



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**County Council Meeting 10.07.23**

## **CONTENTS:**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Town Regeneration</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Water Services</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Transportation &amp; Roads</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Ukrainian Response Update</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Corporate Activities</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Libraries/Arts/Archives</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Civil Defence</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Fire Services</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>86</b>

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Economic

### World Trade Centre Savannah (WTCSav)

WTCSav in a recent publication, positively acknowledged both the Irish delegation visit to Savannah in March and the Savannah delegation to Wexford in May.



“The trip was very successful in not only familiarizing the participants with Irish foreign relations, but also in covering all bases of international trade, including economic development discussions, diplomatic relations, civic engagement and tourism, allowing attendees to enjoy Ireland’s beautiful architecture and culture on top of their important work in international trade.”



The Tradebridge programme, funded by Enterprise Ireland serves to develop trade and investment opportunities between the Southeast Region of Ireland the State of Georgia through developing new export markets and job creation opportunities in both regions and the programme CEO is Claire McInerney Brown on the Irish side and Chris Ahern in Savannah. Work is ongoing in progressing export opportunities for a number of companies across the South East with a provision date of October proposed for the next trade mission.

## **Georgia South University (Wexford Campus)**

A further group of 50 students commenced their studies in Wexford on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The economic section will continue to support GSU around the needs of their faculty members and students while in Wexford.

## **Local Enterprise Office**

One of the Local Enterprise Offices key strategic objectives is the provision of quality capability support to startup and micro enterprises. In March 2023 the Government extended the mandate of LEOs in the provision of grant aid from micros to small firms employing up to 50 staff and it is likely that many of the ancillary supports such as training and mentoring will also be extended. In response to this, LEO Wexford through etenders to procure suitably qualified trainers/consultants to deliver a diverse range of training courses, clinics and workshops for the next 3 years across a range of disciplines with the overarching objectives of assisting businesses increasing productivity and meet the challenges of digital and a low carbon economy.

A total of 85 courses/workshops/clinics forms part of the tender document with a number of new courses identified such as digital audits, artificial intelligence, cyber security and succession planning have been incorporated into the request for tender. The tender will go live on etenders in the first week of July.

In line with Wexford County Council's commitment to green and sustainable business practices, as part of our procurement marks have been allocated against the Tender Award Criteria. A Specialist Green Procurement Seminar (GPIS) has been scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> for all LEO trainers and mentors to explain and inform tenders as to the requirements and marks allocated for Sustainable and Ecological Business Practices in their tender submission. A podcast of this Seminar will be available on LEO Wexford's website by mid-July. As part of the event trainers and mentors will also receive an update from our Business Advisors on business supports available and recent changes to LEO's programmes and eligibility criteria to the trainers and mentors at the GPIS event.

## **National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) 2023**

**NWED 2023** has been scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year is "Empowering Business Together" and we are currently putting together a detailed programme for the day's events.

## Tourism



Following the success of last year's Rose Tour, County Wexford will once again host the Rose Tour as part of the 2023 Rose of Tralee International Festival. A bespoke itinerary has been designed to welcome Roses from all over Ireland and Internationally that will showcase what the county has to offer. The support of the Rose Tour is part of Wexford County Council's tourism strategy in identifying opportunities to promote the county's iconic tourism locations, landmarks and hidden gems, food, retail and hospitality sector to the domestic and international markets. Roses from across Ireland, the USA, Canada, Britain, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East and many other countries will receive a fantastic reception welcoming them to County Wexford engaging in an a highly interactive 3-day tour. An estimated audience of up to 1.2 million will view the live shows of The Rose of Tralee International Festival when it airs on RTÉ One in August and it is anticipated that The Wexford Tour will be featured. A strong marketing campaign has been developed particularly focused on Visit Wexford's social media platforms which coupled with the various social media platforms utilised by the Rose of Tralee International Festival will ensure that we will have access to a global audience.

The launch of the Wexford Rose Tour took place at Wexford County Council, County Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. The attendees captured Instagram-worthy moments and had the opportunity to meet and congratulate the newly crowned 2023 Wexford Rose, Brónagh Hogan.



The Rose of Tralee International Festival will run from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August when the 2023 Rose of Tralee will be crowned at Munster Technological University with the event broadcast live on RTÉ One.



