomas.

Ramsgrange Community School was recognised for their achievements on the National stage having won the WEEE Ireland schools battery recycling national competition in the medium secondary school category, collecting more batteries for recycling than any other school in the country in that category. A grand total of the equivalent of 82,200 AA batteries were collected for recycling by the school.

Certificates were presented to Conan Kelly, Wexford Educate Together National School who was the Overall Primary School Winner in the Environment Artwork Competition and Mikolaj Perek Coláiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge who was the overall secondary school winner of the Environment Artwork Competition.

Kilmyshall National School were also awarded a Plaque for being Wexford's Cleanest School.

An Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to Wexford's Environment was presented to Catherine Redmond and Mary Cogley both worthy winners. Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group were presented with a plaque for winning the Community Group Snap Into Action competition. Hollyfort Development Group, The Gap Tidy Towns & Heritage Group, and Askamore Community Council / Tidy Towns were also presented with awards for their participation in the North Wexford 2K.




Planting Grant: 84 applications were approved under the 2023 planting grant scheme and closing date for groups to redeem their grant was Friday 29th September. 83 groups redeemed their grant

Trees for Wexford: Applications closed opened for the Trees for Wexford Scheme week commencing 11th September with a closing date of 6th October @ 4 p.m. 150 applications have been received. Quotations are now being sought for the supply and delivery of trees and saplings under the scheme.

Heritage Stewardship Fund/ Hedgerow Survey: An information talk took place on Saturday 23rd September at 2.30 pm in Wexford Library. The talk which was well attended explored the importance of the hedgerows in our landscape and their role in helping biodiversity in County Wexford. The talk shared some of the key findings of the survey, the species that make up our hedges, how they can be managed and protected for everyone's benefit.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups continue.

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/10/23 – 31/10/23	63
	01/01/23 – 31/10/23	949

Halloween Costume Swap Event: A Halloween Costume Swap which took place on October 13th was very successful evening with 64 costumes swapped on the night. The event in association with Sustainable Enniscorthy was organised as part of Circular Living month and to promote reuse as a positive climate action that we can all do simply.



Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: Promotion of the 'Bag It Bin It' campaign continues. Stencils have been provided to Enniscorthy Tidy Towns to support their dog fouling awareness campaign.



Green Dog Walker: The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website. Packs are provided to community groups for promotion at events. The Great Global Greyhound Walk took place in Gorey on 24th September and 50 green dog walker packs were provided.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Community and Culture

My Open Library

My Open Library Service continues at New Ross and Gorey Libraries.

After an induction, members of this enhanced service can access the library on a self-service basis from 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Fully staffed library opening hours remain in place Monday to Saturday.

Happy to Chat

The 'Any News' conversation group has been replaced with the 'Happy to Chat' initiative in Wexford library. A new pilot initiative to increase social engagement and reduce loneliness and isolation in the community, 'Happy to Chat' is supported by Healthy Wexford and Wexford County Council.

Wexford Volunteer Centre – One Million Stars Project

The One Million Stars Ireland project visited Enniscorthy Library this month. The project is an inclusive community arts project connecting communities across Ireland in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence. The volunteer development officer from the Wexford Volunteer Centre hosted the session in November. Participants were encouraged to make a star to be exhibited in the travelling 'LOVE' installation.

Book Buddies

"Book Buddies", an intellectual disability inclusive book club continued in Gorey Library. This club was launched in support of Down Syndrome Ireland.

Wexford Volunteer Centre Information Sessions

Information sessions on volunteering continued in libraries over November. A Volunteer Centre information stand for those looking for volunteers or seeking information on volunteering was available in Wexford Library on the first Monday of the month.

Sensory Friendly Hour

The Sensory Hour continued Saturday afternoons from 4.00pm-5.00pm. This hour supports library users, both adults and children who have sensory and/or extra needs.

One Book, One Community Book Club

Library Staff attended a meeting of Bunclody's One Book, One Community in Bunclody Vocational College. Copies of the book, Max Magic, by Stephen Mulhern were sourced for the event by Bunclody Library.

