



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**January 2021**

# Economic Development

### BREXIT : Rosslare Europort - Gateway to Europe

The 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 commenced with a Brexit deal and the UK leaving the EU Market and now trading as a third country. Rosslare Europort has received significant national and international media coverage recently as it has strengthened its position as Ireland's leading port connecting industry to the continent, with up to 30 direct services to and from Rosslare weekly in 2021.

Stena Line has announced an additional vessel on the Rosslare Europort to Cherbourg route and the doubling of weekly sailings. This will bring Stena Line frequency on the route from three to six times weekly each way from January 2021.

This follows on from the new shipping line service DFDS, providing a new route six times weekly each way direct service between Rosslare and Dunkirk, and means Rosslare Europort will be Ireland's premier port connecting Irish industry to Europe. The service to Dunkirk is a sea bypass around the UK and the new EU-UK border checks put in place with Brexit, thus providing connectivity to France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Uncertainty about new customs and agricultural checks have encouraged exporters, and importers to avail of the new services at Rosslare which provides important economic markets for Irish traders.

Rosslare Europort – Direct sailings to Europe 2021		
Operator	Route	Frequency
Stena Line	Rosslare to Cherbourg	Six times each way weekly
DFDS	Rosslare to Dunkirk	Six times each way weekly
Brittany Ferries	Rosslare to Bilbao	Twice each way weekly
Brittany Ferries	Rosslare to Cherbourg	One each way weekly (March onwards)

The Rosslare to France services are increasingly important freight links between Ireland and Europe. The new sailings will give Irish industry a vital post-Brexit connection, with congestion-free access to Rosslare Europort, and landbridge-free access to the continent of Europe, cementing Rosslare's status as Ireland's Gateway to Europe. Rosslare Europort is leading the development of port facilities, infrastructure and technology under the Strategic Plan and Masterplan for the port enhancing the strategic position connecting Ireland and the European continent. Iarnród Éireann - Port Authority for Rosslare Europort - has recently secured planning permission for a major transformation of Rosslare Europort, as part of its Port Masterplan. The Masterplan, together with initiatives under the strategic plan for the port, will see over €30 million invested by Iarnród Éireann in Rosslare Europort over the next five years.

- New configuration of the port aligned to maximise future growth of the port and support regional and national development
- Significant new facilities and infrastructure to develop Rosslare Europort
- Design and develop a Sustainable, Seamless and Smart Port that will be best in class internationally

The development under the Masterplan will be completed over a five year timeframe to enable the port continue to operate all services during construction. As well as the port masterplan, further substantial investment will also take place both at the port and the surrounding area with the following further developments being completed during the same timeframe.

- Construction of the New N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road by TII and Wexford County Council
- Development of the Rosslare Europort Business Park by the Dutch company XELLZ targeting the future Offshore Wind Market
- Delivery of the existing, and construction of the future permanent extensive facilities to meet all customs and Brexit requirements for state agencies at the Port, making Rosslare the only port outside of Dublin with the required Border Inspection Post.

### **Brexit Business Supports**

In response to the new changed trading environment the LEO offices established an emergency customs support phone line over the Christmas holiday period to deal with queries and put in place a panel of Brexit Business advisors. The LEO office has prioritised for 2021 supports to businesses under its Brexit support measures including the customs training programmes and Brexit mentors service and will be working with businesses to maximise opportunities through the enhanced investment at Rosslare Europort . Other areas for potential with the new direct services to Europe will be the expansion of plans for international tourism through the strategic location of Rosslare Europort with planning this year for the 2022 season.

Over the Christmas period, if you have an urgent query around Customs or Brexit, please contact the Local Enterprise Office Brexit Support Line on 1800 839 966

This support line is open from Tuesday, December 29th 2020 until Sunday, January 3rd 2021, from 9am to 5.30pm everyday, with Brexit Business Advisors on hand to provide advice and assistance.

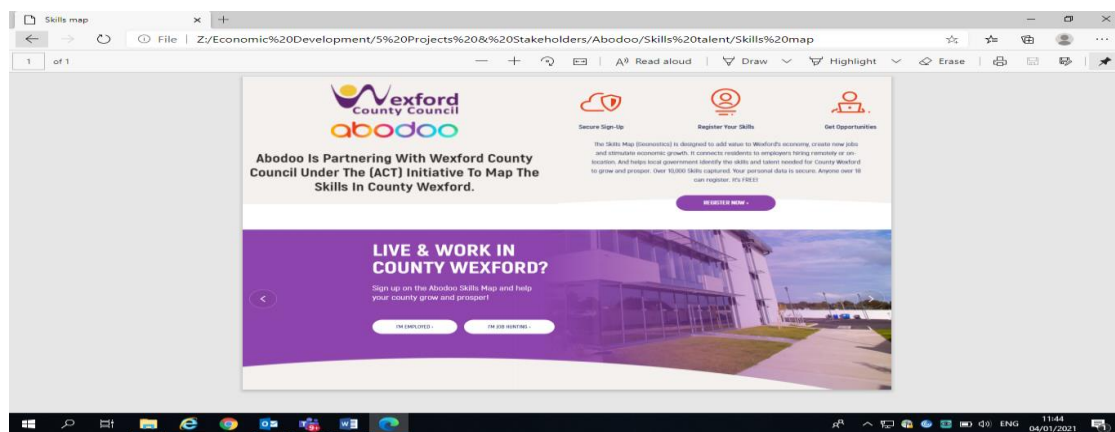
Local Enterprise Office  
Making It Happen

CHANGE IS HERE!  
JAN 2021

**Change is Here – Act Now**  
If your business has been affected by Brexit, contact the Local Enterprise Offices. Visit [LocalEnterprise.ie/Brexit](https://LocalEnterprise.ie/Brexit)

### **Wexford Skills Mapping Innovation**

Wexford County Council's new initiative in partnership with Abodoo aimed at mapping the talent and skills of those living and working in the county went live for the Christmas holiday period. The campaign also aims to harness the diaspora who may be encouraged to return move back to Wexford. The response rate to date has been very encouraging and a report on the skills mapping will be compiled for the first quarter of 2021. The initiative will leverage Abodoo's technology in order to identify the skills that exist within the county, and enable greater investment in those areas that will attract employment.



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



The Economic Department implemented a range of Covid 19 business supports to assist SME's impacted by the pandemic. To date over **5,000 grant applications** have been received from enterprises across the range of Covid 19 supports in the Economic business support unit. Currently **5,020** micro enterprises have been approved over **€25 million** in grant aid under Covid 19 supports in County Wexford. The latest scheme administered by the LEO office was the client stimulus fund for clients of the LEO office which assisted 75 businesses with under 10 employees.

## Restart Grant Schemes

The combined restart grant schemes to assist commercial rateable properties operated from 22 May to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. To date Wexford County Council has approved **€22.5 million** to support business reopen and processed **4,458** applications under the scheme. The Restart scheme has been replaced by the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) implemented by Revenue. A final report on the 2020 Covid supports will be circulated to the members in February 2021.

## Shop Local Campaigns

Research carried out on behalf of the Local Enterprise Offices by Amarach as part of their "Look for Local" campaign has shown that 92% of Co. Wexford consumers were now more likely to buy local, either online or in-store, this year, compared to the previous year, as a result of recent campaigns to highlight local businesses.

