



Chief Executive's Report

January 2022

Economic Development & Planning:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

World of Work

The World of Work programme provides 2nd year post-primary school students with an opportunity to meet employees from a local company to learn about the world of work. It facilitates conversations and insights to the many roles in the workplace and inspires and encourages young minds to look towards the future.

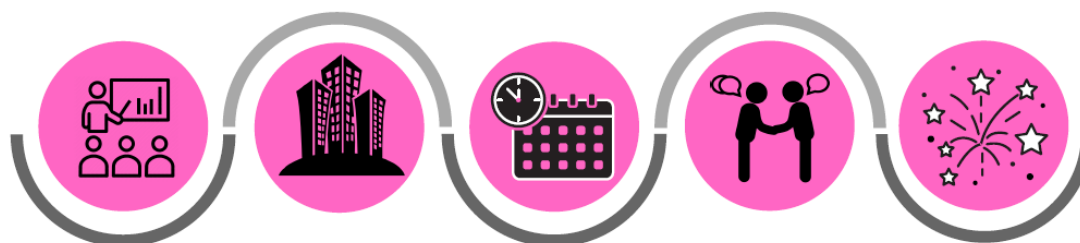
The programme dovetails with the Junior Cycle curriculum. Indicative sessions include:

Business in the Community Ireland

World of Work

A step-by-step guide to the 2nd Year Post-Primary Programme

BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY
IRELAND



Meet and Greet

Company introduced to the Students and the programme is outlined

Site Visit & Company Overview

The students learn about the company, what it does and where and how it works

Day in the Life of ...

Employees talking about their roles/working life and route to their role

Soft Skills Session

Range of Options - or could be a company-specific presentation/project

Wrap Session

Students present their learnings or a short project. Celebration at Programme End!

Partnership

Coláiste Abbáin



In collaboration with Cllr. Leonard Kelly, World of Work Co-ordinator and Fiona Quirke, Coláiste Abbain, the 2021/2022 programme has been agreed and the first 2 sessions took place in November and December 2021. Thank you to our colleagues, Lorraine Marrey, Library Services and Claude Clancy, Community Development for providing the students with an online talk on a "Day in the Life of ..." and giving an insight into their roles and their journey to it.

Wexford County Council is lead partner on behalf of the regional local authorities and the recruitment of a Head of Enterprise Development is currently in progress. Interviews took place on the 9th December from which candidates were short listed. It is planned to have the recruitment complete by the end of the year. This key position will support the project in developing tangible economic trade opportunities leading to commercial income generation and fostering entrepreneurship.

Tourism

A new digital advertising campaign is in place since September 2021 focusing on the international market. The designs have a strongly translated call to action focusing on a human element. They are short in length and to the point to capture the target demographic and make an instant impact. Below are KPIs from this international Campaign

International Campaign KPIs by Country

Google Ads	Clicks	Impressions	Ctr.
UK	592	45,162	1.31%
France	384	71,404	0.54%
Germany	129	22,513	0.57%
US	305	39,355	0.77%
SPAIN	889	35,712	2.49%



Social KPIs

	Reach	Impressions	Landing Page Views	Link Clicks
Total	68,735	106,315	1,954	3,613

By Country

	Reach	Impressions	Landing Page Views	Link Clicks
UK	15,660	25,219	365	629
France	19,719	30,427	525	985
Germany	10,809	15,880	257	523
US	4,296	9,016	121	219
SPAIN	18,251	35,773	686	1,257

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

The Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland and is administered by Wexford County Council. The scheme opened on 12th April 2021 and closed on 8th October 2021. A total of 244 applications have been received with a value of €561,993.53



DATE 16 December 2021	15-Apr-2021 to 16-Dec-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
OUTDOOR SEATING & ACCESSORIES FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY BUSINESS SCHEME		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	5	€11,404.13
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	3	€8,801.55
APPLICATIONS PAID	204	€541,787.85
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	32	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	244	€561,993.53

Town & Village Masterplan Initiative

The Department of Rural and Community Development committed in ***Our Rural Future*** to develop a Town Centre First Policy to ensure our town centres become vibrant places for living and working in. To support this policy, the DRCD announced the Town and Village Masterplan Initiative on 17th November, inviting Local Authorities to nominate up to 3 towns for funding of €100,000 per town to develop a Town Masterplan with a guarantee that at least one town from every county would be selected for the initiative. Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey were proposed for the scheme in advance of the closing date of 26th November. The DRCD has since confirmed funding for New Ross under the initiative.

Local Enterprise Office

The following courses have been scheduled for the first quarter of 2022

- Trading Online Voucher Seminars X 4
- Start Your Own Business Courses
- Big Red Cloud Computerised Accounts
- Tax and VAT for Business

A series of 11 business clinics have also been organised to provide specialist advice on a one-to-one basis across key business disciplines from financial management to marketing. Promoting and marketing businesses through social media demand has steadily risen over 2021 and based on this we are offering the following courses:

- Canva for Social Media
- Podcasting for Business
- Facebook for Business
- Working with a WordPress Website – beginners and advanced
- TikTok for Business
- Social Media for SME's
- Introduction to Google Adwords
- Introduction to Google Analytics
- Introduction to E-mail Marketing

Full details of the training courses and booking links are available on [Online Bookings - Wexford \(localenterprise.ie\)](https://www.localenterprise.ie)

LEO Wexford have developed its own **social media plan** to ensure that business throughout the county is fully au fait with the services available, in particularly some of the new funding streams. Some examples engagements in 2021:

Training: static and video posts

Announcements:



Feedback/testimonials from clients



Ezine newsletter



Campaigns



Women in Business Network

Aoibheann O'Brien, co-founder and Partnerships Director at FoodCloud is the guest speaker at the network meeting on the 27/1/2022.

Sustainability is Your Business

LEO Wexford have produced a "Sustainability is Your Business" guide to assist businesses in "greening their business" and ensuring that their business has a positive impact on People, Planet and Profit. It presents clear case studies and a step-by-step approach towards building a sustainable business and outlines supports available. This guide will be formally launched in the New Year.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1st January 2021 until 10th December 2021.

No. of valid applications	1810
No. of invalid applications	133
Extension of Duration	45
Exempted Development Declaration	72

Numbers are those received from the 20th November 2021 until 10th December 2021.

No. of valid applications	134
No. of invalid applications	8
Extension of Duration	2
Exempted Development Declaration	2

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 10th December 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	84
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	643
Average waiting time to meeting	32 days

Forward Planning

Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

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

Natural, Cultural & Built Heritage

Calls for applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022 and the Historic Structures Fund 2022 have been made by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Completed application forms are to be received by Wexford County Council by the 14th January 2022. Application forms and details of how to apply can be found on Wexford County Council's website in the 'Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage' section [Grants Available from other Sources for Protected Structures | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](#)

Calls for applications for the Community Monuments Fund 2022 have been made by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Completed application forms are to be received by Wexford County Council by the 28th January 2022. Application forms and details of how to apply can be found on Wexford County Council's website in the 'Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage' section [Grants for Archaeological Built Heritage | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/Grants-for-Archaeological-Built-Heritage)

Building Control 20th November 2021 to 10th December 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	28
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	25
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	11
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	1

Planning Enforcement

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

• Live Cases	425
• Cases Opened	321
• Cases Closed	188

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

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

▪ Properties advertised on websites	99
▪ No. of warning letters served	58
▪ Cases Closed	53

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2021 up to and including 10th December 2021 totals **53**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	13	0	1	11	1
Gorey	13	0	2	11	0
New Ross	9	0	0	9	0
Wexford	13	1	2	10	0
Rosslare	5	0	0	5	0
2021 Totals	53	1	5	46	1

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	142

Access Related Items

Access Trails and Destination Parks

Minor works to improve the level of accessibility within Carrigfoyle walking trail have been agreed and are expected to go ahead the first quarter of 2022. Once completed the accessible walking trails story book will be updated.

