



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**July 2021**

## Economic Development & Planning:

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021

The 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme has announced grants from €20,000 to €500,000 to help revitalise towns and villages post-Covid-19. The scheme's focus for 2021 is designed to breathe new life into towns and villages as attractive places to live and work under of the Government's 5-year strategy "Our Rural Future" with a strong focus on the economic recovery post Covid.

The Economic Department hosted an Information Workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> May, for communities.

The measures that are prioritised for support by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 Category A include:

- Tackling dereliction in town centres
- Turning vacant properties into remote working facilities and enterprise, cultural tourism and community hubs

The secondary category B allows for projects that:

- support local authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns to attract remote workers to their county
- upgrade and improve shop fronts on main streets
- projects that support and enhance the night time economy and add vibrancy to town centres

A total of 7 applications and 1 for product development are eligible:

- i. 4 applications funding €20,000 to €100,000
- ii. 2 applications funding €20,000 to €250,000
- iii. 1 application funding €20,000 to €500,000
- iv. 1 application funding up to €50,000 (New Project Development Measure)

Wexford County Council advertised and invited Expressions of Interest from town/village groups who may have a suitable project for consideration under the Scheme and the Municipal Districts will play a key role in supporting the development of projects proposals.

The closing date for applications to the Department is the **16<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.

**Category 1 Applications** – Towns and Villages with population of up to 5,000 people and 60% of funding will be allocated to this population category

**Category 2 Applications** – Towns and Villages with population of 5,001 to 10,000 people (Towns of up to 15,000 may be eligible if the project is high quality and innovative.)

A total of 35 Expressions of interest were received and assessed in accordance with the criteria of the scheme. A number of projects are more suitable for community funding and have been signposted to programmes such as Leader and ORIS. The following projects are recommended for development into comprehensive applications to be submitted to the DRCD. Two of the applications must not have received Town and Village funding previously, but this does not include covid 19 accelerated economic projects in 2020.

**Table 1: Recommended Expressions of Interest for Development to Project Submissions**

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Town/Village</b>	<b>Project Proposal</b>
<b>Project funding applications</b>		
New Ross	New Ross Municipal District	Refurbishment of derelict site Brennans Lane and development of the shambles to communal outdoor dining space within town centre
Gorey Kilmuckridge	Craanford (No T&V Funding previously)	Reopen vacant shop as village hub - Tea Room & Exhibition space, Local shop & Farmers Market Days, Remote Working Centre, Digital Hub & Training
Enniscorthy	Kiltealy	Refurbish unused squash court into multi-purpose activity room, further development of new community park, addition of polytunnels
Enniscorthy	Caim (No T&V funding previously)	Establishment of Caim Community Park
Rosslare	Murrintown	Establish Digital hub, support sport infrastructure, community café, led lighting, solar panels, insulation and rainwater harvesting,
Rosslare	Rosslare Strand (No T&V Funding previously)	Replace existing sheds in Community centre grounds to provide remote working space, workshop for CSP, TUS, CE, tool storage sheds and toilet facilities.
Wexford	Castlebridge (No T & V funding previously)	The utilisation of a building within Castlebridge as a central community hub and focal point within the community for delivery of a number of scaled projects.
<b>Product Development</b>		
New Ross	Duncannon Fort (no T&V funding previously)	Project Development

## Small Business Assistance Scheme Phase 2

The Small Business Assistance Scheme Phase 2 opened for applications on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and will close on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

In summary

- SBASC Phase 2 gives grants to businesses who are not eligible for the Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes.
- This scheme aims to help businesses with their fixed costs, for example, rent, utility bills, security.

- The Q2 scheme covers the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021. Those who applied under Phase 1 are still eligible to apply for a second payment of €4,000 if they continue to meet the criteria.
- The average weekly turnover from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 must be 75% down on the average weekly turnover of the business in 2019 (or 75% down on the average weekly turnover of the business in 2020 if the business commenced trading after 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019).
- Each eligible applicant will receive a payment of €4,000 (if turnover is >= €50k) or €1,000 (if turnover is >= €20k and < €50k) and if they meet the criteria.
- Businesses working from non-rateable premises are now eligible to apply.

Applications received to date

DATE 23 June 2021	23-Jun-21	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME 2	COVID	STATISTICS
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	16	€64,000.00
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	26	€86,000.00
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	2	€0.00
<b>Total Number of Applications</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>€150,000.00</b>

For full details of the scheme and the online application form, please go to

[www.wexfordcoco.ie/sbasphase2](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sbasphase2)

### **Local Enterprise Office**

#### **Trading Online Voucher Survey**

Local Enterprise Offices nationwide have been working with Frontline Consultants to undertake an evaluation of the Trading Online Voucher (TOV) Scheme to help inform the future of the Scheme and to ensure that it meets the needs of our clients. Clients who have been approved and drawn down TOV vouchers over the years 2018 -2020 were asked to complete the survey. The survey has now closed and we are waiting the final outcome, Wexford has had 5<sup>th</sup> highest response rate nationally.

Applications for the TOV voucher remains strong with 125 approvals to the value of €269,401 to date.

### **Training/Mentoring**

The demand for training and mentoring is also strong with 1,112 individuals receiving training and 128 individual business mentoring assignments. The LEO office will commence work on the Autumn/Winter training schedule in the coming weeks.

### **Client Stimulus**

As part of the client stimulus support for existing grant supported companies we are rolling out 3 days consultancy to these clients under the following areas;

- New Market Development
- Lean for Micro
- Green for Micro
- Innovation Capability Development
- Leadership & Coaching
- Strategic Financial Consultancy

Thirty seven businesses have been appointed consultants to date.

## Green for Micro

This pilot scheme closed for applications on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. The programme is free of charge and delivered over 2 days offering practical guidance to micro-enterprises on how to make their business more sustainable. There is a centralised application process through the following link; <https://leo.submit.com/show/1> and applications are assessed locally.

## Technology

In the Local Enterprise Office Wexford we are streamlining our processes and moving all of our grant applications online. All applications for funding will now be submitted online through <https://leowexford.submit.com>. This is very much in line with Lean principles and will increase efficiencies and offer a high level of service to our clients, automating processes and reducing physical paperwork. The second phase will be to move general applications such as mentoring online and this will take place in the coming weeks.

## Tourism

County Wexford is currently performing very well in the domestic Tourism Market. The latest Irish Hotels Federation Report dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 shows Wexford as leading the way in Hotel Bed Occupancy for June, July & August 2021.

## Wexford Memories– County Campaign

Wexford County Council is supporting Visit Wexford marketing campaign called Wexford memories, this is designed to encourage domestic tourists to visit County Wexford to relive nostalgic memories and make new ones. This campaign will continue for Autumn 2021.

### Wexford Memories - County Campaign



## Visit Wexford App

Visit Wexford will launch the Visit Wexford App at the end of June. This app will allow visitors and locals to seek out all that County Wexford has to offer. Users will be able to receive notifications of nearby places to eat, drink, stay, see and do, they will be able to book local attractions in nearby places and have a platform to make queries and ask questions. The app will also link users back to the Visit Wexford website. This new App will be a pocket guide to Wexford.



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

The Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme which is funded by Fáilte Ireland and is administered by Wexford County Council, is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses and other tourism and hospitality business establishments who have working kitchens on site and where the food is prepared for service and sold for consumption on the premises.

This Scheme is now expanded since the 14<sup>th</sup> June to public houses not in possession of a food licence.



## PLANNING

### COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

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

#### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

No. of valid applications	876
No. of invalid applications	82
Extension of Duration	30
Exempted Development Declaration	36

Numbers are those received from the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

No. of valid applications	164
No. of invalid applications	10
Extension of Duration	3
Exempted Development Declaration	4

#### Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	94
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	314
Average waiting time to meeting	27 days

#### Forward Planning

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

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions and observations received on the Draft Plan was submitted to the Members on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021. The Members met to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, with further meetings taking place during the month of May. A Special Meeting of the full Council took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June at which the Members decided to defer consideration on the Chief Executive's Report and Draft Plan until a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. If the Members decide to make amendments to the draft plan and these amendments are material in nature the proposed amendments will then be placed on public display for a period of not less than 4 weeks. Submissions and observations on the proposed amendments may be made during this period. This will be followed by a further Chief Executive's Report which will be considered by the Members prior to the adoption of the plan.

## Heritage Grants

The 3 applications from Wexford County Council for funding from the Department under the Community Monuments Fund 2021 have all been accepted and granted funds as follows:

Stream 1	Mountgarret Castle	€70,000.00
Stream 1	Fethard Castle	€70,000.00
Stream 3	Carrick Ringfort	€22,780.00

The Community Monuments Fund invests essential capital in our archaeological heritage to safeguard it into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The scheme is operated by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through Local Authorities.

## Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as follows:

- 8 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 1 property owner carried out the required remedial works so that the property would not be placed on Derelict Site Register.
- 2 Dangerous Structure Notices issued.

### Building Control 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	40
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	18
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	15
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	2

## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 are as follows:

➤ Live Cases	331
➤ Cases Opened	157
➤ Cases Closed	118

The table below outlines the half yearly figures in Planning Enforcement to June 2021. New case files continue to increase on 2019 and 2020. The current live cases total now stands at 331, again up on end of year totals for 2019 and 2020.