Aileen Lambert Book Launch – A Songbook of Bunclody Songs

Aileen Lambert launched her new songbook in Bunclody Library. The project was supported by Bunclody Festivals and the Arts Department of Wexford County Council under their Creative Communities Programme.

Learning and Information

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine held English language classes, facilitated by volunteer tutors, weekly in Wexford Branch. New weekly information meetings have also been held in Wexford Branch this month along with a once off meeting of the Neurographic Art Ukrainian Group facilitated by a Ukrainian tutor. This women's group meet in various locations to create art. New Ross Library held outreach groups for Ukrainian Nationals.

Lámh

An introductory session to Lámh with Caroline Nolan, Speech, and Language Therapist and Lámh tutor, took place in Enniscorthy Library in November. Lámh is the manual sign system used by children and adults with intellectual disability and communication needs in Ireland.

Health and Well Being

Nutrition

An online webinar hosted by *Safefood* in partnership with Libraries Ireland, 'Healthy Eating for Tots', with nutrition expert Joana Fernandes da Silva, on the basics of healthy eating for young children aged 1+ was made available in Gorey and Enniscorthy Branches this month.

As part of Healthy Ireland at your Library programme, dietician Liz O' Leary gave an informative talk with hints and tips on how to provide delicious and nutritious lunch boxes for children in Bunclody Branch.

Grow Mental Health Information Session

Felicia Black, the Area Coordinator for Grow Mental Health, held an information session on the Grow Peer Support Group in New Ross Library.

It Literacy

The Digital Help Hub

The Digital help hub was in Enniscorthy Library every second week in November. WWETB Tutors were available to help members of the public use their own devices (phone, tablet, laptop), get online and use apps. Tutors also gave guidance on how to fill in online forms, how to use egov.ie, mywelfare.ie, the National Childcare Scheme, Revenue, SUSI, Choice Based Letting for those on the housing list and much more.

The Digital Help Hub is a free service, confidential and one-to-one. It is an initiative of the ALL Adult Literacy for Life national strategy. WWETB, WLD, and Wexford County Council Library Service have worked together to bring this initiative to County Wexford.

Through the Digital Help Hub one to one training was also provided to the public on the second Thursday of every month beginning on 9th November in Wexford Branch.

Also in Wexford Branch, the Reachability Group Castlebridge, which includes adult learners and tutors, used the IT Suite for classes in November and Windmill Therapy Unit came in for TTRS adult classes every Monday.

Local History

25 local studies enquiries were responded to, and 13 genealogy enquiries were completed in Wexford Library in November.

Age Friendly Services

Meditation, Mindfulness & Sound Therapy: Bernadette Murphy from Sundara Self Care hosted an age friendly down to earth workshop at Gorey Library.

Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly: Age Friendly digital literacy classes for the over-55s facilitated by WWETB New Ross were held in New Ross Library and Age Action technology training for older adults continued over November in Wexford Branch.

Science Week 12th-19th November

Science Week, supported by Science Foundation Ireland, is a week-long event each November celebrating science in our everyday lives. Science Week includes a wide variety of events involving industry, colleges, schools, libraries, teachers, researchers, and students throughout Ireland. All library branches held many and varied events for both children and adults over the week.

John Hackett of Southeast Astronomy spoke about the inner planets of our solar system in Enniscorthy Branch. Dr. Donnacha O'Driscoll delivered a talk on the history of rocketry, the Apollo Missions, and updates on the Artemis mission in Bunclody Library and Gorey Library. Sew Fun was an adult event for Science Week which was well attended by members of Gorey's Ukrainian Community. In Wexford Branch Wexford Science Café held Two Facets of being Human with writer Andrew Hughes and Scientist Cliona O'Farrelly. Wexford Branch also held DNA and Genetics with Dr Cas Kramer and the Wilson Cloud Chamber, Detection of Alpha Particles and Electrons from

Radon Decay and Cosmic Radiation with Brendan Wallace. Bruce Wardrop a sport scientist, lecturer and podcaster from the Department of Sport and Exercise Science SETU gave a talk on how science helps athletics optimise their performance in New Ross Library.