Of those surveyed 8 out of 10 said that they were aware of campaigns, including that of the Local Enterprise Offices, encouraging individuals and businesses to look locally when buying goods or services. 96% of respondents in Co. Wexford said they were more likely to shop locally online this year. In addition, 88% of Co. Wexford respondents said they would look to support local in-store. Nationally, 85% of those surveyed felt there were more local businesses trading online than in 2019, while 83% plan to support more local businesses in 2021. The Local Enterprise Offices have approved over 11,000 Trading Online Vouchers this year, an increase of over 800% from 2019. The Voucher enables small businesses to get established online or improve an existing online presence. Wexford implemented the **Wexford Welcomes you Safely Campaign** and over the month of December promoted the shop local campaign with four outdoor broadcasts with the Municipal Districts in each of the 4 main towns in the run up to Christmas. To date over 100 businesses have already availed of the free training and received their merchandising kit. The campaign continues to run in 2021 especially as safety continues to be a key concern for consumers during Covid 19. A further initiative supported by the economic department was the business led **Stand Small Website** platform supporting craft, artisan and design SME's to collaborate their marketing showcase and to encourage shop local.

# Planning

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## **COVID 19 Response – Planning Department**

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

### **Planning Applications**

Numbers are those received from the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 until 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

No. of valid applications	183
No. of invalid applications	15
Extension of Duration	1
Exempted Development Declaration	5

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

No. of valid applications	1411
No. of invalid applications	176
Extension of Duration	32
Exempted Development Declaration	61

### **Pre-Planning Applications**

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

Numbers are as follows up until the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

No. of open pre-planning requests	30
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	477
Average waiting time to meeting	31 days

## **Forward Planning**

### **Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027**

The public consultation period for the Draft Plan ended on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. One hundred and seventy submissions were received and these are currently being processed. Many of the submissions are very detailed and cover multiple issues. The submissions can be viewed online at <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/>.

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

If the Members decide to make amendments to the draft plan and these amendments are material in nature the amendments will then be placed on public display for a period of 4 weeks. Submissions

may be made during this period. This will be followed by a further Chief Executive's Report which will be considered by the Members prior to the adoption of the plan.

## **Building Control**

➤ Validated Commencement Notices Up to 18 December 2020 :	42
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections up to 18 December 2020:	15
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion up to 18 December 2020:	26
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	2

## **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021**

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

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

## **Historic Structures Fund 2021**

The grant scheme for 2021 will be advertised at the end of November 2020. Applications for the schemes will be invited up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.

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

## **Planning Enforcement**

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 is as follows:

➤ Live Cases	295
➤ Cases Opened 2020	234
➤ Cases Closed 2020	143

Wexford District Court

### **Building Control enforcement case 0030/2020: -**

**Developer of 3 houses at Michael Street, New Ross, convicted and fined €250 and ordered to pay case expenses €680 at Wexford District Court on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2020 in relation to non-submission of a Commencement Notice prior to the commencement of the development.**

## **Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting**

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 is as follows:

➤ Properties advertised on websites	66
➤ No. of warning letters served	20
➤ Cases Closed	13

### Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 up to and including 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, totals **92**

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<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	<b>14</b>	1	3	10	0
Gorey	<b>20</b>	0	2	18	0
New Ross	<b>11</b>	2	0	8	1
Wexford	<b>38</b>	5	1	32	0
Rosslare	<b>9</b>	1	0	8	0
<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>

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

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	<b>110</b>



## Special Projects:

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

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

**Carrigfoyle - Trails:** The access road, car park, trails and services works at Carrigfoyle (Phase 1) were substantially completed in December. Some minor outstanding works on the moderate trail are in progress and will be completed in January. The site was opened to the public on 18/12/2020.

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

**Gorey Town Park:** Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May 2019 and has been impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions in 2020. It is now expected that the external works will be completed by February 2021, and the building works in March 2021. Tenders have been received for the playground equipment with the installation to commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

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

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

The rail and sleeper lifting contract work commenced in August and all of the rails and sleepers from the abandoned railway have now been removed to storage in Rosbercon. Final site clearance and fencing works will be undertaken by the Contractor in January 2021.

The detailed design for the scheme is progressing. A number of tender packages is being prepared and advanced in line with the programme for the project. The initial contract, for the urban sections in New Ross and Waterford, has been tendered. Tendering for the subsequent works packages is programmed for December and throughout Spring 2021. Works are expected to commence for the initial contract in March 2021 and to be completed by October 2021. The works on the entire Greenway are due to be completed by December 2022.

**Trinity Wharf:** Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is expected by April / May 2021. The tender documents for the proposed access road and new automated railway level crossing were advertised in October 2020 and 8 tenders were received by the closing date of mid-December. The tenders are currently being assessed and the works are expected to commence on-site in early 2021. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured to date for the scheme under the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for URDF projects and a further application, in response to a 2<sup>nd</sup> URDF Call for Applications, was submitted at the end of May 2020.



**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. Detailed design and tender documents for the works contract are completed and tenders for works were received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. The tender assessment is now complete and the tender report has been submitted for Departmental approval prior to the award of contract. Works are expected to commence on site in February 2021.

**High Hill, New Ross:** The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, currently derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. The tender documents for the new public realm works at High Hill were advertised in August and 2 tenders were received by the closing date of 24/09/2020. This tender process has been terminated without an award of contractor, as the tendered sum significantly exceeds the budget allocation for the proposed works. A tender review is currently underway and retendering of the works will be advertised in January 2021.

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

**Kilmore Quay Link Road:** Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works commenced on site in November 2020. Completion is expected by end April 2021.

**Monck Street Enhancement Scheme:** Roadplan Consulting Engineers has been appointed as design consultants for the scheme. Site investigations and preliminary design are on-going. It is planned to issue the works contract to tender in March 2021 with works planned to commence on site in Q2/Q3 2021.

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

A contractor has been recommended for the Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) and works are expected to commence in early 2021 following the award of the contract.

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

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

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

The closing date for tenders for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of the required applications for planning and statutory consents has been extended to mid-January with an appointment planned in early 2021.

The ground investigation works were completed in late October / early November. The preliminary design and bridge options report will be completed following review and assessment of the results of the SI works.

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

**John Street Building Regeneration Project:** WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and

initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A CPO drawing and schedule, for the acquisition of the necessary lands, is currently being prepared and is to issue in the coming months.

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

**Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building:** The planning stage design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed. A Part VIII application will be submitted in January/February 2021. A stage 1 pre-qualification Brief for the design team services was advertised in December.

**Gorey Market House:** A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was approved in May 2018. A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender assessment process was delayed by the CoVid 19 restrictions. This tender is a competitive procedure with negotiation. The negotiation process is underway with qualified tenderers and when this is concluded, the tender assessment report will be prepared.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wexford to Rosslare Greenway:** Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. It is planned to submit a development consent application to An Bord Pleanála in 2021.

**Crescent Quay – Dredging:** Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders with the date for submission of tenders extended to mid-January 2021.

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

**Enniscorthy Sports Hub:** Tenders for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building were received in December with an appointment to be made in Jan 2021. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in June with a contractor to commence works in September 2021.

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

## **Flood Defence Schemes**

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

Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species. The detailed design of the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete. Tender submissions for short listing contractors for the bridgeworks were received in June. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of January 2021. The legal agreement required for the diversion of Irish Water services has been completed, Archaeological licences are in place, the bridge agreement with Irish Rail is being progressed, the application for the foreshore lease and foreshore licence is being progressed with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government - public consultation on the foreshore application finished on the 15/12/2020. Treatment of invasive species was carried out in June; underwater Archaeological investigations of the river bed took place in July 2020.

**Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:** The project brief for design services for the Flood Relief Project has been advertised on Etenders. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. A Tender assessment report was carried out and a recommendation was issued to the Commissioner of the OPW and an appointment is expected early in 2021.

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review. It has been determined that more details survey data is required to complete the modelling study and these surveys will be undertaken in Q1 2021. The report will be completed following this work.

## HOUSING

### Housing Section and Covid 19

Due to Covid-19 restrictions 2020 has been a challenging year for the Housing Section but we continued to provide the following critical services during the pandemic:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services

Plans were drawn up to allow the Housing Section to deliver both services throughout the Covid 19 emergency. Housing Staff are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable we continue to operate in two teams for the following reasons:-

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

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

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

## Housing Supply

### Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	To complete Jan 2021, awaiting ESB connection.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under construction	Will complete in Q1 2021
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under construction	Under Construction
Whiterock Hill ( <i>deliver units in 2 phases</i> )	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender for phase 1 (22 Units) Q1 2020
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Stage 4	Tenders received Dec 2020. Stage 4 - Recommendation to contract to DHPLG Jan 2021
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved. Design Team working on Stage 3 Submission Q1 2021
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Stage 2 in Q1 2021
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Stage 3 Q1 in 2021
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 with DHPLG. Awaiting approval. Stage 3 Q1 2021
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q1 2021
Wexford Street	28/32	Gorey	Stage 2	Full Design Team appointed. Stage 2 Q1 2021
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 2	Seeking Stage 2 Q2 2021
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 2	Stage 2 submitted 20 Nov 2020.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>			

### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage construction to commence in Dec 2020 awaiting DHPLG approval for additional funding prior to signing construction contract.
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design and Detailed survey commenced. Single Stage Application to be lodged with DHPLG in Q1 2021
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – not approved by DHPLG (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold, no funding stream (no activity)

Castlebridge	1	Wexford	TAP house, Sign contract and commence on
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		(single stage)	site Jan 2021. Funding secured.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance approved.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>		

#### Longer Term Projects

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water (no activity) To seek clarity on available PE Sept 2020. IW say no capacity.
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q2 2021)
Daphney View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussion with Focus (no activity)
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once Rosbercon is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>		

#### Other Projects (early feasibility)

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q2 2020. CPO complete. Single stage Q1 2021
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling 1works 2020. Confirm capacity availability Q1 2021
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC. Tender Q4 2020
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to a Municipal District meeting in 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>		

#### Part V Acquisitions

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Snagging complete on 12 houses – to close Jan 2021. 6 Apts to deliver end Jan 2021
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 units delivered. 8 units to be delivered in Q2 2021
Clonard	6	Wexford	Delayed until Q2 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	1 unit delivered. 2 units snagging complete, will close Jan 2021. 2 units to deliver March 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delayed until 2021 due to



			change in Planning
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>		

#### Turnkeys

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q2 2021
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit delivered. 14 units ready for snagging – will close Jan 2021. 4 units to deliver Q1 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2021
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	Not on site yet. Expected to deliver 2022
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Delay onsite, expected to deliver March 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delay onsite, expected to deliver Q3 2021
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	-7	Wexford	Withdrawn. New expression of interest (EOI) to be submitted
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>		

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

#### Approved Housing Bodies

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	All units to deliver in Q2 2021
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver in 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	Under construction. To deliver Q3 2022
Springdale, Clonattin Village	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CALF Acquisition (non- new build). Sale closed but works required
<b>Tuath</b>			
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	28 units delivered. Remainder will deliver over Q1 and Q2 2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	25 units delivered. 21 units to deliver Q1 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2

			2021	<b>Housing Allocations</b> From the 1 <sup>st</sup>
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q1 2021	
Clonattin	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver 2021	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>307</b>			

January to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 Wexford County Council allocated **376** properties to social housing tenants as follows:-

AREA	RE-LETS	TRANSFERS	NEW LETS	AHBs	MTR	TOTAL
Gorey / Kilmuckridge	15	2	24	61	4	106
New Ross	39	13	11	6	2	71
Enniscorthy	21	2	12	36	6	77
Wexford	38	9	48	15	2	112
Rosslare	8	1	1	0	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>376</b>

There were a further **81** offers of social housing refused (*14 were deemed reasonable and 67 unreasonable*), which is a refusal rate of **33.2%**.

## Tenant Purchase

Wexford County Council has received **45** applications under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme (TIPS) from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020, details as follows:-

Gorey	New Ross	Enniscorthy	Wexford	Rosslare
15	5	12	6	7

## Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020, the last row (in blue) shows the 2019 figures for comparison:-

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1st Dec- 31st Dec 2020)	95	68	116	97	67	443
Repair Requests Year to Date	1,258	904	1,451	1,389	854	5,856
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st Dec- 31st Dec 2020)	83	51	94	85	57	370
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	726	523	773	840	441	3,303

<b>2019</b> <i>Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date</i>	<b>889</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>3,605</b>
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**Note:** The housing maintenance requests do not include duplicate calls for the same job, the ihouse system only records individual repair jobs.

## Private House Grants

The Housing Department aims to assist works which improve the living conditions of people with a disability, persons with mobility issues as well as assist older people living in poor housing conditions with due regard given to best value for money when assessing applications.

In 2020, a total of €1,985,226 was allocated to the grant schemes to assist 341 households.

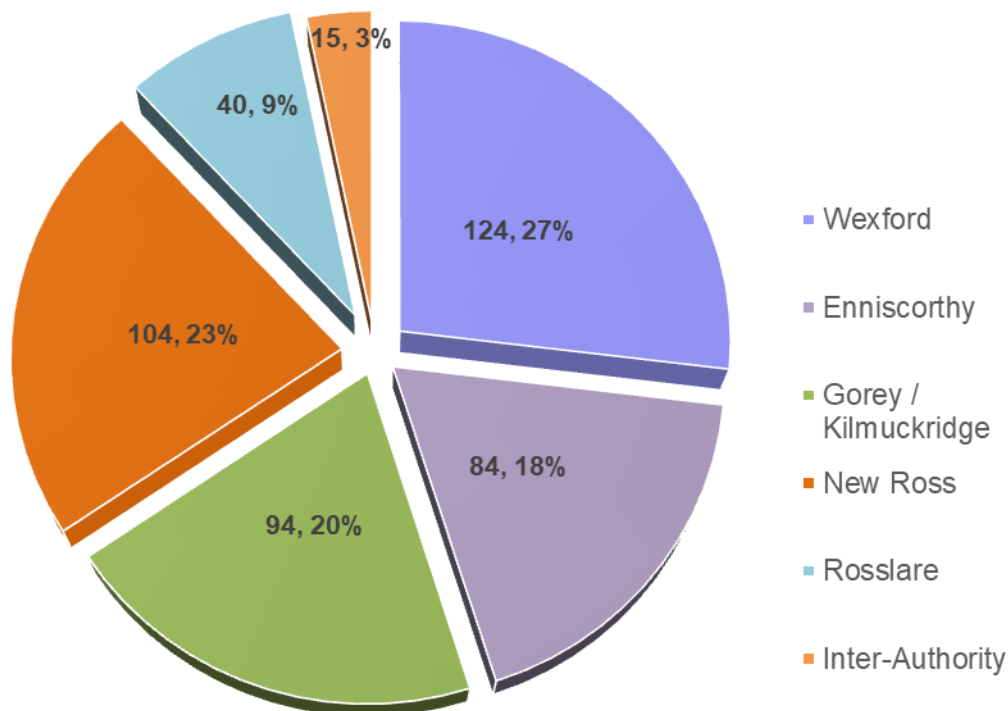
Grant Type	No of Applications	Amount Paid
Housing Adaptation Grant for persons with a Disability (HGD)	63	€666,781
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	168	€757,012
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	110	€561,433
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>€1,985,226</b>

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The following table shows details from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 for the Private Rented Sector and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The category “Inter-Authority” are households housed with HAP tenancies in properties outside Wexford.