	<b>Dec-19</b>	<b>Dec-20</b>	<b>Jun-21</b>
	12mths	12mths	12mths
New Cases	186	239	157
Warning Letters issued	156	247	132
Enforcement Notices issued	39	33	20
Legal Proceedings	7	13	7
Closed cases	214	173	118
Unactioned / dismissed cases		73	57
<b>Live cases as at 15th</b>			<b>331</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	226	292	

### Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 are as follows:

- Properties advertised on websites 80
- No. of warning letters served 42
- Cases Closed 25
- 

### Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 totals **27**

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	6	0	1	4	1
Gorey	7	4	3	0	0
New Ross	4	2	1	1	0
Wexford	6	0	1	5	0
Rosslare	4	0	1	3	0
<b>2021 Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>

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

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>67</b>

## **Access Related Items**

### **Fáilte Ireland**

Wexford County Councils accessibility works are to feature as good practice examples in Fáilte Ireland's pocket guide for accessible tourism promotion and awareness. Specifically works in relation to Wexford Transport Hub, Redmond Square and the access provisions provided to ensure access for all to our beaches.

### **Statutory Report for the Annual Monitoring of Wexford County Councils compliance with Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005**

Returns for 2020 show that Wexford County Council are above the current 3% requirement with returns informing 5.59% of persons currently employed within Wexford County Council, self-declaring having a disability.

## Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park:** Works on the park are substantially completed and the Park was opened to the public on 15/06/2020. Public lighting is now operational. Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. Works commenced on site following relaxation of Level 5 restrictions on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The works are expected to be complete by early October 2021.

**Crescent Quay:** Works are substantially completed with minor snagging items to be completed.

**Carrigfoyle - Trails:** The access road, car park, trails and services works at Carrigfoyle (Phase 1) were substantially completed in December. The site was opened to the public on 18/12/2020 with the exception of the moderate trails. This trail has been upgraded and is now fully open to the Public. Final snag works will be completed over the coming months.

**Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1:** Works are substantially completed with snagging items still to be addressed. Discussions are on-going with IW in relation to taking the on-site wastewater pumping station in charge.

**Gorey Town Park:** The main works contract commenced on site in May 2019 and were impacted by CoVid19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021. Works recommenced on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with an early August completion now expected. Tenders have been assessed for the playground and adult gym equipment with contract award imminent. Installation will commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

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

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

The rail lifting and site clearance contract commenced in August has now been completed.

Initial contracts have been awarded for the construction of the greenway for the urban sections of New Ross and Waterford with site commencement expected in June and July respectively. Tendering for subsequent works packages is progressing. The works on the entire Greenway are due to be completed by Spring 2023.

**Trinity Wharf:** Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is pending. Tenders for a works contract for the new access road to serve the development are currently being assessed and WCC is advancing the works licence agreements required from CIE for the construction of the access road and the new level crossing with a view to commencing works in Q3 2021.

Procurement of consultants for the main public infrastructure development works is underway. Pre-qualification submission have been received and are being assessed.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced URDF grant funding of €18.4m for the Trinity Wharf project in mid-April 2021, in addition to the €2.028m secured by WCC

in 2018. This will support the construction of the site-development works required to open-up the site for private sector investment and building development.

**New Ross Fire Station:** Approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to award the works contract for the New Ross Fire Station and Kevin Thorpe Ltd has been appointment following a competitive tendering process. Works commenced on site 28/05/2021 and are expected to take 9 months to complete.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension of and alterations to Wexford Arts Centre. The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site on May 6<sup>th</sup> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. Completion is expected in June 2022.

**High Hill, New Ross:** The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, currently derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Church and Cemetery.

A tender process for works at High Hill advertised in Q3 2020 has been terminated without an award of contract. A subsequent tendering process commenced in February 2021 and 7 tenders were received and have been assessed. An award of contract is expected by June 2021 with works commencing in July/August 2021.

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

**Kilmore Quay Link Road:** Works recommenced on site in early May 2021 following CoVid related delays and are expected to be completed in August 2021.

**Monck Street Enhancement Scheme:** The detailed design is progressing following a number of delays relating to CoVid. It is now planned to target October 2021 to commence street works. A tender for the advance procurement of street paving materials was advertised on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

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

Hegarty Demolition Ltd. was appointed for the Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) and works commenced on site on May 10<sup>th</sup> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. Works will be substantially complete by end of June 2021.

A Part VIII Planning application will be lodged in Q3 2021 for the development of the public realm space on the site.

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

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

No tenders were received in response to an open tendering competition, advertised in November, for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of applications for planning and statutory consents. WCC has now moved to a negotiated procedure to seek the required services.

The ground investigation work for the pedestrian bridge was completed in early November. The preliminary design and bridge options report has been completed taking account of the results of the SI works and was issued to WCC for review.

The URDF funding application for Enniscorthy, submitted in May 2020, incorporating the Templeshannon project has not been successful and WCC will engage with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to support the development of future applications for regeneration in Enniscorthy.

**John Street Building Regeneration Project:** WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high-quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement. The CPO process to acquire outstanding property in relation to this project commenced on 22/06/2021.

**Esmonde Street:** RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part VIII planning consent process was advertised on 13/10/2020. Planning consent was approved at the WCC December meeting. The project will now proceed to detailed design. RPS is progressing the detailed design work for this project and site investigation works are currently being tendered.

WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project. A further RRDF application for works funding, submitted in December 2020, was not successful.

**Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building:** The pre-planning design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) were prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed. The Part 8 application, submitted in February 2021 for public consultation has been withdrawn and a detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design. This will inform the planning consent application that will be submitted in due course.

A pre-qualification suitability assessment for the design team services is currently being assessed.

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

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

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender process, delayed by the CoVid 19 in 2020, was completed in May 2021 following a negotiation process without an award of contract.

**Mechanics Institute:** John Creed & Associates were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders were advertised in November 2020. A works contractor will be appointed in Q3 2021. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

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

The appointment of consultancy services teams for the INHP has been impacted by the CoVid 19 restrictions. An award of contract for the Architect-led design team has not been possible to date (as they are UK based). Some ecological surveys were carried out over Winter 2020/21 and we are in discussions with our environmental and infrastructural consultant to seek to advance their service scope as much as possible in the current circumstances.

Tenders for environmental services required to support the Hook tourism project have been assessed and an award of contract is planned for July 2021. Likewise, the appointment of design team for the tourism services will be completed in July 2021.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman Centre in New Ross has been completed and was presented to the members of the New Ross Municipal District in June 2021. The tenders for tourism co-ordination and management services for the project have been assessed and an offer to the successful tenderer is expected to issue in July 2021.

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

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

Following a competitive tender process, RPS Ltd has been appointed to undertake the Preliminary Design and Statutory Consents phase of the project.

**Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway:** Following the decision of the Transportation SPC of Waterford City & Co. Council and the Economic SPC of Wexford County Council, to write to the Minister for Transport seeking inclusion of the out-of-service Rosslare to Waterford railway line in the up-coming national rail review, it was decided to pause the application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project pending a decision from 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.

**Wexford to Rosslare Greenway:** Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going. It is planned to commence a route selection public consultation in Q3 2021.

**Crescent Quay – Dredging:** Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders. Tenders have been assessed and an award of contract was made to RPS Consulting Engineers in June 2021.

**Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy:** A master plan for the Old Dublin Road business district in Enniscorthy is being developed by WCC. This master plan will allow for packages of works to be developed and advanced on a phased basis subject to funding. Malachy Walsh & Partners were appointed in March to provide design services for the project and the plan should be complete in Q2 2021.

A draft masterplan was presented to the members at the May MDC meeting. WCC are currently undertaking public consultation regarding the draft masterplan, after the consultation stage a final masterplan will be completed in July/August. A contract for the initial phase 1 works is expected to be awarded by October 2021.

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.

**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. Modia Consulting were appointed in March to provide quantity surveying services. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in July with a contractor to commence works in October 2021.

**Curraclloe 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 Curraclloe, 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 as yet uncertain.

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

## Flood Defence Schemes

### Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme requires formal confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in order to proceed. This is a statutory requirement under the Arterial Drainage Acts. The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by DPER and a public consultation process.

The confirmation documents for the scheme, including the EIAR & NIS, were signed off by the OPW and submitted to the DPER in March 2020.

DPER completed the public consultation on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. DPER completed the review of EIAR & NIS and sent a request for supplementary information to the OPW in November 2020. WCC issued the supplementary environmental information to the OPW on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the OPW submitted this to DPER on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. A decision is expected in August 2021.

While confirmation of the scheme from the Minister is awaited, WCC will progress the detailed design, the shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works. Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species.

The detailed design of the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete. Tender submissions for short listing contractors for the bridgeworks were received in June 2020. The prequalification assessment was completed in January 2021 and candidates that did not meet the pass/ fail criteria were notified. This decision was appealed by two candidates. WCC sought legal advice on the matter and it was decided to re tender the competition. The tender documents were updated, and the competition was retendered on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The closing date for the competition is the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The legal agreement required for the diversion of Irish Water services has been completed, Archaeological licences are in place, the bridge agreement with Irish Rail & CIE is being progressed, the application for the foreshore lease and foreshore licence is being progressed with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government - public consultation on the foreshore application closed in December 2020. The Foreshore Licence is expected to be issued in September 2021.

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

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review. It has been determined that more details survey data was required to complete the modelling study. This additional survey work was carried out last month and the final report is now being prepared.

# REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES MAY 2021

## 1. FOI Office Requests May 2021

Type	May 2021	To end of May 2021
Freedom of Information	6	34
Customer Complaint	5	15
Ombudsman Complaint	1	10
Access to Information on the Environment	1	3
Data Access Request	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>65</b>

## 2. Members Portal – Reps per Section May 2021

Section	Cases	Total	%	➤ SLA
Community	1	1	0%	
Corporate	1	1	0%	
Customer Service	10	10	3%	
Enterprise & Tourism	2	2	1%	
Environment	11	11	3%	1
Finance	4	4	1%	
Housing	220	220	66%	
I. T.	1	1	0%	
Planning	6	6	2%	1
Property	1	1	0%	
Roads	44	44	13%	1
Roads - Enniscorthy MD*	12	12	4%	8
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD*	16	16	5%	16
Roads - New Ross MD*	1	1	0%	
Roads - Rosslare MD*	1	1	0%	
Water - Non Irish Water Queries	1	1	0%	
Water - Rural Water and Well Grants	1	1	0%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>

\*Note in May 2021 new options for Roads Queries per district were added to the Portal where local roads queries are being dealt with.