The Access Section having set up meetings for the collaboration with Sports Active, and National Vision Sports Ireland, to develop walking activity on the recently launched walking trails and destination parks initiative. The idea of the Vision Impaired Community Walking Programme derived from a similar programme set up by Cork which is now fully sustainable and is hugely successful. Vision Sports & Sports Active Wexford would build on this walking programme using the accessible trails and destination parks as recently launched it is envisaged that the programme as in Cork will be a huge success.

2021 Disability Participation and Awareness Fund

The Access Section is delighted to inform that both of our submissions for funding under the 2021 Disability Participation and Awareness Fund were successful with a fund of €75,000 being agreed. Two submission were forwarded for the DPAF as follows:

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

Work on developing the programmes for this funding will start early in 2022.

Access Capital Works

Access funding supports to the total sum of €25,000 as identified in the Access Audits remain ringfenced for The Mall, Bunclody, the timeline expects that works will be completed by mid-2022.

Access funding supports to the total sum of €25,000 has been ringfenced for the installation of a changing places facility within the Sports Hub Development Enniscorthy, as part of our Changing Places Programme, remains available works must be completed by year end 2022.

Access funding supports to the total sum of €25,000 as identified and ringfenced for the installation of a changing places facility within the New Ross Town Park, as part of our Changing Places Programme remains available, works expected to be completed by mid-2022.

Special Projects:

1.1 Min Ryan Park

Sole Sports and Leisure has been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA is now complete and open to the public since early December 2021. Completion of the Skate Park is expected in March 2022. Public lighting at these installations will follow.

1.2 Carrigfoyle Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark

This project is practically complete. Final snag works are ongoing including the sewer connection to the site. The works here have had a significant amenity value to the area with an increased number of recreational users.

Carrigfoyle Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:

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

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

1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1

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

1.4 Gorey Town Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12th August 2021 and the new playground and adult gym equipment is fully installed and in use. Completion of the building works is expected in Q1 2022.

1.5 South East Greenway

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

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

1.6 Trinity Wharf

Due to significant inflation in the market since tenders were received, the original tender process for the works contract for the new access road requires a revised tender invitation. The tender was advertised before Christmas. Works are now expected to commence in Q2 2022.

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

1.7 New Ross Fire Station

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



1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension

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



1.9 High Hill, New Ross

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

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



1.10 Kilmore Quay Link Road

The works are now substantially complete and the link road was officially opened by Councillor Jim Moore on 15th of October providing strategic access and removing congestion in the village.



1.11 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme

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

Tenders have been received for the main works contract and are being assessed. A February 2022 commencement is now planned.

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

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

The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was completed in July 2021. A Part VIII planning consent submission for the development of the public realm space on the site has been completed and was advertised on 21st December 2021.

1.13 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:

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

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

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

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

1.14 John Street Building Regeneration Project

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

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

1.15 Esmonde Street

RPS Engineers is progressing with the detailed design. Priority Geotech Ltd undertook site investigation works in September. This information will now feed into the design. Irish Water have now approved proceeding with the design sewer upgrade and CCTV and survey works will be procured and RPS will start work on this design. This will require additional site investigation. Following the recent unsuccessful RRDF funding application for works, a budget of €1.5m has been committed by WCC to advance the project.

1.16 Gorey Market House

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

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

1.17 Mechanics Institute

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

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

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

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on the preliminary design and environmental assessment. The Brief for services will develop the project to 'shovel-ready' status including the submission of development consent applications and tendering for works contractors.

The process of negotiation with the preferred tourism tenderer from the 2017 Hook Heritage Ltd competition has closed without an award of contract. This competition will be terminated and WCC will review options to progress the project in early 2022.

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

1.19 Enniscorthy Tourism Project:

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

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

1.20 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

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

1.21 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

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

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

1.22 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going. It is planned to commence a route selection public consultation in Q1 2022.

1.23 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford

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

A tender invitation for the appointment of design consultants will be advertised on 17th December 2021.

1.24 Crescent Quay – Dredging

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

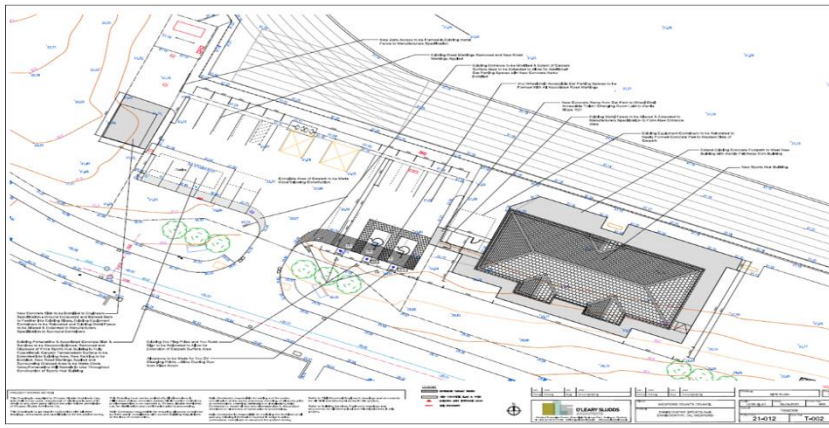
1.25 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

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

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

1.26 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

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



1.27 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

WCC has received Stage 1 approval in principle for the development of facilities to support water sports activists at Whitegap in Curracloe, to include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers.

WCC is currently working with Fáilte Ireland towards obtaining Stage 2 approval. Given the early stage of the project, the timeline for delivery is uncertain. Preparation for the procurement of consultants is ongoing with appointment expected early in 2022.

2. Flood Defence Schemes

2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

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

WCC issued supplementary environmental information to the OPW on the 27th April 2021, which was submitted to DPER on the 30th April 2021. A decision is expected in January 2022. In the meantime, we will continue to progress the detailed design, shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works. Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species.

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

The legal agreements required for the diversion of Irish Water services have been completed. The wording of the bridge agreement required for the construction of the new road bridge has been finalised with Irish Rail & CIE. The application for the foreshore lease and foreshore licence is being progressed with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government - public consultation on the foreshore application closed in December 2020. The Foreshore Licence is expected to be issued in January 2022.

2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:

The project brief for design services for this Flood Relief Project was advertised on Etenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9th July 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process will be advertised in Q1 2022.

REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS 1st DECEMBER TO 14th DECEMBER 2021

Type	1 st DECEMBER to 14 th DECEMBER 2021
Freedom of Information	3
Customer Complaint	2
Ombudsman Complaint	0
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	1
Total	6

2. Status of Cases – Closed, Open, Resolved and Exceeding SLA 1st December – 14th December

Section	Closed	Open	Total	%	Resolved	> SLA
Environment	0	5	5	6%	3	1
Fire	0	1	1	1%	0	0
Housing	0	68	68	79%	6	45
Planning	0	1	1	1%	0	0
Roads - Enniscorthy MD	0	6	6	7%	3	1
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD	1	1	2	2%	0	1
Roads - Rosslare MD	0	1	1	1%	0	1
Roads - Rosslare MD	0	1	1	1%	0	1
Roads - Wexford MD	0	1	1	1%	1	0
Water - Rural Water and Well Grants	0	1	1	1%	1	0
Section	1	85	86	100%	14	49

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

Area		December	
Agricultural Burns		1	
Environment Complaints		110 *	
Change of Circumstances		20	
Housing Validation		48	
Quick Calls		430 **	
Road Faults Log		12	
Emails		1040	
	<i>1. Incoming External Emails</i>	633	
	<i>2. Incoming Internal Emails</i>	221	
	<i>3. Emails sent by CSU</i>	186	
Total			

* 14(13%) of these calls relate to Community Clean Ups

** 206 (48 %) of these calls are in respect of various Housing Services, 93 (45 %) of which are for Housing Maintenance.

4. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY DECEMBER 2021

Tenders

No uploaded	1 currently uploaded with 3 expected before month end
No of tenders received	4 received with 4 more tenders to be opened before month end

Water Services



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation

Water Services



COVID -19

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

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model. ➤ A schedule of high priority works has now been identified and is to be considered for funding ➤ The concept design report for the required works to Enniscorthy Network is due Q4 2021 ➤ A new gravity main for Mary street is required to alleviate flooding and will has been agreed to be designed in 2022
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023 ➤ It is now expected that the distribution main and plant upgrade to Vinegar hill will be included within the scope of this project and may all be done as one larger scale project. This may impact delivery timescales.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Model verification ongoing.
Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system ➤ Tender evaluation January 2022, with start onsite Q2 2022
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.