Municipal District	New HAP Units	HAP Units (transferred from Rent Supplement)	Total HAP	New Ras Units	New Leasing Units	Repair & Leasing
Wexford	116	8	124	0	5	6
Enniscorthy	78	6	84	0	3	3
Gorey / Kilmuckridge	94	0	94	0	4	2
New Ross	92	12	104	0	2	3
Rosslare	39	1	40	0	3	0
Inter-Authority	15	0	15	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>

## HAP Households by Municipal District



### Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

Wexford County Council's Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) is part of the south east regional in terms of providing services and supports to vulnerable people. The region is the biggest region in the country comprising of 5 councils, namely, Waterford (Lead Authority), Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary.

The south east region operates a regional **Homeless Prevention & Support Project**. The project priorities homeless preventions by way of applying early interventions, mediation and prevention measures to those presenting seeking homeless services/emergency accommodation.

The HSSU operates between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and provides a range of services and supports to persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Co-ordinator along with a multi-disciplinary team, heads the Unit up.

They provide a care and case management model of support to people who present by working with them on a client specific support plan. This identifies the services or supports that the clients need to help them deal with issues and improve their chances of sustaining future tenancies by bringing these supports with them.

**It is important to point out that the figures below represent the total number of calls to 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 661 calls to the HSSU in 2020, of which:

- 330 calls sought and received advice and information to housing and homeless prevention;
- 175 calls were support into emergency, short, medium and long term accommodation as well as tenancy sustainment, supported by the placefinder service;
- 122 calls were not eligible at the time for housing/homeless services. In these cases the HSSU assisted and advised the caller on regularising their situation;
- 34 calls were received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment at that time.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced details of an extension to the deadline for approvals under the 2014-2020 programme to 31st March 2021; with additional funding to be provided nationally to Local Action Groups in 2021 for the on-going management and delivery of projects still running under the 2014-2020 LEADER programme.

Also, details of the Transitional LEADER Programme with an initial national allocation of €20 million, available to cover both new projects and the administration costs of the Local Action Groups who deliver the programme were announced. The Transitional LEADER Programme will bridge a gap between the wind-up of the current 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the start of the next EU programme, which is not likely to commence until 2023 due to delays at EU level.

The Transitional Programme will commence on 1st April 2021, with LAGs approving new projects from 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2022.

There were 34 LEADER projects approved for funding at the November and December LAG meetings. The total funding involved was almost 1.7 million euros.

### Public Consultation on Draft Intoxicating Liquor Bye-laws 2020

In accordance with Section 200 of the Local Government Act, 2001, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, Wexford County Council gave notice of the intention to introduce Bye-Laws for the regulation and control of the consumption of intoxicating liquor within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council.

Wexford County Council invites written submissions and observations on the Draft Intoxicating Liquor Bye-laws 2020. Written submissions and observations in relation to the Draft Intoxicating Liquor Bye-laws 2020 received by the Wexford County Council during the period of Monday, 21st December 2020 to 4.30pm to Monday, 22nd February 2021 will be taken into consideration.

### January Report (20<sup>th</sup> November – 18<sup>th</sup> December)

Healthy Wexford has been working closely with other sections and partners to compile and submit our local 'Keep Well' Community Resilience Funded activity, in addition to continuing to support the national campaign through our social media presence and engagement with partners.



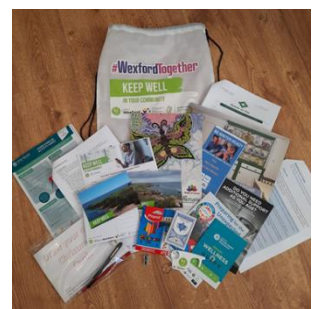
Healthy  
**Wexford**

The Local Authority funding allocation of €67,225 under the 'Keep Well' Community Resilience Fund is to focus on local activity for three key areas of the campaign namely, Your County, Switching Off & Being Creative, and Staying Connected (Community Call). Activities under 'Minding Your Mood' are funded through Wexford CYPSC and 'Keeping Active' through Sports Active Wexford.

Much of the Local Authority planned 'Keep Well' activity will take place in early 2021 and planning for this is underway. However, we have already delivered on one element of the plan – Older Adult Support Packs.

400 Keep Well Older Adult Support Packs were distributed in early December. The packs contain information and resources on all five aspects of the [Keep Well](#) Community Resilience campaign: [Keeping Active](#), [Staying Connected](#), [Switching Off](#), [Eating Well](#) and [Minding Your Mood](#).

Not everyone is online and so the pack aimed to provide resources and supports in a different way. The packs were coordinated by Healthy Wexford but would not have been possible without the support of so many more organisations as you will see from the range of contents included.



Wexford Civil Defence packed and distributed the packs to participating Meals on Wheels providers across the county. The Meals on Wheel providers then distributed to clients highlighting further the great collaborative effort for this project.

Healthy Ireland Round Three funded activity is still being impacted by Covid 19 but partners continue to try and adapt to the ever changing circumstances.

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

The SICAP sub-committee met during December to consider the 2021 SICAP draft annual plan, submitted by the Programme Implementer on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. The draft plan will continue to be reviewed by the LCDC and SICAP sub-committee, in conjunction with the 2020 End of Year Review Process, with both to be approved by the LCDC by the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is recognised that the End of Year Reporting Process will be the more critical one for 2020 as it will tell a better story of the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of SICAP.

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

A total of 68 community groups were approved total funding of €190,698 by the LCDC on the 26th November under the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 – Community Centres & Buildings.

### **Pride of Place**

The IPB Pride of Place virtual awards were held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, with Kilmuckridge village winning first prize in the Islands and Coastal Communities category of this prestigious all island competition. Comhghairdeas!

### **Playground Works**

Surface repairs in Duncannon, Courtown, Cherryorchard and Raithinn Cuilinn.

Cleaning of surfaces in Garran Beatha, Ferrybank and Enniscorthy Library playgrounds.

Replacement panel on rocker at Garran Beatha.

Repairs to gates in Duncannon.

## **SPORTS ACTIVE**

Successful Funding Applications.

- Sport Ireland: COVID-19 LSP Community Support Fund- €25,000
- Keeping Well Campaign €10,000

### **FAI Development Officer**

After 13 years Will Doyle will be leaving his present role as Development Officer here in Wexford to take up a promotion to Regional High Performance Officer FAI, here in the South East. Will has developed soccer at all levels across the County, and has very much been at the centre of Women's Soccer development. Though very pleased for Will, we are sad to see him leave the Sports Active team in the Council and wish him well and thank him for his tireless work. The co-funded development officer role will be replaced in January by a 'Football for All' officer and two club support officers for the county.