The breakdown of queries in the different categories of request is as follows:

No Release of Personal, Special or Sensitive Data	133	40%
Release of Personal Data S.40	196	59%
Release of Special or Sensitive Data S.40	4	1%

### 3. Members Portal – Reps per Area May 2021

District	Total	%
Enniscorthy Municipal District	50	15%
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	28	8%
New Ross Municipal District	2	1%
Oireachtas	230	69%
Rosslare Municipal District	2	1%
Wexford Municipal District	21	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Emails, Phone Calls and Cases Logged in CSU through the CRM

Area		May	
Agricultural Burns			4
Environment Complaints			418
Change of Circumstances			63
General Queries			0
Housing Validation			121
Quick Calls			954*
Ask A Question			11
Road Faults Log			103
Emails			3,297**
	1. Incoming External Emails	886	
	2. Incoming Internal Emails	605	
	3. Forwarding/Replies	1,394	
	4. Emails sent by CSU	412	
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,971</b>

\* 407 of Quick Calls are Housing Related. Of this 37% relate to Housing Maintenance queries.

\*\* A system for categorising these emails into relevant services areas has been developed and will allow for more meaningful reporting on these emails going forward.

## **5. Procurement**

No of tenders uploaded in May 2021: 8

No of tenders received in May 2021: 16

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

## HOUSING

### Affordable Housing

The Government has announced its intention to publish the Affordable Housing Bill 2021. Wexford County Council is actively considering the development of affordable housing over the coming years and are assessing the viability of a scheme in Gorey.

The Housing Department is undertaking a survey to get a sense of the level of demand, unit types required and affordability level for potential future schemes, for interested parties they can register their interest up to 9<sup>th</sup> July using the following link:

<https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/content/affordable-housing-expression-interest-application>

### Housing Supply

#### Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Delays caused by leaking at parapets. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Additional funding has been approved by DHPLG. More changes requested by IW. Will complete in Q3 2021
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced on site 17 <sup>th</sup> May 21
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Works commence on site 24 <sup>th</sup> May 21. Due to complete in Q2 2022
Creagh	14	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	This is a combined project of what was reported previously as Creagh East and Creagh West. A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q3
Wexford Street	28/32	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Topo and SI complete. Unit numbers will be fixed now with site information to hand and Stage 2 is programmed for June 21.
Rosbercon	28/41	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q3 2021. Delayed by need for a knotweed Management Plan and enabling works prior to surveys and excavations. The surveys which will determine layout and numbers.
Bullawn	2/3	New Ross	Stage 2	Special Needs house revised. Revised proposal to incorporate another unit. Revised plans to DHPLG June 21

Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender Assessment underway. Working on Design of pump station with IW to enable Stage 2 to (22 units)
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged April 21. Design Team preparing Stage 3 package for submission as soon as planning is approved. Site Cleared and surveys underway.
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Due diligence required to prepare Planning and to consider this project for Design Build delivery. Preparing a brief for Appointment of a Design Team from our Framework in Q3
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Standard house reviewed and approved by DHPLG. Part VIII Q2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>243</b>			Based on lowest estimate where site configuration not agreed.

#### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required. Shortfall of €42,300. Contractor lined up but no contract can be signed until funding is fully in place. Application to be confirmed by DHPLG
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. Management Plan required.
Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design for demolition and re-build underway. Structural Engineer appointed and detailed survey commenced. Asbestos surveyor to be appointed. Single Stage Application to be lodged with DHPLG in Q2 2021
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	Commencing on site on 17 <sup>th</sup> May. Completion Q1 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>		

## Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	14	Rosslare	Site cleared, Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. Stage 1 Q2 2021. Reviewing house types prior to submission.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works. Appoint Engineer to assess structure Q2 2021.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>		

## Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW no capacity. Awaiting formal notification on same and appeal of same prior to submission of Stage 1.
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Substantial additional funding required. Tender for consultants underway.
Adamstown	0 (20)	Wexford	IW confirmed that there is no capacity in Adamstown so this job is not proceeding.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	5	Gorey	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs Awaiting Confirmation of Feasibility from IW to connect into treatment plant. We have increased the density to 5 Units with revised Stage 1 application to be lodged June 2021
Ballygillane	2	Rosslare	Derelict house on site. Assessment and proposal for the site in Q3.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>		

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	All units expected to deliver Q3 & Q4 2021. Delay due to service connections
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	Approval received June 2021. Currently under construction. To deliver 2022
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	16 units to deliver by end Aug 2021.

			Remainder to deliver Q3 2021. Delay due to service connections
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2022
<b>Tuath</b>			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	All units delivered
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	41 units delivered. Final 18 units to deliver by 31/07/2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Units complete. Awaiting confirmation of closing
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Approval received June 2021. Site clearance commenced. To deliver on phased basis from 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>391</b>		

#### Part V Acquisitions

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver Q4 2021 & Q1 2022
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	3 units complete. 2 units to deliver Q4 2021 and Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received June 2021. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	At snagging stage. To deliver Q2 2021.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	17 units delivered final 2 units at snagging stage to deliver end June 2021.
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	At snagging stage. To deliver end June 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expected to deliver Q3 2021.
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	To deliver from Q3 2021. Delay due to service connections
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	Delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2021. Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>		

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 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021)	102	79	121	103	69	474
Repair Requests Year to Date	631	443	683	605	414	2776
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021)	90	67	96	91	49	393
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	406	294	430	425	262	1817

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

## Homeless Support Services Unit (HSSU)

Wexford County Council's Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) is part of the south east region in terms of providing services and supports to vulnerable people. The region operates a regional **Homeless Prevention & Support Project**. The project prioritises homeless preventions by way of applying early interventions, mediation and prevention measures to those presenting seeking homeless services/emergency accommodation.

The HSSU operates between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and provides a range of services and supports to persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Co-ordinator along with a multi-disciplinary team, heads the Unit up. They provide a care and case management model of support to people who present by working with them on a client specific support plan. This identifies the services or supports that the clients need to help them deal with issues and improve their chances of sustaining future tenancies by bringing these supports with them.

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

There were <b>347</b> calls to the HSSU from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2021, the following were the breakdown of same:-	
163	Sought and received advice and information in relation to housing and homeless prevention
75	Supported into emergency, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment supported by the Placefinder service.
91	Were not eligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise their situation.
18	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.

Wexford County Council has recently employed two Social Care Workers on a contract basis. They will staff the HSSU rota and will be the first point of contact for homeless presentations.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER

The Article 48 team processed 8 LEADER claims in June. The value of these claims was €377,620.99, which will support 5 enterprises and 3 community groups throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

<b><i>Promoter Paid</i></b>	<b><i>Claim Payment</i></b>
Barron Energy Ltd	€200,000
Slaney Precision Ltd	€100,000
Wexford Arts Centre	€3,900
Promotex Ltd	€26,200
Wallace Mobile Homes Ltd	€17,062.50
St. Mary's Rosslare GAA Club	€10,215
Trudie's Catering Kitchen Ltd	€13,690
<b>Total</b>	<b>€371,067.50</b>
<b><i>Approved for payment</i></b>	<b><i>Payment</i></b>
Rosslare Community Development	€6553.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>€6553.49</b>

### Joint Policing Committee Meeting

The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the meeting format is to be agreed, subject to Covid-19 guidelines.

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via MS Teams.

### Chief Officers Meeting

A regional meeting of the EMRA Chief Officers took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. via Microsoft Teams. The main items discussed included - LECP, LEADER, SICAP, Funding Schemes, Healthy Ireland & PPN.

### Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

The next meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via MS Teams.

### Local Action Group (LAG) Managers Meeting

A regional meeting of the LAG Managers took place on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

### SICAP

The SICAP sub-committee is scheduled to meet in July to consider the mid-year review which must be formally approved by the LCDC by the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## **Playgrounds**

Funding of €15,332 was approved under the Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth for improvement works at Duncannon, Mouth Carmel New Ross, and Cluain Dara Enniscorthy.

## **INTERREG – Celtic Routes June 2021 – July 2021**

Work has begun on the legacy of the Project, with options being explored. Two Irish Travel Journalist trips have been booked for July, and International Travel Journalist trips are being booked for August and September. The July Newsletter is compiled and ready for release to the Tourism Trade and all stakeholders. Work continues apace on the expansion of the website [www.celticroutes.info](http://www.celticroutes.info). There has been a spike in registered users of the Asset Library, primarily from Local Authority users and the “Visit” bodies. The suite of Celtic Comics is ready to be printed and distributed. The Project Partners continue to meet on a bi-monthly schedule. A collection of Partner video is being scheduled, having been postponed since January 2020.

## **Wexford PPN Report for July 2021**

Meetings of the PPN Secretariat were held online – 31<sup>st</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & the 14<sup>th</sup> June, with PPN Development Communications and Training subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The PPN facilitator withdrew his resignation on 11<sup>th</sup> June at the Secretariat’s request.

First tranche funding of €36,519.60 for the PPN from DRCD was received on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. The 2020 Annual Report for the DRCD was submitted on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Information bulletins were e-mailed to all PPN members on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June. PPN members were also updated -

- a DRCD/PPN review survey closing 25<sup>th</sup> June,
- a DRCD/PPN webinar on Our Rural Future on 23<sup>rd</sup> June,
- with details of PPN Municipal District virtual meetings scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Three new organisations applied to join Wexford PPN in June.