For children and schools Wexford Branch held 6 sessions of Jasons Berry's Robots: Robotics Workshops with SETU and 3 sessions of a family event with Dr Ken Science.

In Build a Chatbot, children learned how to emulate a human by building a chatbot from with TekCentral in Wexford and New Ross Branches. Nutty Scientists delivered their Laboratory Magicians Show in Gorey and Bunclody Libraries and Mark the Science Guy, hosted 3 sessions of an interactive display of experiments in Gorey Branch. Two events from Anyone for Science were held in New Ross Branch. New Ross Library also presented 3 sessions of Bubbly Science with Caroline Ainslie, which explored the science of breath and bubbles in a colourful show for families and children. Bunclody Library held Micro:bit Workshops for 9- to 12-year-olds where participants learned how to create a simple game using micro:bits. Bunclody Library also held a Science Week Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshop. All these events played to large school and family audiences. In addition, branches held science-based story times, STEM Lego and craft sessions.

Environment and Climate Action

Wild Birds of the Hook; Liam Ryan gave an illustrated talk on birds and their habitats around the Hook Peninsula in New Ross Library. **The Second World War off the Wexford Coast;** with Dr Michael Kennedy was held in Gorey Library.

A "Library of Things" – Circular Economy

A **biodiversity kit** is available to borrow from Wexford Library. The kit can be borrowed for up to three weeks and is free to borrow with a library membership card.

The **Home Energy Saving Kit** is available to borrow for two weeks with a library membership card.

Digital Radon Monitors are currently available free to library members in all five library branches in the county. In October and November, staff from New Ross library attended community meetings in Campile. These sessions were part of the Healthy Home Environment Project with Community Development.

Decade of Centenaries

Book Launch- Wicklow Gaol Comrades: A Civil War Autograph Book.

Launched in Gorey Library, this innovative collaboration between the Archive Services of Wexford and Wicklow County Councils centres on a small autograph book (part of Wexford County Archive's Civil War collection). Please see the Archive report below for more information.

No Promised Land: Life in Ireland in the early years after independence with Professor Mary E. Daly

Mary E. Daly, Professor Emeritus in Modern Irish History at University College Dublin, gave this lecture in Gorey Library.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

The Purple and Gold Writers Collective; Writers from The Purple and Gold Writers Collective delivered a series of innovative and engaging poetry in Wexford Branch on four Thursdays in November. **Fiction in Translation with Ronan Hession** and **Under Milk Wood** marking the 70th Anniversary of Dylan Thomas's masterpiece featuring Dylan Jones, Sharon Clancy, Michael Dunbar, and Jackie Hayden were held in Wexford Branch over the month.

Children's Services

Bedtime Stories

This initiative from Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development aims to engage all parents of young children to read stories with them at bedtime. Free bedtime story books and library card wallets are available at the library for all children of 4 years and under, to pick up and keep.

Gorey Library and Wexford Libraries both held a special Bedtime Story Session this month to support the Bedtime Stories initiative.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 45 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 9 researchers visited the Archive in November. Research topics included early 20th century social history of Our Lady's Island area through two private collections; Church of Ireland death notices in the *Wexford Herald* and *Wexford Journal* (1807-20); information on the National Day of Atonement (24 March 1847) through local government minutes and local newspapers; incidences of children boarded out from County Home, Enniscorthy during the period 1933-36; family history research centred on a Wexford County Council vested cottage (1924).

Conservation

A rare personal keepsake dating from the late 18th century was transported from the county archive to Dublin for specialist work by a textile conservator in late November. Worn by Colonel Walpole who was killed at the battle of Tuberneering on 4 June 1798, this beautifully embroidered textile will be mounted onto acid-free board and will be one of the unique artefacts from the county archive's holdings that will be showcased in a revamped exhibition in the National 1798 Rebellion Centre, Enniscorthy in 2024.