### **Online Exercise Classes**

To celebrate the Keeping Well Campaign, Sports Active Wexford hosted Online Exercise Classes for the month of December with HIT, Dancefit and Yoga. Videos were emailed to all participants so they have an opportunity to do the class in their own time or repeat it again during the week. Online Classes will continue in January 2021, with details available via Sports Active.

### **Age & Opportunity's National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People**

Sports Active Wexford was awarded €1400 to assist you in your proposal to increase the participation of older people in recreational sport and physical activity this scheme aims to assist in the implementation of locally-developed, well-planned initiatives designed to increase participation in recreational sport and physical activity by older people. 34 Older Adults Clubs and Groups were awarded grants within the County.

## ENVIRONMENT

### A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

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

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

These arrangements will continue during the current restriction period.

### B. COASTAL MATTERS

#### Harbours -

Contracts will be signed in the new year for the provision of Waste Collection Services and Electrical services for the piers and harbours throughout Co. Wexford. These consolidated services replace the current arrangements and should create a cost saving over the next 2 years.

A tender for Hydrographical Surveying of the ports and harbours will be posted on eTenders in the second week of January, 2021.

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

The Ports, Past and Present project is ongoing. This is an EU-funded four year project under the Ireland-Wales programme. The project explores the cultures of the port areas of Rosslare, Dublin, Holyhead, Fishguard and Pembroke Dock and will bring this heritage to public awareness, both within coastal communities and to increase visitor numbers and enhance visitor experiences. In doing so it will increase the capacity of coastal communities to utilise their natural and cultural heritage as a driver to economic growth. The project aims to bring life and colour to the ports, enhancing the experience of modern travellers of all ages and interests and encouraging people to spend more time and money in these towns.

#### Beaches -

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

#### Coast -

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

### C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences remain open.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **E. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Landfills:**

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

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

## 2. Recycling Services:

### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites November 2020	Recycling out (End November) 2019 (t)	Recycling out (End November)2020 (t)
Glass bottles		2956	3854
Aluminium Cans		71	98
Total	108	3027	3952

### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-nov 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan-nov 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Nov 2020(t)	Recycling out Jan- nov12019	Recycling out Jan - nov 2020)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2019	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2020
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	484	<b>588</b>	643	<b>692</b>	610	<b>921</b>	435	<b>528</b>
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1920	<b>2553</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers Jan-Nov	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>
	60	<b>68</b>	112	<b>117</b>	70	<b>123</b>	70	<b>86</b>

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

## 3. Rapid Response Crew

Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with one two-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts and a second servicing Wexford and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:  
From January 2021, tables will reflect each of the five Districts.

<b>Activity</b>	<i>To end November 2019</i>	<i>November 2020</i>	<i>To end November 2020</i>	<b>% +/-</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>2960</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>2925</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>48</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>87</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>55</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>69</i>		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>2438</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>5190</b>	<b>+113%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>449</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>				
<i>Wexford</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>356</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>				
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>8705</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>14,718</b>	<b>+46%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>398</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>940</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>3482</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>+39%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>50</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>189</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>100</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>56</i>		

*\*Including Towns*

#### **4. Waste Facility Permits:**

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

Altogether there are 61 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

#### **5. Enforcement:**

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

Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

The national waste priorities for 2020 are;

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

## 6. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty

This year's initiative was another success. Due to the pandemic all mattresses were taken in at Holmestown Waste Facility between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> September to avoid the queues of previous campaigns. Over 2,500 mattresses were collected.

## F. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2019	TOTAL FOR 2020 (to Dec 2020)
Fines Issued	341	208
Fines Paid in Full●	143	78
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	140	38
Successful Prosecutions**	13	20
Legal Proceedings In Progress	28	22
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€26,728	€11,795

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

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

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

In November 2020, two littering cases were heard. Fines of €200 were imposed in both cases along with costs totalling €500.

## Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2018

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

## F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999
Closed	3526	4563	3733	3553
Closure Rate	98%	99%	78%	71%

## Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2019	2020
Dogs collected	776	490
Dogs reclaimed	152	111
Dogs re-homed/transferred	544	339
Dogs put to sleep	77	29
Dog Fines	19	4

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

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

### Response to COVID19

In line with Government guidelines on Covid-19, Wexford libraries re-opened to the general public from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The libraries were used for browsing and borrowing as well as collecting remote printing, mobile printing and photocopying services. With the buildings reopening to visits from the public, schools were able to avail of block loans system, both returning and collecting book sets before the Christmas closure.

**6,294** patrons visited Wexford libraries during December and 18,229 items were issued.

From 24<sup>th</sup> December, modified Level 5 restrictions for Christmas were introduced nationally. From midnight on 30<sup>th</sup> December, strict Level 5 restrictions were again introduced and the library was closed to the public with online and book call services only.

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

The Library Facebook pages were used extensively to promote online services, resources and information during the month of December and reached a large audience.

### Commemoration Programme 2021

**€50,000** has been approved in principle from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, for every local authority under the Community Strand of the 2021 Decade of Centenaries programme. The purpose of this funding is to support local authorities in developing community and county commemorative initiatives, in accordance with the principles and guidance laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations.

In 2021, local authorities will be invited to reflect upon local events but also local connections to significant historical events that occurred in 1921, including the Signing of the Truce, the Anglo-Irish Treaty Negotiations and Debates, and the Signing of the Treaty.

The on-going COVID-19 national emergency interrupted the usual Decade of Centenaries programme delivery mechanisms in 2020, but Wexford County Council adapted and reimagined their programmes to adhere to public health guidelines including the delivery of online lectures, the digitisation of primary sources and newspapers of the era and the delivery of a series of programmes on local radio. In 2021, all initiatives and activities funded from this allocation must again observe all of the public health advice and guidance regarding COVID19. Furthermore, the Department has asked local authorities to allocate a proportion from their overall allocation to support artistic or creative endeavours.

Following a public meeting in October 2019 in preparation for the Centenary programmes, a number of initiatives were proposed by members of the public including: a community archival project to collect memorabilia; the provision of enhanced digitised sources; commemoration of the social history of the time; increasing awareness of local events to school-going children and increasing historical documentation of what happened in the County. A plan for the 2021 commemoration programme is currently being drafted in line with the proposals generated through the public consultation and from local history groups. The plan will be brought to the SPC for approval during Q1 2021.

## **Keep Well Campaign**

Wexford Library Service has been allocated funding under the Keep Well Campaign – Switching Off and Being Creative. Projects due for delivery in early 2021 include:

- A reading and creative writing project for students in a special educational needs environment.
- Launch of the OMI Vista Mobii light projection units with an array of activities for Adults with Dementia.
- Launch of the Sensory collection of Toys Technology and Training for children with special needs.
- A programme to assist parents to stay connected through story-time.
- A Creative Photography project and exhibition.

A number of national projects including a national reading programme and a Grow it Yourself programme are also due to be delivered through libraries in early 2021.

## **HEALTH & WELLBEING**

In conjunction with the 'Switching Off And Being Creative' section of the Government's plan for Living With COVID, staff from Gorey Library gave a demonstration of one of the new OMI Vista Mobii light projection units to both staff from the Community Development Department in Wexford County Council and a representative from the Active Retired group.