## Highlighting County Wexford's amazing tourism offering for both Domestic and International Visitors.

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. George Lawlor hosted a tourism event in Rosslare Europort highlighting County Wexford's tourism strategy in attracting both domestic and international visitors. Attendance included the Mayor of Wexford Borough District, Elected Members, Directors of Service, District Managers and other guests. Speakers included An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. George Lawlor, Aileen Dowling, Failte Ireland and Ben Radford, Rosslare Europort and Colm Neville, Visit Wexford.



The level of collaboration between the Tourism and Hospitality Industry, local business sector, Failte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and Wexford County Council was widely acknowledged. Examples of the extensive investment in the county were highlighted; the “Wexfordia Tourism Investment” incorporating the Dunbrody Famine Ship/New Ross Quay Front, Hook Lighthouse and the Irish Heritage Park with costs of approximately €21M and the South East Greenway with costs in the region of €13M given. Visit Wexford acknowledge the importance of Wexford County Council continued support towards the county wide marketing campaign. This campaign has seen County Wexford achieving no 1 position for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in hotel occupancy across Ireland as reported by the Irish Hotel Federation in 2022. Ben Radford, Commercial Manager, Rosslare Europort highlighted the significant developments in Rosslare in particular highlighting the importance of Rosslare as a gateway to expanding international market opportunities for the tourism industry. The number of sailings has increased from 59 in 2019 to a total of 92 sailings per week in 2023 with new routes to Bilbao, Cherbourg and Dunkirk.

A tour of the newest Stena Vessel “Stena Vision” servicing the Rosslare to Cherbourg Route concluded the event.



# PLANNING

## Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023.

No. of valid applications	108
No. of invalid applications	20
Extension of Duration	5
Exempted Development Declaration	4

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 until 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023.

No. of valid applications	641
No. of invalid applications	78
Extension of Duration	20
Exempted Development Declaration	37

## Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023.

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2023	155
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2023	183
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 23/06/2023	93
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	36 days

## Building Control (27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023)

- Validated Commencement Notices: 48
- Number of Building Control Inspections: 39
- Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: 12
- Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts 0

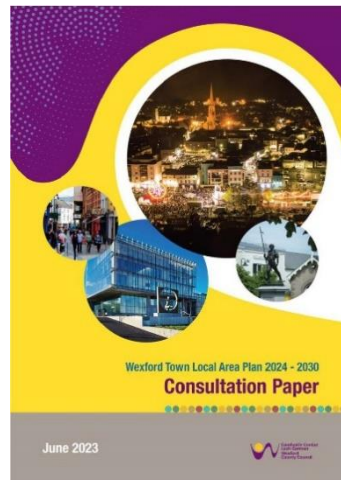
## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023.are as follows:

- Live Cases 372
- Cases Opened from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 117
- Cases Closed from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 79

## **Forward Planning**

### **Wexford Town Local Area Plan**



The pre-draft public consultation period commenced on **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023** and will end on **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. During this period, written submissions and observations on the new plan can be made. Written submissions and observations must be received **by 4:00pm on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. Details of this public consultation stage have been, and will continue to be, published in the local newspapers, on the Council's website and online consultation portal and circulated via MapAlerter and the Council's social media platforms. There has also been a press release and radio adverts.

The first public consultation event took place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Wexford Town Library. The event was well-attended, and many positive suggestions were made by members of the public. A second public consultation event will take place in the library on **Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023** from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

The Consultation Paper, which provides details of the plan-making process, sets out the key strategic issues and provides details of how to make a submission, has been sent to hundreds of prescribed authorities, stakeholders, community groups and infrastructure providers. The Paper is intended to focus submissions on the issues relevant to the Local Area Plan. The letter accompanying the Consultation Paper also requested stakeholders to register an interest in participating in facilitated workshops. It is anticipated that these stakeholder workshops will be held in July.

Work is progressing well on the Local Transport Plan and the baseline report is almost completed. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Draft Scoping Report will be circulated to the Environmental Authorities in the coming week. The team is currently preparing a Social Infrastructure Audit and an Infrastructural Assessment Report and other background work to inform decisions on land use and zoning. Work is progressing on the procurement of consultants to prepare a strategy for Urban Design and Master planning and a strategy for Surface Water Management using Nature-based Solutions.

The Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022 has been published and this will impact the format of the plan. The Planning section are reviewing the revised requirements of the Draft Bill and will advise further as soon as possible.



## **Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan**

Quotations have been received for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the Plan. It is anticipated that a consultant will be appointed before month-end.