Outreach

As one of the final projects for the Decade of Centenaries (1912-23), the Wexford launch of the 'Wicklow Gaol Comrades' exhibition and accompanying booklet took place in Gorey Library on 2nd of November. This innovative collaboration between the archive services of Wexford and Wicklow County Councils centred on a small autograph book (part of Wexford County Archive's Civil War collection). It was owned by Patrick Fitzpatrick from Killealy, a member of North Wexford IRA's flying column who was imprisoned in Wicklow Gaol in late 1922. The autograph book includes signatories of fellow internees from Fitzpatrick's time in both Wicklow Gaol and Tintown Camp, The Curragh. The project, researched and written by historian Aaron Ó Maonaigh, included a short video documentary featuring excerpts from interviews held with some of the prisoners' relatives; a physical exhibition featuring the men documented in the autograph book, and an accompanying publication which provides a unique insight into the lives of the men imprisoned in Wicklow Gaol (the Wicklow launch took place in Wicklow Gaol on 5 October).

The exhibition, currently on display in Gorey library will travel across the branch library network and to County Hall, Carricklawn, Enniscorthy Castle and to Johnstown Castle. Copies of the *Wicklow Gaol Comrades* book will be available in each venue for the duration of the exhibition and will also be distributed to Wexford libraries and to schools across the county. This project was supported by

the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries programme 2012-23, and by the Archive Services of Wexford and Wicklow County Councils.

ARTS

IRISH GOTHIC: A solo exhibition by Patricia Hurl was open to the public until 29th November 2023. A free tour of the Irish Gothic exhibition led by a local artist was held on 17th November and was availed of by large numbers of the public.

Creative Communities Programme - Artists' Panel 2024 the call out was advertised seeking applications from professional artists across all art forms to design and facilitate art projects with communities throughout county Wexford. The Creative Communities Programme enables meaningful collaboration between artists from our panel and County Wexford based community groups, for arts projects of from 1 intensive week to 6 months in duration.

Youth Theatre Services, the Arts Department invited tenders from suitable, qualified, and experienced individuals and/or companies to deliver youth theatre services. The following services are required:

- Youth Theatre Workshops and Production Programme
- Youth Theatre Development Programme
- Management

Closing date was 22nd November 2023. The tenders are currently under review.

County Wexford Youth Film Tender - St. Michael's Theatre in partnership with the Arts Office of Wexford County Council invited tenders from filmmakers for a three-year Contract of Services (Jan 2024 – Dec 2026) to facilitate and manage County Wexford Youth Film Programme (13-18 Yrs) based in St Michael's Theatre in New Ross. Closing Date 15th December.

Emergence Visual Art award 2024-25

The EMERGENCE AWARD is A National biannual award of €15,000 to visual artists and is a partnership between the Arts office, Wexford Arts centre and SETU. After an open call in 2023 – of which there were 83 applicants, the selection panel consisting of Matt Packer (Director EVA Biennia Limerick) Anna O'Sullivan (Director Butler Gallery Kilkenny) and Liz Burns (Wexford Arts officer) met in November and artists were selected for a shortlist of 30. The artists will be announced in early December 2023.

LOOP Exhibition Talk - Artist Emma Roche (recipient of the 2021-22 EMERGENCE Visual Art Award) in conversation with Writer Sophie White was held on 24th November in Wexford Arts Centre supported by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council.

Wexford Literary Trail, supported by Creative Ireland and the Borough District of Wexford, was launched, and distributed throughout the town to coincide with the main theme of this year's Wexford Arts Festival, 'Love of the Word'. The Wexford Literary Trail demonstrates how the streets of the town, and the harbour inspired our Booker-nominated novelists and other writers like playwright Billy Roche, Eoin Colfer and Maeve Brennan.

Music Generation

This is an ongoing partnership between Wexford County council and WWETB supporting performance music education of young people in primary, post primary and youth work contexts countywide.

Schools programme –vocal and instrumental workshops in 24 Primary schools countywide which is ongoing Sept 2023- May 2024.

School Support Administrator - Christo Pretorius started this month as School Support Administrator and will be working with Music Generation Wexford for an initial period of three months. Christo will be working specifically on the administration of the schools' programmes.

Seedlings – a Youth Opera. developed and performed by young people, was premiered in November in the National Opera House to a large audience. The opera told the story of Wexford in 2078 and the potential devastating consequences of climate change. The young people involved in the opera had been working together on the production for over a year, in a collaboration between Music Generation Wexford and Wexford Festival Opera.