These two units, to be based in New Ross and Gorey Libraries, were funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development through its library programme and Wexford County Council and are suitable for use by older adults and young people. Some of the activities associated with the units are suitable for adults experiencing dementia. Other activities are designed for children with additional needs including Autism. Very positive feedback has been received from the demonstration with suggestions on how it could be used by older people and people with Dementia. The unit was acquired recently but due to current restrictions, it has not yet been possible for community groups to use them. A full press launch and demonstration programme is planned when public health advice allows.

## **Work Matters**

Wexford Library continued to promote and support the Work Matters program Work Matters provides stock (physical and e-books), online classes and e-resources to businesses and to people who are seeking employment in the county.

## **Fighting Words**

Fighting Words continued online for the month of December, with library staff facilitating three workshops in creative writing for schools.

## **Adult Reader Events**

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

Wexford Libraries' Online Book club is a private Facebook group that hosts a typed book club discussion each month. The online book club has 219 members as of the end of December, and continues to grow.

## **Library Services to Children**

### **Christmas Book Bags for Children Right 2 Read Initiative.**

Right 2 Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. Throughout the month December to promote the R2R initiative, libraries provided Christmas Book Bags with a selection of books for children of all ages. Each bag contained a selection of Christmas books which were promoted on all social media platforms. The bag included activity sheets, bunting craft, Christmas star craft, and 3D printed Christmas decorations provided by



the Design and Craft Council of Ireland. This reading initiative enhances reading and encourages family participation in the library.

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

Baby Rhyme Time and Story Time continued online during the month of December with a combined number of Story and Rhyme times taking place from all branches.

### **Dormant Accounts Funding Programmes**

An online Comic Workshop 'Random Acts Of Kindness' by illustrator Alan Nolan was provided to Riverchapel National School. This programme supported by Dormant Account Funding consisted of a series of 4 video recordings accompanied by printed resources. A box of graphic novels was also supplied by the library for this programme. The school has recently completed the programme and the feedback was extremely positive.

The 'Hello Heroes' programme was provided to children resident at Courtown Direct Provision Centre and facilitated by Gorey Youth Needs volunteers. 4 video links to recordings by Debbie Thomas were provided and were accompanied by various activity sheets and word quizzes, plus a box of 'hero' related books from Gorey Library.

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

TTRS (Touch Type Read and Spell) is a highly accessible, multi-sensory, phonics-based course that teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling, and was made available free of charge from all libraries to members. Children and parents have been able to access this from their home with a unique log in and password. Additional access to this service will be rolled out in January 2021 with the assistance of funding from the Dormant Account Funds through the Department of Rural and Community Development and Wexford County Council.

### **Young Adult Online Book Club**

New Ross library provides an online book club for young adult readers accessible through New Ross library Facebook page. This club offers young adult readers an opportunity to engage in book discussions and book reviews.

### **Parenting Talks**

Due to on-going Covid related restrictions, all Parenting Today events continue to be delivered in an online format.

### **Local Studies and Genealogy**

There were 40 local studies enquiries during December and 4 genealogy enquiries.

6 of the local studies enquiries were from other parts of Ireland and 2 genealogy enquiries were from the US and 1 from the UK.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

The Archive dealt with 39 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during December 2020. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries where possible in an effort to facilitate researchers, while the reading room remains closed under the current public health restrictions.

## Acquisition

While the county archive relies almost exclusively on the donation of manuscript collections, it can acquire material by purchase where such items constitute key documents that have a significant bearing on the history of County Wexford, and which either complement or add to a collection presently in the Archive's holdings.

Three documents were acquired at auction during the month of December 2020 at a cost of €730, comprising:

- Handwritten letter dated 13 March 1793 from J. Rochford to Mr Corbet, thanking the Corbets for his recent visit to them at Corbet's Hill, New Ross (Corbet Hill was the location of the insurgent army gathering before the town of New Ross was attacked in 1798)
- Printed document 'Order under Martial Law' (6 July 1921) in respect of the internment of James O'Brien from Enniscorthy in Spike Island internment camp, Cork
- Handwritten hunting journal detailing the fox hunting season in County Wexford during the period 1870-72 with several packs including Cheshire Hounds, North Staffordshire and the Wexford Hounds

## Outreach / Digitisation

A new online exhibition on the 1920 local elections in County Wexford was made available on the county archive website [www.wexfordcountyarchive.com](http://www.wexfordcountyarchive.com) in early December 2020 (this project was in receipt of funding under the Decade of Centenaries).

The first six volumes of minutes (1840-48) for Gorey poor law union were made available on the county archive website during the month also. Digitisation of an additional 30 volumes of minutes was completed in mid-December and which will be made available online during January 2021.

## ARTS

### New Short Filmmakers Fund in Film, Documentary and Animation

Screen Wexford, in association with Wexford County Council Arts Office and Bodecii Film, advertised an open call for applications for a new *Short Film Fund* programme. The aim of the award is to provide funding and support to emerging filmmakers based in County Wexford looking to develop ambitious and creative narrative short films.

**The closing date for submissions was 27th November 2020 and 35 applications were received in total. A selection panel met in December 2020 comprising two film industry experts and Screen Wexford Co coordinator Linda Curtain. Three short film making teams were given awards in short narrative film, documentary and animation** The award consists of €2,500 per film, mentorship from leading industry professionals, lighting equipment hire valued at €1500 from film lighting company 'Teach Solaris' and some project management support from Screen Wexford.

The successful applicants for emerging Wexford Film Makers are  
Live Action Short Film - Sinead O' Quigly, Richard Deering & Adam Hart  
Documentary Short Film - Fly Away Home Productions Joanne Heffernan, Robert Tyrell  
Animation Narrative Short Film - Jonathan Murphy & Mirona Mara

### Autumn / winter 2020 Spring 2021 online training supports for Artists

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

#### (a) Friday Fixes:

Free, weekly informal zoom sessions facilitated by curator Eamonn Maxwell with invited guest speakers across a broad selection of themes e.g. networking, delivering festivals, approaching

galleries, writing applications etc. Interest in these workshops has been very high with over 40 artists registered for some or all of the workshops. Sessions were delivered every Friday morning over 6 weeks from October, finishing in December 2020

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

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

#### **(c) Digital Up skilling programme for Artists, festivals**

The Arts Office is supporting a free online 7-week digital up-skilling programme for Wexford based artist's, creatives and arts festivals which will take place over January 2021, delivered by Wexford artist and folklorist Michael Fortune. Closing date for applications was 13 December 2020. Due to extremely high levels of interest, with over 50 applications received, the Arts Office will now run a second Digital Up skilling programme in February 2021 to cater for demand with 20 participants per programme.

#### **(d) Writing Funding Proposals with VAI**

Funded through Creative Ireland and delivered by Visual Artists Ireland (VAI), the Arts office ran a 1-day online workshop on 10 December 2020 on writing funding proposals for creative projects. The sessions were delivered by Arts curator and consultant Marianne O'Kane Boal. 40 artists subscribed for the workshop, following which the curator followed up with one-to-one advisory sessions for 8 Wexford-based artists.

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

Pembrokeshire County Council and Wexford County Council panel met in October 2020 and shortlisted 5 artistic teams to develop Stage 2 proposals which aim to create two new pieces of public art - one in Ferns and one in St David's, as part of *Ancient Connections Project*, with a total maximum budget of €175,000, to include all costs. The artworks must be linked either visually or conceptually to each location and be made from sustainable materials. Deadline for receipt of Stage 2 Proposals has been extended to the end January 2021.