Gorey Regional Water Supply	<p>Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ Section 1 works have been completed and the contractor has now taken control of the borehole sites for section 2 works as programmed ○ Completion cert issued for new treatment plant, all water now being treated at new plant ○ Borehole upgrade works to be completed Q2 2022
Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works commenced in April 2021 and it is programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement. ○ Works are ongoing on all elements of the project within the three villages and on the treatment plant in Arthurstown. A number of road closures will be needed to facilitate pipeline construction. ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tender assessment has now been completed and a preferred contractor has been selected. ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted ○ Irish Water Board approval was granted in July and a construction contract is likely to be signed this year for construction to begin early 2022
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find & Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focusing on mains rehabilitation and will revert to Find & Fix as required. We have external finding resources at present with fixes being completed by WCC operational staff. ➤ Mains Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mains rehabilitation began in September on 1.1km of water main on Rectory Road Enniscorthy ➤ A new programme of mains rehabilitation works for 2022 is being finalised with Irish Water which will see the direct labour crew exclusively working on mains rehab for the coming year.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes

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

IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
 - The pump controls at Keellogues WWPS will be upgraded during Q4 2021 and continue in Q1 2022.
 - Pump controls at Distillery Road WWPS have now been upgraded.
 - Pump and controls upgrades will take place at Taghmon and Piercestown WWPSs beginning December 2021 and continue in Q1 2022.
- **Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades**
 - Upgrade of existing SCADA at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy is now complete.
 - SCADA will be upgraded at 9 No. WWPSs across the Wexford Town collection network beginning December 2021. Two sites have been completed, with three more underway expected to be completed prior to year end.
 - Funding has now also been approved for SCADA upgrades at 3 No. WWTPs (Ballymoney, Blackwater and Ballaghkeen) to take place Q1 2022.
- **Stimulus Funding - WWTP Minor Improvement Works**
 - Rehabilitation works on the reed bed at Ballyhogue WWTP is now complete.
 - Upgrade works to improve resilience of the inlet PS at Ballymurn WWTP is currently underway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Invest to Save <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with manufacture now underway. ○ Civil works are currently underway at Blackwater WWTP to improve energy efficiency and process control necessary to deal with fluctuations in loading.
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2021 has been increased to €1.4million. ➤ The latest available report from Irish Water spend to end of November is €1.4m
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Connection works are ongoing county wide through December 2021
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Civil works to the PS are now complete on site and M&E works are 90% complete on site. Foul flows are not being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020. More to follow during Q4 2021. ➤ Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new WWPS is now complete on site, with foul flows being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP. Decommissioning of the now redundant communal WWTP will take place in Q4 2021.
DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021 and 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Close, Oulart- Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in Q1 2022. • Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. Decision awaited from the Department regarding design proposal. • Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress • Cois Cuan, Arthurstown • Coolballow estate- Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS

3. Rural Water



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

- **Kilanerin GWS**
 - Hydrogeologist has been engaged and awaiting phase 1 of study into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.
 - Awaiting Final Report. Draft copy has been circulated for comments/amendments.

Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation

- **Blackstairs GWS**
 - **Storage Tank** - consultant appointed to carry out the hydraulic model assessment has been finalised.
 - Consultation has commenced with Consultants re: delivery of a hydraulic model and report. A draft report will be circulated in December and conclusion expected in January.
 - **Reservoir Bypass** -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.
 - A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; we are awaiting their response.

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

- **Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)**
 - Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned
 - An Bord Pleanála Submission, Ground Investigations, and main contract tender preparation.
 - Archaeologist Impact Statement has been completed and will be included as part of ABP Submission
 - Curtailment of the public sewer resulting in the requirement to not submit to ABP is currently being investigated.
 - Application being submitted to Pre-Planning Part XI Week beginning 20th December 2021 following Appropriate Assessment Screening Report from SWC Promotions.

Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)

- **Battlestown CWC**
 - We will be writing to the Dept. before the end of the year to inform them of the viability of the scheme. It will not be proceeding as there isn't enough interest from the residents.
- **Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC**
 - We will be writing to the Dept. before the end of the year to inform them of the viability of the scheme. It will not be proceeding as there isn't enough interest from the residents.

Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)

➤ Individual Well Grants

- A total of 250 new well grant applications were received to 14th December for 2021.
- 261 Well Grants have been paid up mid-December, totalling €459,668

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation

➤ Consumption

Countywide consumption for October was 42.32MLD. This figure is up 1.1MLD on 2020 figures. Overall consumption is trending high.

Leak Detection & Repair

➤ Leak repairs

Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 31nr operational leak repairs were completed in November 2021. 8nr Find and Fix repairs were completed.

➤ Planned Leak Detection (PLD)

Planned leak detection was focused mainly in New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy and Gorey urban areas.

Water Network Programme

➤ Rehab Submissions

- Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, commenced construction Oct 2021.
- Rehab and BYS submissions for 2022 have been submitted to Irish Water Asset Planning for approval

➤ Find and Fix

- LA Find crews were concentrated in New Ross Town Centre Clonroche and Ballyanne DMA.
- 8nr repairs created savings of 3.4m³/hr.
- Contractor Find crews completed initial investigations in Bunclody and followed on to Ard Carmen DMA in Wexford town.

➤ BYS Services

- Shareridge have taken over works for Bellfield Road decommissioning works in Enniscorthy, due to be completed December 2021. Savings for the 1st block decommissioned by Coffey Northumberland were 5.4m³/hr back in May 2021.
- BYS repairs in High St and Skeffington St in Wexford were undertaken by Shareridge. Savings of 1.4m³/hr in Skeffington St once the properties were given individual services.

➤ Pressure Management

- Funding was received for PRV replacements at Rowe St., Bride St., Colestown, Ballinra and Askamore. Advanced control for 6nr. PRV and additional Telemetry capabilities was also funded. Works are ongoing and due to delivery delays will be completed early in 2022.

➤ First Fix

- Shareridge have commenced First Fix investigations and repairs around the county.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Services for Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) of the project are progressing and will continue through 2022. Transport survey data was captured in November 2021 and is currently being analysed. This data will also allow direct comparisons with data collected in November 2019 before Covid-19 and the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement. Ecological surveys are continuing throughout the 33km scheme corridor and specific seasonal surveys will continue through 2022 (e.g. bat surveys, breeding bird surveys etc).

Tender documents are currently being finalised for the procurement of a geotechnical investigation contract in Spring 2022 to inform the engineering design of the scheme. This contract will also require extensive advance engagement with land and property owners. The procurement of legal and valuation services for the project will also proceed in the coming months.

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

N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The planning application for the scheme is currently being finalised for submission to An Bord Pleanála in March 2022. The full integration of the respective designs for the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road, the Rosslare Europort Masterplan Phase 1, and the new customs terminal at Rosslare Europort is now complete following detailed consultation with Iarnród Éireann, Rosslare Europort, OPW and their respective designers. Separate detailed consultation with Iarnród Éireann is also being closed out for approval of the preliminary design of the new railway bridge which forms a significant part of the overall project.