The Bunclody Music Hub located in Bunclody Vocational College provides 70 students with after-school group instrumental and vocal tuition. The aim of the hub is to provide small group music tuition in a fun, positive atmosphere in the following instruments, concertina, fiddle, guitar, keyboard, piano accordion, ukulele, and voice.

The CAMHS Music Group was nominated for the Health Services Excellence Awards 2023. The MGW team attended the selection event in Dr Steeven's Hospital, Dublin and presented our project titled For the Record: Communication and Connection through Music, under the Innovation in Service Delivery Category. The project was awarded a Highly Commended citation by the Selection Panel.

Clonroche Traveller Girls Group - Music Generation Wexford are working in partnership with Wexford Local Development and the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann committee with a group of young traveller girls in Clonroche Community Centre from November to explore Traveller Songs and Irish Traditional Singing.

Sligo Jazz Festival - Music Generation Wexford partnered up with Music Generation Sligo to subsidise four young musicians from county Wexford to attend Sligo International Jazz Summer School. Sligo International Jazz Summer School is a 6-day event featuring workshops, masterclasses, and jam sessions with some of the world's finest jazz educators and musicians.

Screen Wexford

Funded by Arts & Economic Departments of WCC to develop film industry in Wexford, Screen Wexford held a networking morning at the St Michael's Theatre on 10th November to welcome new and emerging crew to Screen Wexford.

On 15th November in conjunction with the National Talent Academies, a **“Collaborative Strategies for Post-Projection Success”** workshop was held in the Wexford Arts Centre which explored the art of film making from conception to completion. Guest speakers were award-winning director Laura Way and Sarah Carraher, Head of Production at Outer Limits Post Productions.

“Producing from Beyond the Pale 2” - WFT Ireland and Wexford Screenwriting Academy came together on 19th November in Wexford Art Centre and streamed this series of free Masterclasses aimed at emerging writers/film makers and focused on exploring how different departs/film practitioners engage with a script.

New Voices 2022 Award Winners Screening Night - was held on 29th November in the Wexford Art Centre and the three 2023 New Voices Short Film bursary awards were launched:

- *'We Were There' a 9-minute short film by Leah O'Toole*
- *'The Search for Maelruan' a 59-minute documentary by Andrew Kenny*
- *'Lucifer is that you?' a 3-minute animation by Joseph Orr*

Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2023 recipients:

North Wexford Traditional Singing Feile - a recipient of the Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant Scheme for County Wexford took place in the Loch Garman Arms, Gorey with film screening and historical walking tour and signing sessions.

Creative Places Enniscorthy

Creative Places is an Arts Council funded nationwide initiative which aims to embed creativity in towns and villages throughout Ireland who can demonstrate a clear need. Creative Places will seek to address any issues and empower the people of Enniscorthy to make decisions about what kind of creative activity they want to experience in the frame of addressing other issues be they environmental issues, social issues or other. A series of one-to-one meetings between the coordinator and over 30 community/youth groups in Enniscorthy has taken place in October – November 2023. A Creative Places community survey was launched in November 2023 to capture people's needs as well as many face-to-face meetings with a wide variety of local community, youth, and arts groups. Creative Places is hosting an artist's coffee morning in Presentation Arts centre on 6 Dec 2023.

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland 2023

The Creative Ireland Wexford programme was in receipt of funding of €205,417 in 2023. This allowed for:

- 31 partnerships with artists for Cruinniú na nÓg
- 12 community/municipal focused projects
- 9 open call artist/community commissions
- 3 heritage and archival publications

Nearby Nature

The Nearby Nature programme supported by Creative Ireland Wexford and led by Wexford Mental Health Association has begun. This is a green therapy creative project to support participants to build mental health and green therapy literacy and skills through creative engagement. Participants will explore through creative and experiential mediums the potential that local natural spaces can have to support their own wellbeing and that of their families and the wider community. The subsequent creation of sustainable signposting will share this understanding and inform the wider community. Paula Lowney, Health Promotion, and Improvement Officer, HSE Health and Wellbeing Wexford facilitated this partnership between Wexford Mental Health Association and Creative Ireland Wexford. Paula highlighted the Nearby Nature project when she sat on the panel at the Creativity for Wellbeing Conference (see above).