#### **David Begley – 'Ancient Connections' Community Residency Ferns**

As part of the Ancient Connections Wexford-Wales programme and supported through Wexford's Per Cent for Art Programme, Wexford based artist David Begley started a 2 year artist in residency in the community of Ferns in August 2020. Work to date has included the digging and preparation of a Monks garden in St Aidan's primary school, Ferns – which will form part of a 10-week workshop programme to be delivered in the school in Spring 2021 exploring ancient herbal remedies and biodiversity (Public Health restrictions allowing). In addition, the artist has begun working with local farmers in the research of a new film that will be made as part of the residency which will explore the ancient history and connections in farming practices across Wexford and Wales.

## Music Generation

A partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation (MG) promotes access to high quality performance music education for young people across County Wexford, working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings. All musician were working in face-to-face settings in the schools from October – December 2020 and will continue to be compliant with public health advice in delivery formats.

- **Singing and Instrumental Programme 2020** - 18 primary schools are continuing MG Wexford Programmes. 17 in-person based meetings with musicians and planning the safest way to deliver the programme. 1 school will trial their programme through Zoom from November, 2020.
- **Mini Maestros Early Years Music Online** – offering online workshops over 7 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for parents and toddlers. These workshops are based on the success of the pilot session and will be the first programme for MG Wexford using the Quality Framework.
- **Instruments** – MG Wexford have purchased 535 glockenspiels and 100 ukuleles to enhance the primary school programmes across the County and intend to further build their instrument bank by the end of 2021.

## The Living Arts in Schools Project

Wexford County Council Arts Department in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre started the 2020-21 Artists in Residency Schools Programme in November 2020. The residencies are running over 10-weeks into February 2021, where public health advice allows. Four Primary schools were selected to take part in 2020-21 with a team of 8 artists (4 lead and 4 Assistant), working in the schools during November and December 2020, where public health advice allowed and into Spring – with option of going online. The schools participating in the current programme are: Bunscoil Ri (New Ross), Scoil Naomh Maodhog (Enniscorthy) St. Mary's NS (Enniscorthy) St Teresa's NS (Gorey). The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art.

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

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

## Creative Hub

The Creative Hub Studios opened back up in December 2020 in line with Covid 19 & HSE guidelines. Over Thirty artists are currently in residence in the Creative Hub across 9 studio/ units combining individual group's studios and retails units as well as a dance studio which is managed by Wexford Arts Centre on behalf of the Arts Office. The Hub will remain compliant with public health advice and restrictions.

## **Eileen Gray legacy project - Méanscoil Gharman in Enniscorthy.**

Méanscoil Gharman in Enniscorthy is the ancestral home of the internationally recognised pioneer of modernist architecture and furniture design Eileen Gray. Funded through Creative Ireland, in partnership with Arts office, a 12-week art and architecture programme explores the legacy of Eileen Gray bringing her ground-breaking approaches to design into the school. The programme started in November 2020, with architect in residence Ben Mullen working with art and technical drawing teachers, Creative associate Laura Ni Fhlaibhín and transitions year students. All workshop to date have been delivered face-to-face in the school over November/December with final outcomes expected in spring 2021, with flexibility in line with public health restrictions. The output of the project will see the design and installation of a series of outdoor sculptures / seating works inspired by the legacy of Eileen Gray on school grounds.

An online seminar showcasing the students work and discussing the residency with invited speakers is planned for April 2021 and which the wider public can attend. In addition there will be a screening of a new short film documenting the school residency by local film maker Terence Whyte.

## **COVID Care Concerts**

Mobile Music Machine Covid Care Concerts with Wexford Tenor Anthony Kearns funded by Creative Ireland in partnership with Wexford County Council, Wexford Mental Health Association and the HSE took place from 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2021. Ten outdoor performances took place across the following sites 58 Westlands, Farnogue Residential Healthcare Unit (Selskar and Abbeygale House), Millbrook Disabilities Services, St John's Community Nursing Unit, Millview, Havenview, Tus Nua, An Tearmann, Croi an Tobair and The Willows, Ardamine. A second schedule of 10 concerts with Wexford Soprano Kelli Ann Masterson will be run in January 2021, where public health advice allows. The concerts were deemed really successful with a positive impact on staff and service users. This ranged from people describing individuals as being engaged, transfixed and talking about the performance long after it ended to people describing the performances as exactly what was needed at this unprecedented time bringing a sense of joy and tranquillity.

## **War of Independence Discovery Boxes**

Focusing on the War of Independence, particularly the role of County Wexford in 1919-21, and to encourage more discourse among young people, Creative Ireland has provided for the commissioning of 'Discovery Boxes' of replica documents and artefacts which will be loaned to primary schools across the county in 2021.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

### **Fire Services Capital Programme 2021 - 2025**

Minister O'Brien announced funding under the 2021-2025 programme in December 2020, with Wexford County Council receiving the following commitments from the national €61million programme:

- New Build - New Ross Fire Station 1.7 Million  
*Part of the previous capital programme – now at construction stage, with commencement once restrictions allow*
- Refurbishment - Gorey Fire Station 0.5 Million  
*Design Stage*
- 1 additional Appliance to be allocated

## COVID-19

The fire service continues to return to all operational training and service delivery with Covid-19 precautions in place to maintain operational preparedness. This is kept under constant review and will be updated as required.

## Audits

Wexford County Fire Service received feedback that it successfully completed the RSA, Survey of Operators with Premises Inspection Audit – and the six monthly OHSAS 18001 Remote Surveillance Assessment. This was the last OHSAS 18001 before migration and accreditation to the ISO 45001 Health & Safety standard scheduled for May 2021.

## Fire Operations

There were 60 incident responses in November as detailed below.

### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls November 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	7 / 4 (11)	116	103
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 2 (3)	49	54
Road Traffic Accident	8	78	92
Industrial fire	0	11	9
Commercial fire	0	7	7
Assembly fire	1	4	3
Agricultural fire	0	4	1
Motor Vehicles	4	48	36
Forest/bog/grass etc	1	87	69
Rubbish	1	88	69
Non-fire rescues	4	49	30
False alarms – good intent	21	260	247
Malicious false alarms	3	5	1
Miscellaneous	3	46	76
Total	60	852	797

## Fire Safety

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

### November 2020

Applications Received	Year to date	November
Fire Safety Certificates	101	13

Number of Inspections	Year to date	November
FSA Inspections	86	1

# Water Services



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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## **COVID -19**

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



# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is underway</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works to follow in early 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> <li>➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Stage 2 completion Spring 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build.</li> <li>➤ Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. A new delivery date is yet to be decided.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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