The project is currently consulting with directly impacted land and property owners in advance of the submission of the planning application. A project newsletter will also be published in February in advance of the planning application to provide the public with further information on the planning process.

National Road Pavement Schemes

2021 Pavement Schemes

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

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

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

The surface water pipework has been completed. Watermain upgrade and pavement works to continue in the New Year and are due to be completed by mid to late February 2022.

HD28 Pavement Improvement Works N11 Oilgate Village

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

HD28 Pavement Improvement Works junction of N25 at Larkins Cross.

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

TII indicated that funding will be available in 2022 and tenders for works will issue in Q1 2022.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

Resurfacing/Strengthening

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

The 2021 strengthening programme was 102% complete with 91km strengthened of a planned total of 89km.

Surface Dressing Works

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

The 2021 surface dressing programme was 102% complete with 125km surface dressed of a planned total of 122km.

Community Involvement Schemes

All nine roads have been resurfaced of total length 12.5km in 2021.

Local Improvement Schemes

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

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

All 22 lanes have been resurfaced of total length 9km in 2021.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

All repairs were complete on 16 bridges as planned in 2021.

Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

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

A structural inspection of the bridge has been completed. This will inform the detailed design. A stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was completed and the planned works did not screen out.

A Natura Impact Statement is complete and has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning application. Design options will be developed over the coming months. Works are expected to commence quarter 2/3 of 2022.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works

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

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

Active Travel Measures

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

19 are complete, 22 are at construction stage, 7 are at detailed design stage and 23 are at preliminary design stage.

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

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

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure

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

8 projects are complete, and works are nearing completion on the remaining 3.

Winter Maintenance

The 2021/22 winter maintenance commenced Monday 12 October 2020. There have been 13 planned treatments of salt to Priority 1 & 2 routes up to 22 December 2021.

Routes treated by Wexford County Council have been increased this season by 56km to 419km following acquisition of two 9m³ salt spreaders in 2021.

New Routes added:

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

General Maintenance

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

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

HOUSING

Housing Supply - Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Finishing works proceeding. Expected completion Jan 22.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022. On Target IW inspections underway.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	More changes requested by Irish Water at final connection. Paperwork complete, awaiting work order for connections and ESB sign off for pumping station. Will complete in Q1 2022
Ballycullane	2	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Due to complete Q1 2022
Rosetown, Rosslare (<i>deliver units in 2 phases</i>)	35	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction works commenced on site on 24 th May 21 for Phase 1 of 23 units. Progressing well. Phase 1 due to complete in Q2 2022. Phase 2 has Stage 2 approval and Part VIII. We will be negotiating fees with existing consultants and aim to seek Stage 3 approval and negotiate a cost with contractor in Q1 2022. Part VIII granted for 13 but an ESB wayleave may restrict us to 12 units. Road cleaning issues and traffic management concerns raised by neighbours addressed with Contractor.
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q1 2022. Appointing new consultants and we have increased numbers to 22 for VFM, higher densities and to incorporate more smaller units in line with requirements and the housing need in the Gorey area. Pre Planning complete. Agreed to add another floor and lifts to each apartment building.
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved for €8.3 Part VIII submitted Nov 21. Stage 3 Q1 2022

Rosbercon	35	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q1 2022 which will establish number of units feasible. 35 is included as an estimate. Engineers seeking a Knotweed specialist. Final consultant QS appointment will be complete within 3 weeks. Enabling works to commence on site Q1 2022
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 Q1 2022
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 4 approved (Phase 1 for 22 Units)	Phase 1 (22 Units) Construction commenced 1st November 2021. First 3 bases in for apartments and site boundaries and retaining walls underway. Discussions re pump station to enable Phase 2 (22 units also) have progressed and our consultants are reviewing IW proposals and agreements now. Phase 2 to be negotiated with contractor in Q1 2022
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Site cleared and surveys complete. Stage 3 Submission Q4 2021.
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Preliminary Scheme designed. Design Build tendered to OGP Nov 2021. Appointment to be made for Design Team in Q1 2022.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be lodged in Q1 2022
Francis St.	2	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 1 approved on 4 th Oct. 21. Pre Planning submitted 9 th Nov. 21. Proceed to Stage 2
TOTAL	258			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding granted. Shortfall of €42,300. Going to tender Q1 2022.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. Management Plan required. Cost Benefit analysis being conducted for this project. Recommendation to follow.
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed and 1 no 1 bed apartments on the site has been submitted. Pre Planning complete. Stage 1 will be submitted in Jan 22
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs. IW to confirm feasibility for 5 new dwellings to connect into treatment plant. Stage 2 will be submitted in Q1

			2022. Pre-Planning lodged. In process of appointing Consultants.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Derelict house on site to be demolished. Pre-Planning approved. Stage 1 approved. Part VIII Stage 2 application and Part VIII Q1 2022. Irish Water have approved Feasibility.
TOTAL	15		

Longer Term Projects

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

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved. Substantial additional funding required. Funding approval received, granted with a shortfall of circa €172K. WCC are to revert to the Department with an option of constructing a new dwelling on the adjoining site in subject to agreement between WCC and the applicant family.
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW confirmed that there is no capacity in Adamstown so this job is on hold. We have appealed this decision and we are hopeful we will be allowed 2 houses on this derelict site with a total population equivalent (PE) of 8
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q1 2022
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity with IW and land availability in Q1 2022. Awaiting a decision as to whether the site will be transferred back to Housing.
Grogan's Road	3	Wexford	Proposal for 3 Apartments. Pre planning approved. Stage 1 approved 16 th Nov 21 – DHPLG are looking for a fourth apartment. Review design and proceed to Stage 2. Awaiting confirmation of feasibility from IW.
TOTAL	36		

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	All units delivered
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	Approval received June 2021. Currently under construction. To deliver 2022.
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	30 units delivered. Remainder to deliver Q4 2021.
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2022.
Tobar Muire Place	17	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver late 2022 /early 2023.
Tuath			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	All units delivered.
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	All units delivered.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered.
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered.
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver on a phased basis from 2022.
TOTAL	408		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver 2022.
Cluain Beag, Clonard	6	Wexford	2 units delivered remainder to deliver Q1 2022.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	4 units complete. Remaining unit to deliver Q1 2022.
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023.
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022.
Ard an Bhile, Healsland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received June 2021. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023.
TOTAL	99		

Turnkeys

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

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

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 30th November, 2021:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1st – 30 th November 2021)	135	110	162	162	93	662
Repair Requests Year to Date	1314	943	1457	1399	852	5965
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st – 30 th November 2021)	94	72	108	112	64	450
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	675	507	711	769	421	3083

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LEADER PROGRAMME -

The Article 48 team processed **11** LEADER claims in November. The value of these claims was **€576,029.10** which will support **4** enterprise projects and **7** community groups throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:



Approved for payment	Approved Payment
Riverchapel Community Complex Ltd	€7,711.57
Horsewood Community Hall Committee	€21,068.43
Faythe Harriers Hurling & Camogie Club	€99,941.11
Kiltra School of Music Ltd	€18,712.50
Our Ladys Island Community Development	€36,800.49
Tasty Parlour	€1,867.33
Wexford Bus	€67,269.67
WLD	€20,160.00
	€273,531.10

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
Three Sisters Cruise Company Ltd	€200,000.00
Inish Pebble Company Ltd	€77,500.00
Wexford Local Development – Training Programme	€24,998.00
	€302,498.00
Total	€576,029.10

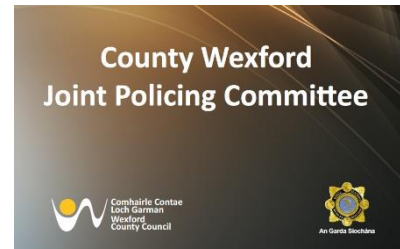
JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING -

County Wexford Joint Policing Committee -

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 13th December 2021, on 'The Street' in County Hall.