## **Age Friendly**

### **Age Friendly Strategy and public consultations**

Age Friendly Strategy public consultations began with older people at 28 online workshops which were attended by 190 older people in May. During June and July public consultation will continue with members of the public aged over 55 invited to complete a survey seeking to hear their views.

The outcomes and feedback received will influence the actions identified in the 2022-2026 Age Friendly Strategy.

The survey is available on the WCC online public consultation portal, as a full page advert in the People newspaper as well as distributed via Meals on Wheels, Libraries, Community Response Forum, etc and publicised on South East Radio. People can also contact us by phone or post to complete the survey.

## **Telehealth**

Work is continuing to progress on the national Telehealth pilot which Wexford Age Friendly are working on with Age Friendly Ireland, HSE, Waterford IT and Tunstall Emergency Response.

## Creative Ireland Funding - Creativity in Older Age 2021

Wexford Age Friendly in partnership with WCC Arts Office have received funding in respect of 2 projects which are progressing:

- Enniscorthy Activity Garden at St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy - the aim of this project is to further enhance this newly developed green space using creative practitioners (artists and craft makers) in order to encourage greater use and enjoyment of this sizeable and currently underutilised green space
- Expansion of the current music therapy programme with patients in The Ivy Ward, a dementia ward at St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy as well as with clients of the Alzheimer's Society. Scheduled to take place in July and August.

### Wexford Dementia Working Group

The HSE are hosting an event on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 to which members of the public and those affected by dementia are invited to attend and learn about what a number of counties including Wexford are doing to make their county more Dementia Inclusive through the sharing of knowledge and more participation. Members of Wexford Dementia Working Group, including WCC Age Friendly Programme Manager, Ann Marie Laffan will be participating in this event.

### Covid Care Concerts in Nursing Homes with Gerald Peregrine, Mobile Music Machine

Mobile Music Machine will return for another series of concerts in 10 nursing homes in Wexford in the first week of July. WCC have commissioned the writer, Michelle Dooley Mahon to document the concerts with a focus on the experience on the residents and staff.



### July Report (20<sup>th</sup> May – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021)

Further planning and activity is underway for the Healthy Ireland Round Three funded actions due to reduced restrictions. For some Action Partner face to face activities resumed, including the Roma Community project and the Traveller Men Community Mental Health Fund football activity.

Under the Healthy Ireland Farmer Action, a Summer Walking Series is planned for June/July, facilitated by Sports Active Wexford and in collaboration with the Farming Groups who are part of our Steering Group. This series was launched at Carrigfoyle on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

As part of our Healthy Ireland Regional Action seven in Wexford recently took part in the Adult Resilience Certified Facilitator Training, known as "Strong not Tough" This internationally recognised training caters those over 16. Further training is planned for July and a final session in Autumn.

Healthy Ireland funded Action Partners are preparing for reporting on Year Two (July 20-June 21) which involves progress reporting on each action and detailed financial returns to Pobal for any spend to date. The Healthy County Coordinator is responsible for coordination of reporting from all main Action Partners, CMHF partners and CMHF Small Grant recipients, and upload of this reporting on to the Pobal portal.

End June is the final spend period for Community Resilience Funding and all partners have to provide financial and progress reporting for upload to Pobal. The Healthy County Coordinator is



for

responsible for coordination and upload of same also. As with the Healthy Ireland funding, this reporting is required by 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Progression of new tasks agreed under the Healthy County Committee continues, with planning and background work underway particularly the 'Not Around Us' Campaign and the Social Prescribing project.

## SPORTS ACTIVE

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Sport Ireland funding	<p>A successful application for funding was received from Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding for 2021/22.</p> <p><b><u>Youth Leadership €10,000</u></b></p> <p>This project involves the development and delivery of youth leadership training for young people providing a steppingstone for learners into employment and also into further education or training. This programme will develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner.</p> <p><b><u>Volunteer Support €10,000</u></b></p> <p>The volunteer supports initiative aims to successfully identify and assist targeted individuals who are volunteering in disadvantaged communities or with people with disabilities to gain community sport and physical activity leadership skills e.g. as coaches, leaders, referees, committee members etc.</p> <p><b><u>Innovation Project €70,000</u></b></p> <p>The fund looks to test innovative and scalable solutions to critical problems and challenges in the development of sports participation at national, local, community and individual levels. Sports Active Wexford is seeking to look at an augmented reality platform to promote the natural environment for people with a disability.</p>
Open Water Swim Lessons	Open water swimming has commenced in Courtown, Rosslare and Kilmore. These lessons will continue throughout the summer for adults.
'Swimmin Women'	Swimmin Women midlife aqua classes started in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool on the 16 <sup>th</sup> of June for 7 weeks. There are 15 participants on this programme.
Swim for A Mile	Swim for A Mile lessons started in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool on the 16 <sup>th</sup> of June and will run until the main Swim for A Mile event on the 21 <sup>st</sup> of August.
Women's Cycling	11 women started Women on Wheels Learn to cycle in Wexford on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June and will run for 6 weeks. This programme is run in partnership with Shielbaggan OETC and cycling Ireland.
Farmers Walking Series	Sports Active Wexford have linked in with Healthy

	Wexford to organise 6 community walks around Wexford. 3 in the north of the county and 3 in the south.
Active Schools Week	Support has been provided through resources and equipment for schools throughout Wexford during June. Equipment includes Dance mats, Playground markings, scooch, go for life games and table cricket.
Activator Course	4 tutors are currently being trained up in Activator classes to deliver community programmes for older adults
Activator Poles Session	An activator poles session is organised for New Ross Library garden in July (postponed due to poor weather conditions in June).
Inclusion	16 Clients (2 groups of 8) from Cahms will be taking part in A surf Camp in Curracloe as part of our inclusion programme. Funded through Healthy Ireland (CYPSC)
Slaintecare	<p>The IEP has completed the Exercise Effect Programme and has sent all relevant reports to Waterford Institute of Technology for analysing and publication.</p> <p>The IEP presented about 'The Exercise Effect' Programme on the Slaintecare Webinar for 'Collaborative Working for Innovation &amp; Change' on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May.</p> <p>Sláintecare have now granted a further 6-month extension to the project and we are working on the delivery mechanism in order to expand and enhance the delivery with a new partner Mental health Ireland alongside our original partners</p>
Wexford GAA Autism Camp	Sports Active Wexford will be supporting Wexford GAA and Cottage Autism Network for the GAA Autism camp in Wexford Park on August 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Safeguarding	<p>Safeguarding Courses</p> <p>6 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 93 participants.</p> <p>3 Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed with a total of 46 participants.</p>
Wexford Local Development Sports Day	Dates have been set in July and August to provide sports days for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sports Active Wexford will link with Wexford Local Development and their outreach team to target children in Wexford, Courtown, New Ross and Enniscorthy.
Traveller Women Sports Days	Two very successful activity days (kayaking and Yoga) were held for traveller women in Bunclody and Balleycanew on the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of June. Activities have been rescheduled for 4 more groups in Enniscorthy, Clonroche, New Ross and Taghmon.
Walking Leaders Training	Walking leaders training has been organised for farmers in Wexford in July.
Small Covid Grant for Clubs and Communities	This grant is now available for Clubs and community groups to avail of in support of their return to sport in

	the coming months. All information is available online. Link: <a href="https://sportsactivewexford.com/club-small-grant-scheme-my-online-services/">Sports Active Wexford Covid19 Community and Club Small Grant Scheme - My Online Services (achieveservice.com)</a>
Club Volunteer Training Grant	There is currently a Club Volunteer Training grant available for clubs.
Bike Week Application	Sports Active Wexford and Wexford County Council have applied for funding to run cycling programmes during Bike Week 2021 in September.

## INTERREG – Ancient Connections - June 2021 – July 2021

- Project awaiting formal approval and announcement of **Phase 2** proposal by funding agency, WEFO, taking the project to **Q3 2023**.
- The new *Ancient Connections* project website is now live at <https://ancientconnections.org/>.
- Archaeological activity: the digs at St Patrick's Chapel, Pembrokeshire, will take place on June 7th for 6 weeks. The Ferns Field School and Clone Church Community Dig will take place in July. Online courses for "Know Your Locality" and "Forensic Archaeology" have been completed by the IAFS. The IAFS have also been contracted to edit a Ferns Volume of previous data, research and academic papers on the significance of Ferns in Archaeology
- A cross-border RFT procurement by WCC, "Traditional Skills Renaissance Scheme 2021-2023" (€115K), is live on eTenders.ie, with good interest to date
- Artist In Residence, David Begley, has completed his work at "The Monks Garden" at St. Edan's National School Ferns. <https://www.davidbegley.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/themonksgarden/>
- Total of 3,864 volunteer hours have been contributed to the project to date. This equates to approximately €65,989.00 in-kind support. This amount accounts for 52% of the target volunteer in-kind support for phase 1. It is expected that with the vaccine and easing of restrictions, volunteer input will rise again once activities resume.
- Community Support Scheme: €35,778.44 has been allocated to date, with €24,882.44 in Wales and €10,896 in Ireland. Leaving a remaining €24,221.56 left to be allocated, mostly in Wexford. Local community projects in Ferns are being supported, with most activity now happening in 2021, including medieval costumes; an O'Carolan composition and performance; medieval jousting re-enactment and lantern parade; community mural; cross-border "The Little Things" Rock Opera.

# ENVIRONMENT

## A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Throughout the third lockdown, work has continued in line with the CCMA's guidance document of 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020. Office based staff are now working an alternate teams pattern to minimise 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. Work is progressing to complete these schemes.

An Taisce announced blue flags for marinas at Kilmore Quay and New Ross.

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

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

Carne dredging completed in April 2021.

Marinas at Kilmore Quay and New Ross are open for domestic vessels, in line with government health guidelines. International marine leisure traffic is subject to the mandatory 14 day quarantine.