## 2. Minor Capital



<b>IW Minor Water Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Disinfection Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.</li> <li>○ Snagging ongoing at various sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Treated Water storage programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmallock Bridge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To be submitted for planning by late 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Minor Wastewater Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>King's Bay WWPS, Arthurstown Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contractor appointed for Phase 1 of upgrade works including site fencing and new valve chamber, expected to take place Q1 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballywilliam WWTP Repair Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding awarded under Government Stimulus Package for essential repairs to the reed bed and inlet works at Castan Close WWTP. Works are now practically complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Invest to Save – The Cove/New Haven, Rosslare</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding secured under the Invest to Save programme will be used to decommission New Haven WWPS and divert flows to The Cove. Works will take place Q1 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pumps will be upgraded to smart pumps at Distillery Road, Carcur and Crosstown WWPS in Q1 2021 to improve efficiency and reduce the frequency of blockages and sump cleaning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>WWTP Reed Bed Repairs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To ensure optimal operation of reed beds, essential minor repairs and refurbishments at 8 No. WWTP sites across the county have been funded under</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Government Stimulus Funding, and these works have been largely completed during December 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repairs have also recently been completed to the reed beds at Oilgate and Glentire Heights, Ballaghkeen.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding – SCADA Upgrades</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New SCADA telemetry will be added to four WWPS at New Ross Town and Bunclody. Works began on site during December and will continue in January 2021.</li> <li>Upgrade of existing SCADA will take place at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford.</li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Initial fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide.</li> <li>➤ Additional budget was awarded for expenditure this year under the Government Stimulus Package funding</li> <li>➤ 1383k of expenditure was approved in total with works substantially completed in 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 applications received for Water Connections</li> <li>6 applications received for Wastewater Connections</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 Water Connections sent for tapping</li> <li>3 Water Connections made</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A Boil Water Notice on the Wexford Town Water Supply Scheme was put in place on 10<sup>th</sup> December and was lifted on 14<sup>th</sup> December in consultation with HSE and Irish Water.</li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>Delayed due to COVID 19. Expected completion now Q1 2021.</li> <li>Rising main works are now completed.</li> <li>Pumping station works commencing January 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>O'Rahilly View WWTP (TIC), Gusserane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q1 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curraclloe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Radharc na bhFánaithe WWTP (TIC), Killanne</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site improvement works currently underway on site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design and site surveys have been completed for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network.</li> <li>○ Tender processes are now complete with contractor appointment to take place January 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Close, Oulart- Connection application made</li> <li>• Mountain View, Ballindaggin- Connection enquiry made</li> <li>• Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made</li> <li>• Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</li> </ul>

### 3. Rural Water Programme



<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Killaneran GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting quotations for the engagement of a Hydrogeologist. Contact made with NFGWS for recommendations regarding appropriate Hydrogeologist.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021.</li> <li>○ Investigative works for the relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir are on-going with consultations with Planning Dept.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence was received by the Dept. on 13<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>○ A response is being prepared by the Chairman of WCC based on the 70 houses signed up to participate in the scheme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Battlestown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Orchard Lane GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Letter received 22<sup>nd</sup> December from Irish Water confirming Orchard Lane GSS Scheme has been taking in charge.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Dept. revised the scheme which forms part of the funding investment under measure 8 of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme in June of this year.</li> <li>○ This has increased the overall amount available for the provision of a new well and for well rehabilitation works.</li> <li>○ The number of Well Grants Processed in Qtr. 1 is 73, Qtr. 2 is 60 and Qtr. 3 is 67, Qtr. 4 is 81</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Countywide consumption for December 2020 was on average 40.31MLD, this is a decrease of 0.91MLD from Nov 2020, YTD average at 42.35MLD, which is below our target average of 40.85MLD.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 42nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in December 2020.</li> <li>➤ Planned Leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Enniscorthy, Rosslare, New Ross and Carrigbyrne.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tranche 5 proposals were forwarded to IW for 2021 funding. Funding has been approved for Coolballow Rd in Wexford, Rectory Rd in Enniscorthy, Dromgold boosted line, Enniscorthy and the Kilmore Link Rd, Fardystown. The remainder of the proposed schemes are awaiting further review.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Find resources were concentrated in Enniscorthy during Dec '20, due to an increase leakage in the WSZ. This Direct Labour crew has had funding approved to continue in 2021.</li> <li>○ The additional contractor Find crew continued in Gorey North DMA during Dec '20. Funding for this crew is yet to be approved by IW to proceed in 2021.</li> <li>○ Direct Labour Fix crew were in Enniscorthy in December 2020.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

## NATIONAL ROADS

### N25 New Ross By-Pass

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

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

### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

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

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

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

### Rosslare Europort Access Road

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



The Preferred Scheme Option will now proceed to the next phase of the project which is Design & Environmental Evaluation. The Preferred Scheme Option will be further developed to refine the design of the road alignment, junctions, accesses, and structures. These design developments will also allow the land take required for the scheme to be defined and will facilitate more detailed engagement with affected landowners, local residents and other project stakeholders. The environmental evaluation of the scheme will progress in tandem with design development. The project is highly integrated with Rosslare Europort's approved Masterplan development, the Rosslare Europort to Waterford Greenway project, the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Road Project, and the N25 Ballygillane Roundabout Road Project. The project team will continue to liaise closely with all of these projects to develop a high quality, integrated multi-modal transport solution for Rosslare Harbour and Rosslare Europort.

## **2020 National Road Pavement Schemes**

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

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

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

### **N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wexford County Council received approval from TII to award the contract in December. Contract should commence in the first quarter of 2021.

### **N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme**

Preliminary archaeology investigations were carried out in 2019. Further archaeological investigations are underway. These are required to be carried out in



advance of the pavement scheme going ahead. These investigations were completed in July.

It is expected that the pavement scheme will be tendered in mid to late January.

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

The contract duration will be 8 to 10 weeks.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

### **Resurfacing / Strengthening**

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

Kilmallock and Ballyfarnoge (both in the Gorey/Kilmuckridge District).

The strengthening programme of 74km was completed on 10 December 2020.

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The surface dressing programme of 110km was completed on 3 September 2020.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

Poulmarl to Old Boley (macadam) was completed on 17 December.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

All 13 lanes are now complete.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

All 10 bridges have been repaired.

### **Active Travel Measures**

Co. Wexford received €1,351,098 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 28 projects.

The majority of projects were substantially completed by 18 December.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Measures**

Co. Wexford received € 460,000 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 16 projects.

The majority of projects were substantially completed by 18 December.

### **Specific Improvement Works**

Ballywilliam Culverts Replacement Project. The village was flooded in 2015. The service station had to close for a period. Roads in the village were also impassable. Following a competitive tender process Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. was awarded the contract for €435,423.00 excluding VAT. Construction works commenced on site in mid-September. The works primarily entailed replacing undersized concrete pipes with two large precast concrete box culverts. The two box culverts have been installed and local natural stone parapet walls are being constructed at present. The works were substantially completed by 18 December.

## General Maintenance

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

## PUBLIC LIGHTING

### LED Upgrade (Non National Roads)

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

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

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

## **Finance:**

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2019 Accounts and associated audit. The committee is now preparing their report for the Council on the Audit Committee activity during 2020, their views following consideration of the Audited Financial Statement for 2019 and associated audit report together with a note on their proposed programme of work for 2021. It is expected that the report will be submitted to the Council for consideration for the February Council meeting.

### Annual Financial Statement 2020

Work will be commencing on the preparation of the 2020 Accounts shortly once all transactions for 2020 have been updated to the financial management system. This will involve the exceptional adjustments to record the government Covid subventions and various business supports grants that occurred during 2020. The preparation of the annual accounts will take a number of months to complete but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

### Capital Programme 2021 – 2023

Work will now commence on the preparation of the next 3 Year Capital Programme, 2021 - 2023 and it is planned to have this ready for consideration of members in the first quarter of 2021.

### Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2021.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**