Items discussed included –

- a CCTV update from the Co. Secretary,
- Garda Division Update – Preventative & Operational Policing from the Chief Superintendent,
- Summary Report - Interaction with Municipal Districts
- JPC Annual Workplan items including 'JPC Communications Strategy & Strategic Six Year Plan 2022 – 2027'



The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 14th March 2022.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) MEETING -

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 02nd December 2021 via MS Teams.

Agenda items included –

- SICAP,
- Local Economic Community Plan
- Communities Activities Fund
- Chief Officers Report





The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 17th February 2022.

LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) MEETING –

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 02nd December 2021 via MS Teams. Items discussed included –

- LEADER Programme – Administration Costs, Project Decommittments & Evaluation Committee Recommendations with the members approving funding for 15 x projects (Community & Enterprise) under the LEADER Transitional Programme.



The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 17th February 2022.



January 2022 Report (24th November – 17th December 2021)

While the recruitment campaign for groups and organisations to pledge to the **‘Not Around Us’** initiative continues, work has also begun adding signage to our playgrounds.



Additional activity is planned for January, with an event planned for those already signed up to the initiative.

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



A sharing of community growing experience, this Seeds to Success series aims to provide insight and inspiration around community growing to Wexford communities. It is designed to support delivery of the community growing action set out in the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022. A premiere event for those who took part is being planned for January.

In an effort to maintain social connection Healthy Wexford plan to launch a new lunchtime initiative in early January, COVID dependent. This initiative will encourage outdoor social connection, utilising our open spaces across the county.

Healthy Ireland Fund 2019-2021 - Round 3

Pobal have approved final budget changes submitted in December and partners continue to work through programmes for completion by the revised fund deadline of March 2022.

One of the initiatives that commenced during December with this Healthy Ireland Funding is the Active Fellas Over 35s Soccer League in Rosslare, lead out by Sports Active Wexford, in collaboration with Wexford FAI.

The league continues in January and has received such a great response that there are plans to extend this activity to other areas during February & March.

ACTIVE FELLAS

Over 35's Soccer League

2nd, 9th, 16th December, 2021 & 13th, 20th, 27th January, 2022

Venue: Rosslare Rangers A.F.C. Time: 8.30pm - 10pm

Don't have a team, no problem, we will create teams on the night!

To register a team or individually in advance, call: triona.shalloe@wexfordcoco.ie 087-3322295

brendan.corish@fa.ie 086-1022753

The Healthy Ireland Fund, supported by the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Wexford Pobal Community Development Company Sport Ireland

Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26

The draft Age Friendly Strategy is currently being compiled following extensive public consultation with almost 900 older people. The results of the survey carried out were presented to recent meetings of the Older Peoples Council and Age Friendly Alliance and will help to inform the final strategy and action plan for the next 5 years.

Telehealth

Minister of State at the Department of Health, Ms. Mary Butler launched a report on the findings from an innovative telehealth pilot which set out to provide a 12-week telehealth intervention to 50 patients in Wexford with a chronic illness. Telehealth refers to the use of electronic and telecommunication technologies to support healthcare at a distance from the patient.

This year in County Wexford a telehealth pilot project was undertaken by a multi-agency Stakeholder Group (Wexford County Council-Age Friendly Programme including the Wexford Older Peoples Council, Age Friendly Ireland, HSE, Wexford General Hospital, including Consultant Geriatrician and Clinical Nurse Specialists and Tunstall Emergency Response).

This pilot project set out to provide a 12-week telehealth intervention to 50 patients with chronic illnesses including Chronic Heart Disease, COPD and Diabetes. The project was independently evaluated and monitored by Waterford Institute of Technology and their research report, including their findings and recommendations was launched in Wexford by Minister Mary Butler on 10th December in Wexford.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Tony Larkin, Deputy Chief Executive of Wexford County Council said; “The Joint Departmental Housing Options for Older People set out a clear objective of how assistive technology can support older people to age in place. Throughout the pandemic the need for adaptive technology solutions has never been more important. I am delighted that Wexford County Council, through its Age Friendly Programme is actively engaged in working with Age Friendly Ireland to address the emerging needs that this report is highlighting here today, and I look forward to the next phase of this project’.

Minister Butler said; “With a rapidly increasing population of older adults in Ireland, the enhancement of community supports and health interventions that will enable the realisation of care as close to home as possible has never been so important. As Minister, I am committed to maximising the use of virtual and telehealth services to enhance access to supports for individuals and their families.”



This Wexford telehealth pilot is very timely in the context not only of an ageing population but also in the context of Covid 19. Phase Two of the Telehealth project will see it expanding to other counties and is an indication of the success of Phase One.



Creative Ireland Funding - Creativity in Older Age 2021

Enniscorthy Activity Garden at St. Johns Hospital, Enniscorthy – The creative enhancement of Enniscorthy Activity Garden on the grounds of St Johns Community Hospital is a placemaking initiative by Wexford County Council (Culture & Creativity Team and Age Friendly Programme) in partnership with the HSE and Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation. The Design Team have visited the site a number of times to hear the views of users of this space and what they would like. A draft design is due early 2022.



The Creative Enhancement of Enniscorthy Activity Garden on the grounds of St Johns Community Hospital is a placemaking initiative by Wexford County Council (Culture & Creativity Team & Age Friendly Programme) in partnership with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation.

The proposal made by the creative collective of Esther Gerrard; Elements of Action/GreenEdge with Connect the dots and Robert Bourke Architects won the tender for a co-design engagement project and work commenced July-Dec 2021.



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



Libraries and Castlebridge Day Care Center IT training

Wexford Libraries in collaboration with Wexford Age Friendly secured funding from DRCD and Dormant Accounts for grant funding under the 'Programme for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities' to deliver IT training to older people who attend Castlebridge Day Care Centre. 13 older people signed up to take part and on 8th December an awards presentation ceremony took place to recognise the effort and progress of all participants.



SPORTS ACTIVE

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Operation Transformation Walk	Operation Transformation walk will take place on Sunday 16 th January at 11am in Tintern Abbey.
Couch to 5K	An 8 week Couch to 5K programme will take place in Enniscorthy starting in January from the Enniscorthy Hub.
Couch to 3K	Couch to 3K will commence in January in New Ross.
Primary School Leader	Registration has opened for primary school leaders and this will commence in January.
Marathon Kids	A new primary school programme will be rolled out starting in February with registration opening in January for schools. The aim is that children will walk/run a marathon over 8 weeks.
Workplace Activity Programme	Online Yoga takes place every Wednesday from 6-6.40pm. Those who sign up have the option of doing the class live or receiving the recording to do in their own time over the next 7 days. Participants: 21
Walk and Tone	Walk and tone finished on the 3 rd of December with 9 participants.
Activator Pole Walking Classes	Our six-week Activator Pole Walking for Older Adults, those with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Parkinson's Disease finished on the 14 th of December. Participants: 7

Active Fellas	The Active Fellas Over 35's Soccer League began on December 2 nd and will run for three weeks in December and three weeks in January. There are six teams taking part. Participants: 38
Slaintecare IEP	The CSDO presented at the Service Reform Fun Webinar on the 10 th of December. Giving an overview of the project and the future of the programme.
Havenview	The residents of Havenview Residential Services take part in a weekly activity session on Thursdays in Halfway House GAA, Bunclody and includes activators, soccer, and circuits. The group will now take a break for Christmas and resume in the first week of January. Participants: 4
Walking Rugby	Leinster Rugby finished a four-week Walking Rugby programme in St. Joseph's Community Centre in Wexford on 15 th December. Three Intellectual Disability Day Services were represented at these sessions. Participants: 27
Wheelchair Tennis	Wheelchair Tennis takes place every Tuesday in Enniscorthy for children with a physical disability and their families. The sessions are a collaboration between Enjoy Tennis (Tennis Ireland), IWA-Sport and Sports Active Wexford. Participants: 6
VI Tennis	Visually Impaired / Blind Tennis takes places every Friday in Rosslare Strand. The sessions are a collaboration between Enjoy Tennis (Tennis Ireland), Vision Sports Ireland and Sports Active Wexford. Participants: 5
Fit on Fridays	Fit on Fridays is a three-week female only exercise programme for the female residents of Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre and local females. Participants: 3
Safeguarding	There were no Safeguarding courses in December 13 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2021 with a total of 217 participants. 5 Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2021 with a total of 61 participants.