The seasonal navigation buoyage at Wexford Harbour, as well as the swim area buoyage at Courtown, Cahore and Carne has been deployed.

The marina office in New Ross has been transferred into the Port Office building on the Town Quay.

## **Beaches –**

Blue Flag beaches: An Taisce announced 5 blue flags for Wexford. Morristcastle, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare, Carne.

Ballymoney did not get a blue flag due to water quality standards over the past four years. The sand level at Courtown has not recovered suitably and therefore cannot be awarded a blue flag for 2021.

Green Coast Award beaches: An Taisce announced successful applications for all 9 green coast beach awards – Cahore Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun and Booley Bay.

Sampling and testing of the bathing waters starts on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Results are available throughout the summer season on the EPAs website beaches.ie.

## **Coast -**

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council is in the process of procuring the services of consulting engineers to carry out the design of a suitable coastal protection scheme and a beach access. Appointment expected to be made in June 2021. Correspondence with OPW continuing.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – Wexford County Council submitted further information on this planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The submission is being considered by An Bord Pleanála.

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.

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

Ballinamona beach has a new access ramp and public car parking.

## Climate Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Climate Action Training

<b>Number Offered Training</b>	<b>Training Successfully Completed</b>	<b>Training currently in Progress</b>
266	133	25

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

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

## Decarbonisation Zone

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

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

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

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

## C. 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 May 2021	Recycling out (End May) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End May)2021 (t)
Glass bottles		1648	1836
Aluminium Cans		41	50
Total	108	1689	1886

## Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-May 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan-amy2020	Recycling out Jan - may 2021	Recycling out Jan -May 2020	Recycling out Jan-May 2021
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	244	<b>274</b>	290	<b>305</b>	356	<b>373</b>	225	244
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	890	<b>1128</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers Jan-May	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>
	61	<b>72</b>	112	<b>117</b>	124	<b>136</b>	90	<b>84</b>

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

### 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end May 2020	May 2021	To end May 2021	% +/-
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Gorey *		42		
Enniscorthy *		53		
Wexford *		50		
New Ross*		38		
Rosslare		16		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>1915</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>3691</b>	<b>+93%</b>
Gorey		182		
Enniscorthy		180		
Wexford		253		
New Ross		107		
Rosslare		16		

<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>6690</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>6690</b>	<b>0%</b>
Gorey	North	398		
Enniscorthy *				
Wexford*	South	940		
New Ross*				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>2103</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Gorey		61		
Enniscorthy		109		
Wexford		98		
New Ross		106		
Rosslare		106		

\*Including Towns

## D. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	112
Fines Paid in Full●	78	20
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	36
Successful Prosecutions**	20	4
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	32
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€3,095

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

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

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

## Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

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

## F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	1 Jan to 31 May 2021
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	2855
Closed	3526	4563	3770	3728	2064
Closure Rate	98%	99%	79%	75%	72%

## Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2020	2021
Dogs collected	532	126
Dogs reclaimed	127	45
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	79
Dogs put to sleep	32	7
Dog Fines	5	7

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

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

**Community Clean Ups:** Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. Registrations have doubled on the same period last year. Registrations will be accepted from family group and individuals only according to current government guidelines.

**Local Waste Prevention Grant:** The 2021 scheme is now open for applications. Projects that are eligible but not limited to include prevention of single use items, upcycling, food waste prevention workshops. €5,500 was funded across all projects in 2020.

**Community Engagement:** Community talks are postponed during Covid 19. Contact with community groups is ongoing and some virtual meetings have taken place.

### **Beach/Coastal Plans Summer 2021**

In addition to previous measures carried out in other years the following are additional measures that are being taken this year.

#### **Curragloe area**

A new full time summer warden has been employed to manage the 3 Curragloe beaches. The Car parks at the Raven and Ballinesker have been extended. An overflow car park has been secured for Ballinesker. This gives a total of 625 spaces under the management of the Council for the summer at the three beaches. In addition, a shuttle bus service is operating from Curragloe village Park & Ride facility as well as a free bus service from Wexford Town to Curragloe. These bus services will operate at weekends where good weather is anticipated.

#### **Morriscastle**

An overflow car park has been secured near the beach and a free shuttle bus service is operating from Kilmuckridge village to the beach during the summer weekends.

#### **Cahore**

Two additional overflow car parks have been secured at Cahore.

#### **Arthurstown**

A temporary car park has been provided at Arthurstown to facilitate walking using the new river walk.

### **Green Your Picnic Campaign**

4 online workshops took place week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June as part of the Green Picnic Campaign in conjunction with Waterford City & County Council.

Workshops included Green Your Picnic tips with a show and tell of different single use swaps that can be made from what people will often have around their home. Ray Foley, An Taisces's Clean Coasts programme, spoke about the issues with marine litter and the importance of reusing materials instead of buying single use items.

Elaine Butler from Living Lightly in Ireland will talk about practical sustainability. On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June on International Refill Day, we welcomed speakers from Refill Ireland, who spoke about rolling out easy access to plastic free hydration in Ireland. And also, Sorchá Kavanagh from Conscious Cup who spoke about how to use reusables and have a contactless coffee this summer. Maire Shanahan from Leave No Trace spoke at our final workshop about eco picnics and offered tips on how to have a plastic free, low waste picnic.

A competition run by Refill Ireland to install a refill bottle water station in a business in each County is also an integral part of the campaign.

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

July 2021

### LIBRARY SERVICE

#### Response to COVID

Wexford Libraries re-opened to the public, emerging from Level 5 restrictions, on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>. All staff returned to work in the branch on this date with regular opening hours, including Saturdays and late opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Continuing into the month of June study spaces and PCs were not available to patrons under national guidelines, as such the library was exclusively used for browsing and borrowing items as well as collecting remote printing, mobile printing, and photocopying services.

While indoor physical library events remain suspended for our library branches, the library service continues to provide public information using various online platforms and online activities for adults and children. The library social media pages were used extensively to promote online services, resources, and information.

Throughout June New Ross library provided several outdoor events in the Library Park. These events strictly adhered to social distancing guidelines and all other guidelines that were in place when providing outdoor events for both children and adult events.

#### Book Call Delivery Service

A Book Call Service continued to be provided for elderly and vulnerable citizens Book Call Delivery Service enabled those who were elderly or vulnerable to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes.

	Total Contacts	Total items (approx.)
Jan 2021	182	1456
Feb 2021	235	1880
March 2021	198	1584
April 2021	196	1520
May 2021	44	312
June 2021	22	119
<b>Total year to date</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>6871</b>

#### Radon Testing Monitor Loans

Wexford Libraries, in collaboration with EPA, are expanding the Digital Radon Monitor Loans Scheme @ your local library in 2021.

Monitors are now 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.

#### Summer Stars National Reading Programme

The Summer Stars reading programme was launched in all library branches on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The mobile service played a valuable role in promoting the programme to schools in rural communities.

New children's fiction books for 0-12 years have been delivered to all branches, these books will support the Summer Stars reading programme throughout the summer break. Children are encouraged to keep reading over the summer holidays as this has been proven to help prevent the

'learning loss' in literacy that occurs when children are out of school for prolonged periods, such as summer holidays. This is especially important this summer given the adverse effects of the pandemic on children and young people. Incentives include Summer Stars themed bookmarks, pencils and notebooks. Every child that signs up to participate will receive a Summer Stars certificate of achievement.

### **Right to Read First 5 initiative-Little Book Bag**

Wexford County Council Public Library Service launched the First 5 Little Library initiative, 'Little Library Bags' each bag containing five books, one in Irish and four in English. There was also a book bag of 5 Irish titles for all Naíonraí. All Early Learning (ELCs) and Care service providers, including registered childminders were invited to collect free book bags and other resources from their local libraries throughout County Wexford. The bags contained several extra resources, including a library card and a guide to Wexford Libraries Children's Services. The First 5 Little Library initiative aims to develop a consistent link between early learning and care services and their local library to encourage a love of books and reading among young children and their families.

Wexford Libraries are delighted to work together with Wexford County Childcare Committee to support reading and literacy development. Feedback received indicates, engagement is good and participating ELCs who have visited their local libraries to date are very impressed with both the books and the associated resources. As an additional result of this scheme library staff are creating project boxes of books to support subjects explored in preschools e.g. nature, social issues etc.

### **Decade of Centenaries 2021**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Local Studies team received written confirmation from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media that the submitted plan for the commemoration has been approved. Staff continue to work on the implementation of the plan for the Decade of Centenaries program for 2021.

"Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade" podcast has been produced with *History Ireland* editor, **Tommy Graham**, in discussion with historians **Bernard Browne**, **Ida Milne**, **William Murphy** and **Kevin Whelan**. This podcast has now had over 1,000 views and is available at <https://www.historyireland.com/podcast-channel/>

### **Public Lecture Programme**

Presentations produced under Wexford Libraries Decade of Centenaries 2020 program are available on our YouTube channel:

The Burning of Wexford's Country Houses, 1919-1923 – 863 views

The Road to Independence – film on the War of Independence in Wexford – 445 views

Two further lectures are currently being filmed and will be launched in July and August:

- Sport and the War in County Wexford Dr. Paul Rouse
- Wexford's Civil War Dead a Statistical Survey Aaron O Maonaigh

## **Historian in Residence program**

Wexford County Council Library Service recently appointed archaeologist and historian Barry Lacey as 'Historian-in-Residence'. The residency with the library service will run from June 2021 to April 2022.

The aim of the residency is to support the Wexford County Council Decade of Centenaries programme and to provide research and outreach activities in libraries, communities and schools. Barry will promote the valuable resources that the library and archive hold to make local history accessible to the public, and enjoyable for all.

This initiative is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme.