## **Wexford County Development Plan Monitoring**

The implementation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, which was made by the Members of Wexford County Council on the 13 June 2022, is a key strategic focus for the Council.

The Council is required to monitor the implementation of the plan for a number of reasons including to:

1. Monitor the effects of implementing the plan under the SEA Directive.
2. Monitor the implementation of the Core Strategy as required in the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities; and
3. Ensure that the objectives of the plan are met as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The Chief Executive must also submit a report to the Members on the achievement of the objectives of the plan two years after the plan is made.

The Forward Planning Team are in the process of setting up a system to monitor the various elements of the plan and have also commenced gathering monitoring data.

## **Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites**

Report from 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 as follows:

1. **5<sup>th</sup> May 2023** Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website.
2. **23** property inspections/visits conducted.
3. **6** Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
4. **12** Section 11(1) Notices Posted on properties.
5. **4** Dangerous Structure Notices issued.
6. **15** new files opened (**10** Derelict & **5** Dangerous)
7. **2** files closed (1 derelict site and 1 dangerous structure)

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

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023 are as follows: -

• Live Cases	<b>10 (2020, 2021, 2022 &amp; 2023)</b>
• Cases Opened since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>2</b>
• Cases Closed since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>12</b>
• Inspections Carried out	<b>0</b>

## **Planning CSO Returns 2023**

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Housing Developments (Total No. of units)</b>	<b>Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)</b>	<b>One-off Houses</b>
<b>January</b>	50	3	26
<b>February</b>	15	1	17
<b>March</b>	154	30	33
<b>April</b>	156	89	16
<b>May</b>	77	17	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>118</b>

- \* Figures to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023
- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use

### **Disability Access Certificates (DACs):**

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 up to and including 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023, totals **48**.

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>
Enniscorthy	6
Gorey	13
New Ross	5
Wexford	13
Rosslare	11
<b>2023 Totals</b>	<b>48</b>

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Major Pre-Planning (from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023)</b>	<b>5</b>

## **Access Related Items**

### **NDIS Reporting & Monitoring System**

A brief synopsis report has been informed to the Executive Team as an update on the engagement and status of compliance of their respective sections in relation to Wexford County Councils obligations under the Disability Act 2005 and subsequent legislation in relation to equality and disability strategies.

### **Compliance requirements for Communications including Website and media methods.**

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May the Embassy of Denmark in conjunction with the National Disability Authority hosted a seminar on digital accessibility.

Whilst discussions were mainly centred around website design, several other ideas were shared. Given the success of the event and the value in adopting best practice case studies, it is proposed that a meeting with relevant departments and stakeholders of WCC will take place over the coming weeks to disseminate the key notes and learning from the event.

### **Consultation**

The Access Section attended a recent consultation focus group event hosted by Instruction & Formation Education around a European accessibility project ONAT4ALL. 'Making Tourism and Outdoor Adventure Pursuits More Accessible for People with Additional Needs'. The outcome will be a report which compiles all findings/suggestions/comments from the event. This may be useful in the promotion of accessible tourism. The project aims of ONAT4ALL to provide SMEs with the necessary skills, competences, and knowledge to deal with accessibility requirements around the achievement of a more inclusive society by promoting the access of people with disabilities (PWDs) to adventure and outdoor tourism. Details of this initiative has been forwarded to the Economic Department for consideration.

### **Consultation**

The draft Code of Practice for Accessible Public Buildings, following review of the draft code it is proposed that the Access Section will outline the implications of the code for consideration at Management Level.

## **TOWN REGENERATION**

### **Town Centre First.**

The Town Centre First Policy aims to create Town Centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

The Enniscorthy Town Team has met a number of times to date and have an agreed programme for the year now in place. Work has commenced on the digital Town blueprint with DCU, UCG and .IE doing this led by Professor Theo Lynn and working through the Town Team. Good discussions are taking place at Town Team level with a numbers of ideas being generated.

Public and Stakeholder consultation is well under way in New Ross for the Town Centre First Plan. The Consultants are very happy with progress to date and have had a number of meetings with the Town Team in helping them formulate the plan. The completion date is the end of Sept. The Consultants will be engaging with the Elected Representatives of NRMD towards the end of July and then again at the beginning of Sept.