ENVIRONMENT

A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Office based staff have reverted to working alternate pattern to minimise office attendance, ensuring that the office is covered while increasing physical distancing. 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.

Piers and Harbours staff are maintaining staffing levels in Wexford, Kilmore Quay and New Ross offices to provide support for essential workers.

B. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

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

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

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

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

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

Beaches –

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

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

Coast -

Wexford County Council Environment Staff are still assessing damage caused by the recent Storm Barra. Initial reports suggest that no significant damage along the coast though beach levels have dropped in some areas which would these areas more vulnerable to storms but the sand removed may replenish over time. The almost completed emergency coastal protection works at Seaview, Kilmore did help protect access on the at-risk road.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd, Consulting Engineer company, was appointed on 13th Dec 2021. They will progress the scheme through detailed design, statutory consents, tender, construction and handover.

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council appointed consulting engineers to carry out the design of a suitable coastal protection scheme and a beach access. A contractor was appointed to carry out emergency works and these started on site November 2021 to protect the access road. Works will be approx 90% complete by Christmas.

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

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

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

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

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

Grange, Fethard on Sea: works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion went to tender in Dec; due back mid Jan 2022. This work is funded under the Climate Change Adaptation programme by Roads Department.

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Septic Tank Inspections:

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

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

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

There are currently 13 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 3 of these are for hearing and 10 are for mention.

2. Climate Action

On 4th November 2021, government launched Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing our future. The Plan outlines a pathway to reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% in 2030. The Plan lists 475 actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, including in 2022, to ensure alignment with our legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 gives legal underpinning to climate action by the public sector. It requires all public bodies to perform their functions in a manner consistent with our climate ambition. Under this act, Local Authorities are required to publish countywide climate action plans, to encompass both mitigation and adaption and support the move to a greener economy. Draft guidelines on the process have been shared with local authorities for review with an expectation that the timeframe to commence drafting the plan will commence during 2022.

The new climate action plan will replace the councils current Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and also be required to cover mitigation actions.

Climate Action Raising Awareness Training programme has commenced. This training programme is designed to increase awareness amongst all Local Authority indoor staff of the challenge posed by climate change, the role and actions being taken by the Local Government Sector and the opportunities for individual Local Authority staff, both at a professional and personal level. To date the training has been offered to the Climate Action Team and Grades 5, 6, 7 and equivalents. The training is mandatory and will roll out to all indoor staff during 2021.

Climate Action Training

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

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

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

Decarbonisation Zone

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

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

Enniscorthy was identified as the preferred area for the pilot decarbonising zone in Co. Wexford and this was submitted to the DHLGH. We are awaiting approval from the Department.

D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Landfills:

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

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

2. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites November 2021	Recycling out (End November) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End November)2021 (t)
Glass bottles		3855	3957
Aluminium Cans		98	105
Total	109	3953	4062

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-nov 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-nov 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- nov 2020	Recycling out Jan - nov 2021	Recycling out Jan -Nov 2020	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2021
Total Recycling out	585	581	692	659	922	818	528	526
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2553	2498	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Jan-Nov	68	67	117	116	123	122	82	87

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

Access to all 4 Household Recycling Centres was free of charge for members of the public on Monday 20th December, 2021.

Under the School Bikes for Africa Project, a container truck of 152 bikes bound for Shelton Abbey prison for repair and maintenance left Wexford County Council's household recycling centre at Holmestown Barntown on 20th December. The completed bikes will be shipped to Africa to be used by school students cycling to school.

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:

Activity	To end Nov 2020	Nov 2021	To end Nov 2021	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	2,925	190	2,420	-17.2%
Gorey *		28		
Enniscorthy *		46		
Wexford *		43		
New Ross*		50		
Rosslare		23		
Total Bring Site Inspections	5,190	805	8,257	+59%
Gorey		195		
Enniscorthy		189		

Wexford		283		
New Ross		110		
Rosslare		25		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	14,718	1338	14,718	0%
Gorey	North	398		
Enniscorthy *				
Wexford*	South	940		
New Ross*				
Other Works	4,827	474	4,520	-6.3%
Gorey		89		
Enniscorthy		130		
Wexford		139		
New Ross		69		
Rosslare		47		

4. New Recycling Items

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

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 RMCEI Plan allocates 1,752 routine 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 Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three year target and they are;

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

E. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	213	179
Fines Paid in Full●	78	68
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	56
Successful Prosecutions**	20	11
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	28
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€9,870

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

● Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices – under review breakdown for next report.

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. .

Wexford County Council had one successful Litter prosecution on the 24th of November, €150 fine and €250 cost were awarded to Wexford County Council following 5 successful prosecutions in October. *Please note litter fine statistics are currently under review and we hope therefore information can be provided in our next monthly meeting.*

Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2020	213	20	2256 (down 8%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)

2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	1 Jan to 30 Nov 2021
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	4917
Closed	3526	4563	3845	3772	3506
Closure Rate	98%	99%	81%	75%	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	2020	2021 (to 30-11-21)
Dogs collected	532	398
Dogs reclaimed	127	127
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	249
Dogs put to sleep	32	25
Dog Fines	5	18

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

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

Environment Education and Awareness:

Our aim is to promote awareness and active participation in a range of environmental initiatives. The Council's **Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition** concluded with the Environment Awards held on South East Radio on 9th December with almost 50 entries. There were 11 categories of Awards and the overall winner was Blackwater Tidy Towns – congratulations to all those community and voluntary groups who participated in the Competition.

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

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

6 secondary schools took part in fast Fashion online workshops during October for National Reuse Month. 200 students representing 8 secondary schools took part in the refill workshop which took place on 7th October.

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

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

Local Waste Prevention Grant: The 2021 scheme received 11 applications. Projects that are eligible but not limited to include prevention of single use items, upcycling, food waste prevention workshops. Maximum grant is €500.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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



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



LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Libraries, Archives and Arts Chief Executive Report January 2022 LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to COVID

During December libraries offered a full range of their popular services. There is no requirement to book a visit to the library, but study and computer spaces should be reserved, either on the website or by phone.

During December there was a mixture of in-person outdoor events and online events including literacy initiatives. All the outdoor events were held in the outdoor zone at Wexford Library Sensory Garden.

Book Call Delivery Service

The Book Call Service continued throughout December, this service enabled those who were elderly or vulnerable to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. There has been a total of 959 contacts to the service and 7442 books and other library items delivered in 2021 to date.

2021	Total Contacts	Total items (approx.)
Jan	182	1456
Feb	235	1880
March	198	1584
April	196	1520
May	44	312
June	22	119
July	20	131
August	22	118
September	8	93
October	17	83
November	10	97
December	5	49
Total year to date	959	7442

Sensory Toys and Assistive Resources Collection

The Sensory Toys and Assistive Resources Collection was launched at the end of November and has already been met with huge interest. The Sensory Toys and Assistive Resources (STAR) collection comprises over 100 items and was developed to support children and young people with additional needs. Items such as toys, special aids and literacy apps can be borrowed from all libraries in County Wexford. Items have been chosen to aid various skills such as fine motor skills or sensory processing development. An illustrated catalogue of the STAR resources has been printed and this is available for consultation in libraries and online at www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries. The catalogue has been distributed to Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, schools, and local organisations supporting children and young people with additional needs who are living or attending school in County Wexford.