## **IT Literacy**

### **Age Friendly Libraries – Digital Ambassador Scheme**

The age friendly ambassador scheme continued to be rolled out across Wexford Libraries during the month of June. This programme aims to support older people to access online library resources, particularly while physical library services were suspended as part of government measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Wexford Libraries now provide an Age Friendly Digital Ambassador in each of their 5 library services. 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 develop the confidence to become mentors themselves and show their peers how to do the same.

## **Health and Well-being**

### **Grow It Forward**

Get Ireland Growing Day took place on Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>, this was a nationwide initiative from Energia and GIY to encourage people to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Wexford libraries created a display of Gardening books and invited members of the public to post photographs showing the progress of their Grow It Forward plants that were distributed free of charge through the libraries in May. There was a positive response to this, with the images featured on the library Facebook pages.

## **Wellbeing Outdoor Events at Library Park, New Ross.**

16<sup>th</sup> June, Outdoor Yoga for Adults. Catherine Callaghan, Croi Yoga Outdoor beginners Level yoga. This class focused on the foundational yoga with a strong mindfulness theme running throughout. 6 attended.

23<sup>rd</sup> June, Activator Poles Session with Sports Active. Fun outdoor walking session where participants learned the Activator Techniques and how to improve aerobic fitness, mobility, strength and balance. 6 attended.

## **Healthy Ireland - Keep Well Campaign**

The winners of the Wexford Libraries #Keep Well photo competition have been announced. The aim of the competition was to highlight images that uplift our spirits, to include people and places, activities and relationships, and they must have been taken somewhere in County Wexford.

There were 318 entries, these were shortlisted to 20 entries, the top 3 entries were voted on by the public. A panel of judges ranked the top three entries

The winners are:

**First place:** Tintern with a twist by Daniel Stenning

**Second place:** Sunrise by Patricia Murphy

**Third place:** Otter pups by John Nunn

The 3 winners received Taste Wexford Hampers and Boxes, along with framed photos of their entries.

## **Marking Pride Month**

June was Pride Month, to mark this Wexford Libraries prominently displayed the dedicated LGBT+ collection of books and DVDs, exploring issues of relevance to the LGBT+ community.

## **World Ocean's Day**

Wexford Libraries celebrated World Oceans Day on June 8<sup>th</sup> with Ocean Biologist and bestselling author Finn van der Aar. Finn spoke online, in a pre-recorded interview about the health of World Oceans and how it directly relates to Irish Waters.

## **Work Matters Business eResources online**

Wexford Libraries continued to promote Work Matters Business eResources online in the June e-mail newsletter, 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.

## **Adult Literature**

A full programme of online events including creative writing clubs and reading groups continued during the month of June.

**The 'Fully Booked' interview series** continued in June featuring the Irish Times bestselling author, Caroline Busher. Caroline who hails from Enniscorthy is the bestselling author of "The Ghost of Magnificent Children", "The Girl Who Ate the Stars" and "Votes for Women".

### **'Wexford Libraries' Online Book Club**

Wexford Libraries' Online Book club is a private Facebook group that hosts a book club discussion each month. The online book club presently has 277 members from across the county. The book club discussion in June centred around 'The Long Gaze Back' (an anthology of Irish women writers, edited by Sinead Gleeson).

**The new online 'Lost in Translation Book Club'** held its third session on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June and discussed 'Deaf Republic' by Ilya Kaminsky. This is a new daytime book club and will meet once a month over the next six months.

### **Launch of new online Poetry Club**

Wexford Library Poetry Club was successfully launched online. The group meet once monthly and discuss the works, using example texts, of a poet. The debut talk focused on the work of American poet Robert Lowell.

### **Local author RN Cogley discusses new works**

Local author, RN Cogley was in conversation this month with one of our librarians about his debut, "The Elemental Witches", his second novel "The Elemental Witches: Croí Draíochta" along with a third he has recently written.

## **Services for Children and Young People**

### **World Refugee Day**

To mark World Refugee Day, UNCHR and Children's Books Ireland partnered with libraries for the 'Stand with Refugees' campaign. Posters and bookmarks were distributed to all branch libraries together with a list of recommended books to support understanding, to salute the strength and courage of refugees, highlight the contribution they make to countries around the world and to demonstrate solidarity. Collections of books for children and young people were displayed with posters in the library branches and they were posted on social media to promote and highlight both the books and the issues.

### **Animal Crackers Workshop:**

The final Dormant Accounts Fund series of workshops for children with additional needs was delivered to an ASD class in Kilrane National School by children's author and artist Alan Nolan.

### **Social Stories Collection**

Work began on a collection of social stories for preschool children. A range of social stories that address the needs and potential worries of preschool children will be developed. A leaflet promoting and explaining the information and support that the collection will offer will be produced. The collection will be targeted at the ELC's and registered childminders to strengthen the relationship between them and their local branches and to build on the contact generated by the First 5 Little Library Book bag programme. The collection is projected to be available from early Autumn. ELC's will access it through their local library branches.

### **Crafts, Story and Rhyme-times**

Rhyme times and story times play a valuable role in supporting early language development in children. Language development is a useful indicator of future literacy development with research showing that the more rhymes, stories and songs that a child experiences the better ready they will be to start learning to read when they begin school. Regular story times & rhyme times continued online from all branch libraries throughout May, supporting families and pre-schools with early literacy development. Each library offers at least one session each week, preparing, presenting and filming their story times while complying with all copyright and conditions required by publishers

### **Annual Harry Potter Book Night**

The annual Harry Potter Book Night took place online this year, young readers were encouraged to illustrate favourite images or moments from the books.

## **Literacy Licences**

All branches continued to roll out Nesy Read and Spell, Touch Type Read and Spell, Nesy dyslexia awareness and Reading Eggs licences to families and schools throughout Wexford county. Feedback is very positive with families and teachers noting an improvement in literacy development and engagement with learning and welcoming the extra support it offers to the children in their care.

## **Local Studies & Genealogy**

### **“On Your Own Ground” selling well in local bookshops**

Over 550 copies of Volumes 2 & 3 of “On Your Own Ground: County Wexford parish by parish” have been sold. It is available to borrow or purchase in local libraries and is also stocked in local bookshops.

### **Queries**

There were 31 genealogy enquiries and 16 local studies enquiries in June.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

The Archive dealt with 46 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during June. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, to facilitate researchers until the Archive’s reading room reopens.

### **Acquisition**

As outlined in its Acquisition Policy, Wexford County Archive does not acquire collections by purchase unless they constitute key documents that would have a significant bearing on the history of County Wexford, and which might otherwise be lost to the county. Such was the case when the Archive successfully bid on two lots by auction from Sheppard’s Auction House, Durrow, Co. Laois in mid-June. The items comprised a small collection of auction posters and three deeds for properties in County Wexford (1873, 1883, 1888) and a framed Lafayette photograph featuring a group of County Wexford farmers who attended the Winter Show at the RDS in December 1896 by invitation of John Power & Son.

A large collection of roll books and registers from three primary schools in New Ross – the former St Joseph’s NS, the current Bun Scoil Rís and the Catherine McAuley junior school in the town – were acquired.

Two small collections were deaccessioned by the Irish Heritage Trust, Johnstown Castle and deposited in the county archive – a volume from the Dublin, Wicklow and Railway Co. of parcels inwards at Ferns (1901-02) and a collection of invoices and receipts &c. in respect of the King family, Askinvillar, Killealy (1930s-60s).

## **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme - Summer 2021**

Following the announcement by Minister Catherine Martin of a fund for Local Live Performance support, Wexford County Council sought expressions of interest from professional event management/professional production companies to become part of a panel for the delivery of services in relation to live outdoor performances to take place throughout County Wexford, in the five municipal district areas, between July 1st and Sept 30th 2021. The aim of this scheme is to facilitate programming of outdoor live performances, animating town centres for local communities during summer 2021, should public health considerations permit. Performances can be recorded or streamed if health restrictions prevent live events or as local authorities deem appropriate. The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest was 1st July 2021.

## **Drama League of Ireland**

An open call has been advertised on 8<sup>th</sup> June for this annual award by Arts office in partnership with Drama League of Ireland which provides two scholarships to Wexford applicants for the Drama League's 55th Residential Summer School in University of Limerick 2021 (31st July – 7th August 2021). Local amateur participants and members of drama societies were invited to apply for this scholarship. The closing date for applications was Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

## **Spring Moves Dance Festival**

Connection 2021 – was a recipient of the Small Arts Festival and Experimental Events Grant Scheme 2021. This festival will work with specific and exciting dance/movement artists enabling them to be active players and contributors to the programme of the festival and infusing dance and movement passion into Co. Wexford, Wexford Town and The National Opera House. To book <https://www.nationaloperahouse.ie/whats-on/category/dance>

## **Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme**

The Arts office are supporting this programme which will ensure that at least one writer or poet from county Wexford will benefit from a literature mentoring relationship. The opportunity is open to poets, fiction writers, children's writers and creative non-fiction writers. The mentoring process involves 4 x two-hour meetings between the selected 'mentee' and their chosen professional writer over a 6–8 month period. Closing date for applications is 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## **Wexford Culture Night**

September 17th, 2021 from 4pm till late. Culture Night is an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. On that night venues and events are available to the public free of charge. Applications are being sought for cultural activities that engage a County wide audience (online events or those that can take place remotely) alongside a number of experiences in the main towns of Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross. A small number of key events will be funded up to the amount of €2000 that engage directly with the priorities of Culture Night. The

majority of awards will be smaller amounts to support a wider range of events across the County. The deadline for applications was Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**‘Artlinks’ Collaborative Award** announced the winning award of €10,000 are Na Cailleacha, an exhibition collaboration between visual artists from the South East region including Gerda Teljeur and Maria Lavigne based in Wexford, and Helen Comerford and Catherine Marshal based in Kilkenny. This collaborative exhibition will tour to arts venues in the South East including Wexford Arts Centre and Garter Lane Arts Centre in Waterford in 2021 and 2022.