## Water Services



**1. Uisce Éireann Asset  
Delivery**

**2. Minor Capital**

**3. Rural Water  
Programme**

**4. Water Conservation**

### Water Services



## 1. Uisce Éireann – Asset Delivery



### Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A new gravity main for Mary Street &amp; pipe repair at pumping station</li> <li>➤ Ward &amp; Burke contractors.</li> <li>➤ Estimated costs: Under negotiation c.€ 0.98M ex VAT.</li> <li>➤ Start Date 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August.</li> <li>➤ Road opening for site investigation works end June.</li> <li>➤ RE staff appointed.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake and Vinegar Hill Upgrade Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Intake- land requirement and wayleave agreement, UÉ in consultation with owner, awaiting signed contracts.</li> <li>➤ Selected contractors price submitted and is under review internally by Uisce Éireann.</li> <li>➤ Construction period Est 21months (Aug23-May25)</li> <li>➤ Irish Rail agreement has been signed.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change from June</li> <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 UÉ.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works complete in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Model verification complete, stage 3 to start Q2 2023</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system</li> <li>➤ Tender evaluation January 2022, with start onsite Q2 2022</li> <li>➤ Consultants JB Barry appointed by UÉ.</li> <li>➤ Stage 1 complete, survey works to start Q2 2023</li> </ul>



<b>Newtown WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including improved raw water treatment, instrumentation and run to waste facility.</li> <li>➤ Work started March 2023, 18-month contract programme.</li> <li>➤ Budget cost of 12million.</li> <li>➤ Contractor Glan Agua</li> <li>➤ 1<sup>st</sup> shutdown of plant for works on the 28/6/23.</li> <li>➤ Buffer tank poured</li> <li>➤ Piling complete for new flocculation tank</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change since June</li> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project is now complete for issue to contractor for design and build.</li> <li>➤ Uisce Éireann has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future.</li> </ul>
<b>Creagh WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment</li> <li>➤ Work started March 2023, 12-month contract programme.</li> <li>➤ Budget of €2million</li> <li>➤ Project paused after main pipework completed, older pipework on site identified and design/quotation for replacement of this has been undertaken with works due to recommence in early July</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>New Water Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> Plant In operational phase with Glan Agua</li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This project is complete, and it is at final account stage with the contractor Sisk.</li> <li>○ Sisk will operate this plant until November 2023</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Plant was officially opened by the Minister on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023</li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All Major Construction Works at plant are completed.</li> <li>➤ Sledge seeding commencing this week.</li> <li>➤ Emergency connection completed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioning of plant due to commence next week.</li> <li>➤ Forecast completion 22/8/23 (2 months over)</li> <li>➤ Access road and landscaping almost completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b></li> <li>➤ Pipe laying works has finished on this section at Curracloe.</li> <li>➤ Preparations underway for commencement of next scheme at Gortins Great 1200m of pipe replacement.</li> <li>➤ Start date approx 1 week.</li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Project Meeting planned for end of July 23.</li> <li>➤ UÉ Asset Planning Strategic assessment is programmed for first half of 2023 where long, and shortlist of upgrade options will be considered.</li> <li>➤ Stage 2 will assess options and Stage 3 will bring forward detailed design and tender documentation.</li> </ul>
<b>STVGP – Small towns and villages growth programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ UÉ programme to deliver additional capacity to existing towns and villages serviced by UÉ. Wellington Bridge and Tagoat are included in national programme.</li> <li>➤ Option reports complete for both projects with Uisce Éireann Delivery section now taking control of both. Outline design ongoing for both projects.</li> <li>➤ First on-site meeting with designers at Tagoat held in February</li> <li>➤ All projects ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Coolree Reservoir Rehabilitation works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rehabilitation works to the embankment, spillway and valve tower at Coolree Reservoir</li> <li>➤ Preliminary scope outlined with ongoing feasibility studies to determine best solution</li> <li>➤ No update.</li> </ul>
<b>Bunclody Water supply- Supply Demand Balance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hydrogeological assessment underway for improved Ground Water Resources for Bunclody</li> <li>➤ Workshop -1 complete for upgrades to the existing plant to aid the current plant operation. Proposal is for new package plant to improve the resilience and capacity of Bunclody WTP</li> <li>➤ Framework contractor appointed, start date TBC</li> <li>➤ No update.</li> </ul>
<b>Fardystown Phase 1 &amp; 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Replacement well drilled at Tannerhill with indications of improved output. Expected commissioning into service in early July</li> <li>➤ New wells proposed at Mayglass Church and Mulrankin to provide additional capacity for the Fardystown supply- initial site visit meeting held with contractors.</li> <li>➤ New raw water mains will also be provided under this contract.</li> </ul>

- Uisce Eireann will progress planning permission for the new well sites.