A range of Literacy apps including TTRS, Nessy Read and Spell and Reading Eggs are also available from libraries and are valuable tools to support development in children with additional needs. The Nessy dyslexia awareness courses for parental support awareness of how children with dyslexia learn and the best strategies to help them.

The STAR collection is one of a range of new library services that cater for people with additional needs. Also launched recently is a new Sensory Pod in Gorey Library. The Sensory Pod is a calming space within the library that has a mood light ceiling, audio and supports stress reduction. The space is fun, relaxing, and appealing and may be useful for children or adults with sensory needs.

Two new Omi-vista Interactive Tables in Gorey and New Ross Libraries project interactive light games onto a table and are suitable for use by people with autism or dementia. The tables respond to gestures and movements creating dynamic images on the surface.

Finally, a sensory garden has been developed in the courtyard of Wexford Library and is planted to give visitors a full sensory experience of smell, hearing, touch, and taste. The garden contains colour, wet areas and a fountain, grasses to sway in the wind as well as fragrant herbs and plants that offer texture and touch.

SEN (special educational needs) Book Stock Collection

A collection of books to support children with additional needs has been supplied to the 5 library branches. The SEN Books include stories for children with sensory issues, those who face challenges with sight, hearing, speech and language development, children who are non-verbal and books to assist with behavioural issues.

E-Book Usage in County Wexford

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

Radon Monitor Loans

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

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

Climate Action

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

A new collection of climate related books is available in each of the five branches in the county to allow people to read and understand the main issues around climate change.

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

Hear our Stories

This programme in collaboration with WLD and Kids Own delivered a series of interactive art and storytelling workshops with Syrian children and families living in County Wexford. Trained

facilitators met with the children and their families over an 8-week period to discuss the role of storytelling in Irish & other cultures and to collate personal stories and artwork that articulates the Syrian lived experience of coming to Ireland and settling into County Wexford. The resulting work forms the basis of a book telling their stories. The book to be launched in early 2022 and will deliver an enduring record and serve to increase understanding and appreciation of different cultures and outlooks.

Comic Book Creation

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

The programme was developed and facilitated by author Sarah Bowie. Through a series of workshops, the children explored various approaches to reading and telling stories through words and images - which included creating their own characters, making comics, and reading wordless books in Bunclody library. Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy, the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, presented the children from FDYS Bunclody Afterschool programme with certs and copies of the book that they had produced. There was a photocall with People newspapers, Barbara-Anne Murphy, Sarah Bowie and the children from FDYS.

STEM

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

Loch Garman le Chéile

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

Online in No Time

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

Buildings Update

Study Zones consisting of a limited number of socially distanced study spaces are available to book via our website for a study seat for a two-hour duration. Eduroam Wi-Fi was also launched in September, allowing third level students to connect to their college, regular Wi-Fi is available in this zone, along with individual electricity sockets and USB ports.

Digital Ambassadors Programme

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Libraries Development Unit, and Age Friendly Ireland have partnered to establish the Library Digital Ambassador Programme. This programme aims to help older people to access online library resources. Wexford Libraries provide an Age Friendly Digital Ambassador in each of the 5 branch libraries. Staff are trained to assist older people to, join their local library online, access online library resources, download their favourite books or listen to audio books. This is a peer-to-peer programme which helps participants to develop the confidence to become mentors themselves.

Work Matters Business eResources online

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

Wexford Libraries' Book Club Online

Wexford Library's Book of the Month read Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell on Tuesday 14th December. Wexford Town Library's Thursday morning book club continued online in December with a discussion of Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan on Thursday 16th December.

Fully Booked returned to in December with Librarian Imelda Carroll interviewing author Rob Doyle. This event went live on Friday, 3rd December and continues to be available through the Wexford Library Facebook page.

Dystopian Book Club

Wexford Library's Dystopian Book Club continued online in December with the final session taking place on Saturday 11th December. The group discussed Last One at the Party by Bethany Clift.

New Ross Library Creative Writing Club: Online Live (New)

New Ross Adult Creative Writing Group was re-launched via New Ross library Facebook page. The event was held via MS Teams communication which is a live online event. The event was offered to the public through SMS text messaging and New Ross library's Facebook page. Support and feedback will be provided to writers. The writing club can accommodate 10 people. 7 registrations

ArtBank Art Exhibition

A nature Themed Exhibition from ArtBank's was on display in Bunclody Library for the month of December.

Family Time at Your Library

We had two online events for Family Time at Your Library in December. We had a creative writing workshop with local author Caroline Busher and Sarah Bowie who is a children's book author/illustrator and cartoonist. Workshop provided on Wexford Libraries Youtube channel. Find out about all the animals the sisters meet as Sarah reads from her book We're Going to The Zoo. 5-8 yrs. 10 registrations.

Services for Children and Young People

Little Library Book Bags (Round 2)

Round two of the Little Library Book Bags kicked off in earnest in December after a soft launch in November. All 47 of the Early Learning Centres were contacted via phone with follow up contacts via email and newsletter.

The majority of the bags were collected in December with the remainder to be collected in early January. We also issued Picture Book Block Loans and Social Story Sets alongside the book bags to help increase issues and provide more services to the ELCs in County Wexford.

Cultural Activities and Regular Events

In Wexford Town Library outdoor children's events were curtailed in December due to resurfacing works to the Sensory Garden but two outdoor story events were held in Christmas week with Mrs Claus giving a story reading.

LEGO Display & Have Yourself a Mini Little Christmas Competition

In December Wexford Library hosted a LEGO Christmas display and a LEGO building competition. There were over 30 entries to the competition, and these were posted online to their Facebook pages. The online content had a reach of over 27,000 with over 2,000 likes, comments, and shares.

Caroline Busher Creative Writing Module

Irish Book Awards nominated author Caroline Busher provided an online magical Christmas-themed storytelling and creative writing workshop on Wexford Libraries Youtube channel. Caroline also delivered a creative writing module to secondary school students from FCJ Bunclody.

Christmas Story Stones with Author Eve McDonnell

Fun, interactive drawing and storytelling workshops were delivered via Wexford Libraries YouTube channel by author Eve McDonnell.

Mystery Bags

Christmas Mystery Bags were made available in December to encourage children and adults to read outside their comfort zones over the Christmas period.

Language for Primary Schools

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

Decade of Centenaries 2021

Wexford Library Digitization Day for War of Independence & Civil War

A War of Independence & Civil War archiving day was held in Wexford Library on Friday 10th December, when people from the community were invited to bring their stories, documents, and memorabilia to be printed, photographed, and digitized, to add them to the Wexford Library and Archives collection. The event was organised to comply with all public health requirements.

Library staff, a project manager historian and the Historian in Residence were in place to discuss the significance of these treasures and generate the collection record in text and video format. Representatives from 14 County Wexford families visited the library on the day and deposited items from their family relevant to the War of Independence & Civil War. It is planned to further develop this community archiving project in 2022 and to exhibit the memorabilia and stories online and physically in the new year.

Historian in Residence Programme

Historian-in-residence, Barry Lacey completed the series of “Wexford War of Independence & Civil War Walking Tours” with walks in the following towns during November: Wexford town, Gorey, New Ross, and Murrinctown in the Rosslare Municipal District. Tours in Bunclody and Enniscorthy were held during the month of October. During the walks, Barry explored both revolutionary periods in Wexford and the events that occurred in each town during this time.

The Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council Cllr Barbara- Anne Murphy welcomed the walkers to each of the tours. Feedback from the walking tours was hugely positive with plans to run similar events in 2022 to encourage local community engagement in the commemoration.

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

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

“Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade” podcast

This podcast has now had over 1.5K listens and is available

From Monday 6th December at 10.am. Truce to Treaty by Wexford Libraries Historian in Residence Barry Lacey. Wexford Libraries Youtube Channel.

To commemorate the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty Historian in Residence Barry Lacey will explore the Truce period in County Wexford from the end of the War of Independence, in July 1921, to the signing of the Treaty on the 6th of December that same year. 138 views.

Local Studies

There were 10 genealogy enquiries and 29 local studies enquiries in December. There were 19 sessions on the Microfilm reader and 37 reference books were used. All these services were provided from Wexford Library.

Collections management

In addition to 58 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 6 researchers visited the Archive during December (up to 16 December). Research topics included:

Research through the Power estate papers (1731-1890).

Research through the TD Sinnott collection (1916-23).

Access to War of Independence documents and artefacts (1921).

Research through the local newspapers for a history of An Garda Síochána in County Wexford (2019-2020).

Research through the local newspapers in relation to the discovery of elk bones in Shortalstown in 1967

Digitisation

The second in a series of three-minute books for Wexford County Infirmary was digitised during the month. Representing one of the earliest hospitals in the county, the infirmary opened for the reception of patients on 10 August 1769, with only six beds available at the outset. The minute books document the monthly administration of the institution and personnel issues in addition to changes in healthcare over the decades – the infirmary wound down in early 1923 and was shortly afterwards opened as Dr Furlong’s private nursing home. The second volume covers the period 5 May 1845 – 6 December 1884 and will be made available on the county archive website shortly.

ARTS

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

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

Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD - Lantern productions staged “Sights and Sounds of Christmas Gorey” which consisted of a series of street theatre and musical performance which included musicians, Christmas themed street performers and acts included moving Christmas trees, polar bears, elves, and toy soldiers etc. on three weekends in December.

Enniscorthy MD– Ad Personam Cultural Events Ltd. presented “Christmas By Candlelight” an evening of Christmas songs, carols & festive cheer with Mick D’Arcy starring Aileen Donohoe (Wicked, Mamma Mia, The Phantom of the Opera) in the Presentation Arts Centre on 18th December.

New Ross MD– Event Lighting Solutions staged Christmas ‘Al Fresco’ 2021 which showcased festive fireworks, The Christmas Bandstand in the square with live entertainment for all the family i.e., music, puppet shows, carol singing. The Victorian Theatre in St. Michael’s Theatre Courtyard staged free family shows every weekend and a Christmas Market which hosted crafts and knitting etc in December.

Rosslare MD – Event Lighting Solutions Event presented “Back Together” Kilmore on 11th December, which comprised a concert with THE4OFUS and the Dublin Gospel Choir.

Wexford MD - Ad Personam Cultural Events Ltd. presented “Christmas By Candlelight” an evening of Christmas songs, carols & festive cheer starring Aileen Donohoe (Wicked, Mamma Mia, The Phantom of the Opera) accompanied by West End Musical Director Robert Scot in the St Iberius Church, Wexford.

Music Generation A partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in Wexford county working in preschool, primary school, and youth work/ community settings.

Primary School Programmes: 19 primary schools to date have reaffirmed their work with Music Generation Wexford and have committed to developing their programme within the school over this academic year. Most of these schools maintained their works with MG over the previous eighteen months, either through video, online or in person.

- Singing Programme = 9 Schools
- Instrumental Programme = 10 Schools

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

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

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

The Creative Hub Studios is opened 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.

Creative Communities is an annual arts office programme that allows an artist from our panel to work with a community group on a creative project for over the course of 6 months. 21 artists have been successfully selected for the new artist panel in 2022, further details will be available in January on the new artists.

Filmmaker Role County Wexford Youth Film programme is a core Arts Department programme which offers film workshops in developing new film skills to young people around county Wexford aged 13-18. This programme is based in St. Michael’s Theatre in New Ross. We are in the process of retendering for a new filmmaker to facilitate and manage the programme further details are available <http://www.stmichaelsnewross.com/> the deadline for submission is Friday 14th January 2022 at 4.00pm.

Screen Wexford

Screen Wexford's end of year Showcase Event took place in Wexford Arts Centre on 2nd December 2021. This event included short films screenings, the launch of Screen Wexford's new website, and an opportunity to meet the team behind Screen Wexford and learn of new and exciting plans for 2022.

FIRE SERVICE

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls November 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	3 / 6 (9)	98	116
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 5 (6)	62	49
Road Traffic Accident	10	82	78
Industrial fire	0	8	11
Commercial fire	0	1	7
Assembly fire	0	3	4
Agricultural fire	0	9	4
Motor Vehicles	4	30	48
Forest/bog/grass etc	0	71	87
Rubbish	8	72	88
Non-fire rescues	8	87	49
False alarms – good intent	23	217	260
Malicious false alarms	0	1	5
Miscellaneous	2	45	46
Total	70	786	852

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	34	15	22	21	6	98
DOMESTIC FIRE	20	19	8	11	4	62
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	25	10	24	14	9	82
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	5	0	0	3	0	8
COMMERCIAL FIRE	1	0	0	0	0	1
ASSEMBLY FIRE	2	0	0	1	0	3
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	3	1	2	1	2	9
MOTOR VEHICLES	10	3	6	8	3	30
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	19	19	17	10	6	71
RUBBISH	25	14	12	10	11	72
NON-FIRE RESCUES	26	20	25	11	5	87
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	95	32	43	42	5	217
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	19	6	12	5	3	45
TOTALS	284	139	172	137	54	786

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in November 2021: 11
 Number of Applications received to date: 108
 Number of Applications to this period 2020: 101

Finance:

COVID -19 – Rates Waiver 2022

Circular Fin 24/2021 was received on 14th December confirmed that the Targeted Commercial Rates Waiver that was in place for the final quarter of 2021 is now extended to the first quarter of 2022. The broad categories of businesses to receive the credit in lieu of rates applies are as follows:

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

Annual Financial Statement 2021

Work will be commencing on the preparation of the 2021 Accounts shortly once all transactions for 2021 have been updated to the financial management system. 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 2022 – 2024

Work will now commence on the preparation of the next 3 Year Capital Programme, 2022 - 2024 and it is planned to have this ready for consideration of members in the first quarter of 2022.

Audit Committee/Audit

The annual reports from the Audit Committee prepared in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are included on the agenda for the January Meeting for consideration and approval.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The 2021 Allocation and associated borrowing approval for funding applications approved and drawn down under the RIHL was €7,430,000. Total RIHL loan applications received and approved in principle during 2021 now exceed this allocation. While it is unlikely that all approved loans will be drawn by applicant it is still necessary to have relevant approvals and sanctions in place to meet any excess over the original 2021 allocation. To facilitate an additional RIHL allocation of €1,694,597 has been sought and approved by the DHLGH bringing the total 2021 allocation to €9,124,597.

Approval of the Council is now required to the additional potential borrowing for this increased allocation and the approval request forms part of the council agenda for the January meeting.

Housing Loans Regulations 2021 (S.I. No. 701 of 2021) – Local Authority Home Loan Scheme

The Housing Loans Regulations 2021 (S.I. No. 701 of 2021) bring the new Local Authority Home Loan Scheme takes effect from 4 **January 2022**. The Local Authority Home Loan Scheme is the successor to the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans Scheme and all Mortgage applications received on or after 4 January must be assessed as under LAHL regulations and Credit Policy.

In general, LAHL Scheme is closely modelled on the RIH with no change in interest rates but does contain slightly wider eligibility criteria.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m to 31st December 2022.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**