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

This on-going programme supporting people with mental health / intellectual and physical disabilities across 9 HSE centres countywide continues to adapt the arts programme due to COVID 19. The Centres are currently, in addition to their creative writing, visual art and music online workshops/tutorials, running **in-reach programme** which involves the artists are now working in person in the centres.

### **Whatever exhibition/website**

This bi-annual Arts Ability initiative by the Arts Dept in association with Wexford Arts Centre is currently online <https://artsability.ie/home/> it comprises an online exhibition, original artist book, documentary videos and peer workshops by, for and with artists and collaborators. Curated by guest Curator Jenny Haughton and Catherine Bowe, Wexford Arts Centre. The Arts Dept has commissioned a dedicated website for Arts Ability which will extend the life and legacy of this programme.

### **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.

To celebrate **Cruinniú na nÓg** this year, Music Generation Wexford hosted online ukulele workshops for young people in County Wexford. The young participants worked with musicians Diarmuid Comerford, Karen Dunbar, Gayle Murphy, and Pete McCamley.

**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.

### **David Begley – ‘Ancient Connections’ Community Residency Ferns**

As part of the Ancient Connections Wexford Wales programme and supported through Wexford’s Per Cent for Art Programme, Wexford based artist David Begley started 2-year artists in residency in the community of Ferns in August 2020. David’s 12-week programme has finished with St. Edan’s National School. Unfortunately, the end of project Monk’s Garden exhibition is not possible at the school due to restrictions / precautions. However, David has proposed to interview a selection of the school children before the workshops so the pupils can chat about growing, ink making, hedgerows etc. in order to create a podcast before the end of June. His hope for this piece is that other children can learn from it and people of all ages will enjoy it. The podcast will be available

via SoundCloud and with images of and by the children via <https://www.davidbegley.com/> and YouTube. The school is happy with the project to date and agree that the podcast will consolidate and celebrate the work undertaken.

## **The Creative Hub**

Studios were open to the public during June in line with public health advice and government guidelines. Over thirty artists 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.

## **Living Art Programme 2021/2022 – Schools & Artists announcement**

This programme is a partnership between Arts office and Wexford Art Centre and involves four primary schools around the county being selected for an artist's residency programme with a lead and assistant artist. The selection panel met in May and the schools selected were Our Lady of Lourdes in Bunclody, Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts Wexford, Boolavogue NS and Adamstown NS. The lead artists are Jeni Roddy, Rachel Rothwell, Kate Murphy and Deirdre Meehan-Buttimer while the assistant artists include Olivia O'Dwyer, Brid Colloton, Lynn Haughton and Nadia Corridan. Due to Covid 19, to facilitate the schools, the artist's residencies will start later in Nov 2021 in each school and run until March 2021 with final exhibition in Wexford Art Centre.

### **Screen Wexford**

Screen Wexford is an initiative of Wexford County Council 's Arts and Economic Development departments is collaborative partnership between private tourism interests, local government, tourism authorities and the local development sector from across the county and is primarily focused on promoting tourism in Wexford to the domestic and overseas market. Screen Wexford is also supported through Creative Ireland. Recent programmes include

- Liaising with stakeholders > assessing training requirements and seeking out opportunities to facilitate industry entry
- Recruitment & selection of 12 participants for Tony Kearns Editing Masterclass
- Tony Kearns Editing Masterclass
- Planning for Producers Workshop with South Wind Blows (Other Voices)
- Execution of Screen Skills Ireland Screen Stakeholders Fund application for VR & Virtual production
- Recruiting of mentor for 2 Wexford based shooter-directors
- Liaising with Screen Skills Ireland and other industry personnel re Crew Development Hub
- Connecting Skills Developments Officer with local talent

## **Creative Ireland**

### **Artist Workspace Scheme**

The Arts Office in partnership with Creative Ireland Wexford launched a new Artists' Workspace Scheme in June 2021. This scheme will support visual artists, craft makers and creatives to access suitable, affordable and flexible workspaces throughout the county.

The total fund is €20,000 and applicants may apply for a maximum fund of €5,000. Awards will be in the region of €3,000 - €5,000 each. The scheme is in line with Creative Ireland Wexford's Culture and Creativity Plan and the Wexford County Arts Plan, to support artists accessing workspaces for making, exhibiting and selling work to the public. Guidelines and application forms are available to download from <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/arts-and-culture/grants-supports-and-opportunities/artist-workspace-scheme-2021>. Deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July on or before 2.00pm.

### **Design & Make in 3D with FDYS, TEKcentral Technologies and Wexford Library Service**

The project is a partnership between Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, TEKcentral and Wexford Library Service which will enable young adults, aged 12-17 years to develop their creative and IT skills by taking part in a two part, hands on design by technology project, using STEM tasters outdoor in summer and to design, make and create with Tinkercad. The young people will present their work and learnings to their peers, youth workers, families and a public audience in an online production for Wexford Science Festival during Science Week.

## **Cruinniú na nÓg 2021**

On June 12th Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of creativity for children and young people, was celebrated in County Wexford. Hundreds of young people took part in the events led by artists, scientists, arts organisations and community groups in County Wexford, both in the lead up to the events and on the day itself, to celebrate creativity in all its forms.

Gorey School of Art and the Tara Hill Community Development Association hosted one of the very special in-person events as part of County Wexford's Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations. This event allowed families and students from Tara Hill national school an opportunity to engage with their surroundings in fun, new and creative ways while also focusing on important issues for Tara Hill like biodiversity. The activities were designed by Paul Carter and Emma Roche from Gorey School of Art and were a big hit on the day.

A number of activities took place in the run up to the big day which allowed participants to engage with ukulele, filmmaking and art and crafts and these activities were launched and celebrated on June 12th. These included Music Generation Wexford's Uke-n- play 6 week workshop series culminating on June 12th in a special zoom meeting revealing their collective performance of the song 'Stand by me'. The video of the very talented young musicians went viral and is available to watch on [Music Generation Wexford's Facebook Page](#).

The second video launched on Cruinniú na nÓg was a collaborative film made by six young filmmakers with the guidance of professional filmmaker Helen Flanagan. Helen worked with the talented group of young filmmakers over four weeks and the young people created a film called 'A day in the life' which can be viewed on the Cruinniú na nÓg [website](#). Finally the Presentation Arts Centre & Wexford Arts Centre hosted an [online children's gallery](#) of work created over a four week period by young people across the County and is available to view now on the Presentation Centre's website.

On Cruinniú na nÓg itself a number of live Zoom events allowed young people to gather, learn and create. These included pre-school music workshops with the National Opera House led by tutors Síle Daly and Deirdre O'Leary, Willow lantern making with the talented artist Caoimhe Dunn and fashion illustration workshops with Mico Hassett. A number of the pre-recorded videos can still be viewed on the [Wexford Libraries YouTube](#) channel and the [Wexford Arts Centre YouTube](#) channel giving young people the chance to explore the range of activities in their own time. All resources are free to watch and will be available for a number of weeks after the event.

Families also still have the opportunity to take part in the architecture scavenger hunt in Enniscorthy and Wexford town by visiting the libraries or a pack can be downloaded via the Cruinniú na nÓg website

New Ross library provided a series of outdoor events in the Library Park on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate creativity in children and young adults.

- Hip hop dance classes with Saoirse Doyle. 15 attended each session.
- Creative Writing Workshop with author Caroline Busher. 15 attended.

### **Creative Enhancement of Enniscorthy Activity Garden**

Wexford County Council in partnership with the HSE, Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation has invited a shortlist of architectural / design practices, to submit a tender document for the procurement of services in relation to Phase One- Research Phase of the creative enhancement of the Enniscorthy Activity Garden which will be located on the campus of St John's Community Hospital, Enniscorthy. The project will take place in two phases over 2021 -2023. The Budget for this Stage One Research phase is valued at **€20,000** and must take place between July – Dec 2021. The closing date for receipt of tender was Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

## FIRE SERVICE

### News

The new portacabin in Bunclody fire station will be in full operation by the end of the month.

Wexford was awarded a new Class B fire appliance in the recent capital expenditure press release made by the minister.

### Fire Operations

There were 54 incidents in May as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls May 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 1 (1)	79	85
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 6 (6)	31	24
Road Traffic Accident	9	27	24
Industrial fire	0	5	6
Commercial fire	0	1	5
Assembly fire	0	2	2
Agricultural fire	0	5	2
Motor Vehicles	3	9	26
Forest/bog/grass etc	2	39	50
Rubbish	4	19	40
Non-fire rescues	9	38	20
False alarms – good intent	14	82	105
Malicious false alarms	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	6	22	19
Total	54	359	409

### Fire Safety

#### Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in May 2021:	8
Number of Applications received to date:	42
Number of Applications to this period 2020:	52



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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## **COVID -19**

- Water Services is operating in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA and in accordance with Irish Water direction for works during Level 5 restrictions.
- Staff are working both remotely and in person during level 5 restrictions while attending office for specific essential tasks only. Staff are available as normal to answer any queries via the normal channels. General queries still go through Irish Water 1850 278 278.

# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023</p>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. 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 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<p><b>Gorey RWSS</b> To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun.</li> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under construction</li> <li>○ Borehole works ongoing during 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works commenced in April 2021. it is programmed to be complete 18 months</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>(UTAS)</b>	<p>from commencement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Works ongoing at Arthurstown pumping station</li> <li>○ Pumping stations in Duncannon and Ballyhack fenced off with some preliminary works completed in Ballyhack</li> <li>○ Pipeline install to commence in Arthurstown July 2021</li> <li>○ Temporary access road to new treatment plant ongoing</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tender documents have been issued and Irish Water hope to sign contract later in 2021.</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<p>➤ <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> The direct labour crew are continuing with their work on the Find and Fix project as part of the overall leakage reduction programme. 2020 targets were successfully met with ambitious targets set for 2021.</p> <p>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> Construction of the new main in Collballow started in May 2021 and we are currently 53% complete.</p>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<p>➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.</p>

## 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
- **Other**
  - Contact time pipework installed at Boolavogue WTP

### IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Trinity Street WWPS Upgrades**
  - Contractor appointed for replacement of change-over switchgear and generator control panel with design underway and works expected to take place Q3 2021.
  - Generator exhausts and foul pumps manifold to be replaced Q2 2021 with works now underway on site.
- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
  - Pumps have now been upgraded to smart pumps at Ballygillane Big and Small WWPS.
- **Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades**
  - Upgrade of existing SCADA at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford is underway and expected to be complete July 2021.
- **Fairgreen PS, Ballycullane**
  - The WWTP at Fairgreen has now been converted to a pumping station forwarding sewage to the Irish Water WWTP at Ballycullane.
- **H&S Improvement Works**
  - New valve chambers and access covers to improve H&S at Carne PS.

<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Wexford monthly Capital Maintenance budget in Q1 has been <b>€108k/month</b>. The Q2 to Q4 has not yet been revised.</li> <li>➤ €757k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021, which month on month is over budget.</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Enquiries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 27 pre-connection enquiries received, and 32 enquiries processed for Water Connections.</li> <li>○ 19 pre-connection enquiries received, and 25 enquiries processed for Wastewater Connections.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 34 applications received and 45 applications processed for Water Connections.</li> <li>○ 14 applications received and 22 applications processed for Wastewater Connections.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 27 Water Connections sent for tapping.</li> <li>○ 8 Water Connections made and closed on Maximo.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS have started on site, and M&amp;E works have now begun on site, expected completion is September 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design and site surveys have been completed for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network.</li> <li>○ Tender processes are now complete and contractors are appointed, and works expected to take place during Q2 and Q3 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Close, Oulart- COF Received from IW. Design complete</li> <li>• Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. In design discussions with IW</li> <li>• Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>• Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</li> </ul>

### 3. Rural Water Programme



<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Killaneran GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposals have been received from one contractor for Nitrate Removal System, which are being reviewed.</li> <li>○ Awaiting further proposals from contractors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quotes received for works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure.</li> <li>○ WCC shall commence engagement of a specialised Hydraulic Modeller to carry out a hydraulic model of the network. Two quotes have been received to date</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting official response from the Dept./Minister on response letter sent from WCC in respect of continuity of scheme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Battlestown CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After the 30<sup>th</sup> June the Dept. are no longer funding the “Old Well Grant Scheme”. Any applicants on the old scheme will be completed before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.</li> <li>○ A total of 124 new well grant applications were received to date for 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for May 2021 was on average 43.83MLD.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Leak repairs</b> Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 56nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in May 2021, including repairs on main, boxes, meters, hydrants and services.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</b> Planned leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Coolballow, Wexford town, Enniscorthy and Kilmuckridge in May 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coolballow rehab project Wexford commenced May 4th 2021.</li> <li>○ Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, rehab project is in the final stages of design and will commence late Autumn 2021. The Forth Road Gorey, rehab project design has commenced.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find resources were concentrated in the Enniscorthy and Shielbaggin during May 2021.</li> <li>○ The contractor Find crew is currently investigating Ballykale DMA near Gorey.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>BYS Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The backyard main of 3nr blocks of Bellfield Road in Enniscorthy has been decommissioned, with all properties now served from the new main to the front of the properties. 5.4m<sup>3</sup>/hr was saved here. Works remain on the final block following homeowner liaison.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>First Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coffey Northumberland recommenced First Fix cold calling in Wexford on 19/04/2021. This was originally on hold due to Level 5 restrictions.</li> <li>○ The CRU has announced increased funding for free first fix scheme, now also including shared services and NDU with domestic allowance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Roads & Transportation

## NATIONAL ROADS

### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The selected scheme route option was announced on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June at a briefing with elected members and the management team. A public information campaign was launched that evening online, door to door and in print, broadcast and social media. All Phase 2 Option Selection processes are currently being finalised to facilitate project approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

### N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The design and environmental assessment of the scheme continues to progress and it is anticipated that a planning application will be prepared for submission in Q4 2021. A ground investigation contract has been signed and will commence in early July. Environmental surveys are also progressing through the Summer in compliance with evolving Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions.

## National Road Pavement Schemes

### **2021 Pavement Schemes**

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

Works commenced on 25<sup>th</sup>. January 2021.

This scheme was substantially completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> April this year.

#### **N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme**

The tender process for the archaeology monitoring project is underway. The tender return date is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

Tender process for the construction contract is underway. The tender return date is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

Construction is likely to commence in August subject to approval from TII to award the contract. The contract duration will be 12 weeks.

### **Pavement Schemes 2023 onwards**

Survey works have been completed at the following locations to allow for design and procurement for future pavement improvement schemes;

- N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney
- N30 Rathurtin to Tomfarney
- N30 Moneyturker
- N30 Palace

## **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 until that date due to C-19 restrictions.

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

Raheenahoon; (Enniscorthy District); Tinnacross to Effernoge; Clonmore to Mountforest; Scurlocksbush (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Coolaught to Cloughbawn Bridge; Mill Road to Foulksmills; Horeswood School to Priesthaggard; Ramsgrange Village to Rathroe (All in New Ross District); Greenfield to Montfield; Baldwinstown to Yoletown; Barnswell Cross Roads to Longridge; (All in Rosslare District); Newtown/Deeps; (Wexford Borough District).

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

Ballyellis; Knockbrandon; Askamore to Kiltillahan; Tinnacross Junction; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

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

Roads completed in the last month were:

Tomfarney; Ballybrennan to Raheen; Clohass to Toberona; Curraghgraique; N80 to Tombrick; Killanure; (All in Enniscorthy District).

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

Roads completed in the last month were:

Gibberwell/Gibberpatrick; (Rosslare District); Ballyhowbeg to Galbally; (Wexford Borough District).

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Wexford County Council was allocated €349,878 on 17 June from the Department of Rural and Community Development to resurface all 12 lanes on the priority list. Discussions are in progress with the applicants in relation to commencing the works.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

Bridges completed in the last month were:

Garryrichard Bridge; Poulpeasty Bridge; (Both in New Ross District); Brideswell Bridge; Andrews Bridge; (Both in Rosslare District).

## **Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge**

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd have been 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 in progress and will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning application. It is intended to develop the design options over the coming months. Works are expected to commence second quarter 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.

One drainage project has been completed at Dungeer Road, New Ross.

## **Active Travel Measures**

Wexford County Council was allocated €3,603,000 for 50 Active Travel projects in the County on the 29 March.

Projects completed in the last month: Ballyhogue; (Enniscorthy District).

Projects in progress: Duncannon; Fethard; Ballinaboola; Killanne; (All in New Ross District). Preliminary designs are being developed for cycleways at: Newtown Road; Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue in Wexford; Oaklands to Kents Cross in New Ross.

A second application for funding is presently being considered by the National Transport Authority.

## **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.

Projects completed in the last month: South Main Street, Wexford Street, space reallocation; Henrietta Street, Wexford, space reallocation for outdoor seating; North Main Street, Wexford, street pedestrianisation measures; (Wexford Borough District).

Projects that have commenced: Bunclody Main Street/The Mall, Public realm works/Street space allocation; (Enniscorthy District); Mary Street; (New Ross District).

## **General Maintenance**

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

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

Over 11,300 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

Lantern deliveries from the UK have been affected by issues associated with Brexit. Design work is substantially completed.

It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 1,200 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by the end of September 2021.

### **Public Lighting – Active Travel Footpath Funding**

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

- Kilann Village. Contract awarded
- Campile Village. Contract awarded
- Duncannon Village. Tenders due week commencing 21<sup>st</sup>. June.
- Fethard Village. Tenders due week commencing 21<sup>st</sup>. June.

## **Finance:**

### **Budget 2022**

The Finance (Local Property Tax) (Amendment) Bill 2021 is proposing changes to how the Local Property Tax will operate and in preparation for these changes the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) (Amendment) regulations 2021 have been issued requiring a change to the date by which the decision by members on the local variation factor for the 2022 budget process is to be made. The date has been brought forward to the 31<sup>st</sup> August for 2021. The regulations also made changes to the public consultation process due to this revised date in 2021.

Therefore the first statutory decision in relation to preparation of Wexford County Council's 2022 Budget, the Local Property Tax – Local Adjustment Factor (LAF) is included on the agenda for the July meeting. Members will be required to make a decision on the local variation factor for the 2022 Local Property Tax charge in the county and a full report has been issued to members to facilitate their consideration of this decision. The public consultation exercise required as part of the preparation for this decision has been completed and details of same are included in the report.

The contents of the report will be outlined at the July meeting to further assist members with their consideration on this annual decision.

### **Audit**

- Audit of Accounts 2020 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2020 Accounts is ongoing, the Local Government Auditor is expecting to complete the 2020 audit in the coming weeks and to have the statutory audit report submitted for consideration of the council in September/October.
- Audit Committee - A meeting of the Audit Committee was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and included consideration of the 2020 Annual Financial Statement and financial performance for 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2021, and is to include a discussion with the Local Government Auditor on the 2020 Audit. Following this the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. The Public Health emergency continues to impact on some income streams of the council which continue to be monitored as the year progresses. Government funding has been committed to a further three months Commercial Rates waiver for certain business categories in a more refined scheme than the 2020 Rates Waiver Scheme. This brings the total period of Rates Waiver in 2022 to nine months, January to September.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**