FIRE SERVICES

Wexford Fire Service Report October 2023

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls October 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1 (0/1)	56	59
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	3 (0/3)	47	51
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	3	6
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	1	3
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	7	4
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	2	0
School	0	3	0
Other Institution	0	2	3
Factory	0	3	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	1	11	4
Shop/Supermarket	0	2	3
Office	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	1
Restaurant	0	1	2
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	8	45	43
Unoccupied Building	0	2	7
Agriculture Business	1	6	4
Forest/Bog/Grass	2	47	112
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	7	22
Outdoor Storage	0	7	2
Outdoor Rubbish	4	32	40
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	2	9	11
Gas/Chemicals	2	6	3
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	0	34	43
Other rescue	6	73	57
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	1	7	6
Road traffic accident	9	146	154
Water pumping/flooding	10	15	12

Incident Type	Calls October 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	36	276	227
Malicious	0	2	1
Total	87	854	885

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	24	10	11	8	3	56
Other Fire in House	8	13	13	10	3	47
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	2	0	0	0	3
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	0	0	0	0	1
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	1	1	2	0	7
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	0	1	0	0	2
School	0	0	3	0	0	3
Other Institution	2	0	0	0	0	2
Factory	1	0	1	1	0	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	5	2	4	0	11
Shop/Supermarket	1	0	0	1	0	2
Office	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	15	12	7	9	2	45
Unoccupied Building	1	0	1	0	0	2
Agriculture Business	1	3	1	0	1	6
Forest/Bog/Grass	11	13	8	5	10	47
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	1	1	1	1	7
Outdoor Storage	1	2	2	2	0	7
Outdoor Rubbish	16	3	7	5	1	32

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	3	2	3	1	0	9
Gas/Chemicals	3	2	1	0	0	6
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	5	7	12	9	1	34
Other rescue	31	16	18	7	1	73
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	3	1	3	0	0	7
Road traffic accident	45	33	38	21	9	146
Water pumping/flooding	7	4	3	1	0	15
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	104	52	69	38	13	276
Malicious	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	294	182	208	125	45	854

Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in October 2023:	15
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	152
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	109

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties:

- **December 2nd** – Tractor Run & Santa – Oylegate & Enniscorthy- Ambulance cover.
- **December 3rd** – Auxiliary Fire Services talk with Clonard Scouts
- **December 10th** – Rathgarogue Charity Tractor run- First Aid Cover

Weekly Training

- Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.
- Training includes EFR- practical exams, Water Awareness & Swiftwater Food Responder- New & Recerts.
- Training will pause early December to early January for the Christmas period

Annual Awards Presentation Night- November 12th Riverbank, Wexford. Annual presentation of awards including Long Service Awards, training certificates & achievements. Attended by Leas Chathaoirleach Ger Carty, Chief Executive Tom Enright, Director of Services Carolyn Godkin, Assistant Principal Officer for Civil Defence Roisin Maguire, Members of NAS, Marinewatch, Order of Malta & Red Cross. Over 60 volunteer attended including 8 of the 14 new recruits 2023.



Finance:

Finance Report Q3

The Q3 Finance Report is included on the agenda for the December meeting and the report has been circulated to members. The Q3 position is being reported at a €33k in surplus in the Revenue Account for the period to 30th September. This position assumes full recoupment of all costs incurred by the Council dealing with the various weather events, the costs incurred by the Council's Ukrainian response team, and government support for increased inflationary costs during 2023. The Q3 report also confirms a spend of €58.9m on capital development projects to the end of September, the majority of which has been incurred delivering the housing capital programme, projects in the Economic & Community Development Programme and Roads.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction remains in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m to 31st December 2024. Ministerial Sanction has also now been received confirming borrowing by way of overdraft for 2024 in the amount of €20m, as approved by Members at the October meeting.

Audit Committee/Audit

The next Audit Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 13th December and the committee will be meeting with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2022 Annual Financial Statement and the associated Statutory Auditors report. 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 early in the new year.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**