## 2. Minor Capital




### UÉ Minor Water Schemes

- **Water Plant Generators**
  - Design of generator for Castlemoyle WTP, New Ross is underway.
- **Treated Water storage programme.**
  - 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.
  - Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; Tender award issued, start date August 2023.

### UÉ Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Pump Upgrades**
  - New pumps and controls at Rosehill Heights WWPS in Rosslare Strand to improve resilience will be installed in June.
  - Replacement pumps are on order for Island Road WWPS Enniscorthy with new smart-controller to be installed also.
  - Upgrade of pumps at Marshalstown WWTP have been ordered.
- **SCADA Upgrades**
  - SCADA upgrades at 2 No. WWTPs (Kilmuckridge and Bridgetown) are progressing on site, with Bridgetown now 80% complete.
- **WWTP Minor Improvement Works**
  - Replacement of aeration system diffusers at Rosslare Strand WWTP is currently being priced and designed, with installation to take place in Q3 2023.
- **Invest to Save**
  - Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, and installation and commissioning is now 90% complete on site and scheduled to begin operation for the summer peak season.

<b>UÉ Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The budget for 2023 is currently set at €2.8m, with spend year to date at the end of May of €1,567,272.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-UÉ Small Capital Schemes</b>	<p><b>Ballinamorrhagh, Curracloe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rehabilitation works are currently being priced for the secondary treatment plant.</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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kyle Close, Oulart-</b> Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in 2023.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mountain View, Ballindaggin-</b> COF received from UÉ. Survey complete. Application to Uisce Éireann for connection underway.</li> <li>➤ <b>Gleann na gCaor, Monagear-</b> Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>➤ <b>Cois Cuan, Arthurstown-</b> Design in progress</li> <li>➤ <b>Coolballow estate-</b> Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS</li> </ul> <p>Additional funding grants have been announced on 27<sup>th</sup> June for a further three estates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Farring Carrig,</b> Duncannon</li> <li>➤ <b>Beach View,</b> Duncannon</li> <li>➤ <b>Beachfields,</b> Ballaghkeen</li> </ul> <p>While funding in principle was also granted by the Department for <b>Stonebrook</b>, Fethard-on-Sea, subject to agreement with Uisce Éireann on available treatment. Staffing resource is sought to deliver these works.</p>

<b>3. Rural Water</b>	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<p>➤ <b>Kilanerin GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.</li> <li>○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution.</li> <li>○ Communication has been received from the Dept. regarding reallocate funding to nitrate monitoring.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<p>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Storage Tank</b> - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants.</li> <li>○ A report has been provided and assessed.</li> <li>○ Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution.</li> <li>○ GWS have reviewed and discussed at committee and have confirmed they are agreeable to recommended option.</li> <li>○ <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.</li> <li>○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December.</li> <li>○ The Dept. have approved request for increased funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<p>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned.</li> <li>○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval.</li> <li>○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites.</li> <li>○ Update given to Dept. on progress to date.</li> <li>○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000.</li> <li>○ Amendments were made to scope of SI and project re-tendered; submission closes 2<sup>nd</sup> June.</li> <li>○ SI re-tender completed; 3 submissions received are currently being reviewed.</li> </ul>



<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MARWP 2022-2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme.</li> <li>○ Expecting update from the Dept. in June with details of new programme.</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>○ A total of 22 new well grant applications were registered to date in June 2023.</li> <li>○ 9 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling approx.. €20,000.</li> <li>○ 21 inspections carried out in June.</li> <li>○ Workflow prototype has been developed to final stage, works to be completed in June.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Needs for Villages &amp; Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Submissions requested from all local authorities.</li> <li>○ Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022</li> <li>○ Matrix was constructed for Priority funding.</li> <li>○ Limited to two applications</li> <li>○ Feasibility studies submitted to the Department for Ramsgrange and Glynn for review by expert panel.</li> <li>○ Further information regarding the option for Glynn was requested from the Dept. which has been submitted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Awaiting update from the Dept.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Remediation Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 applications received to date on revised grant, 1 paid, 3 approved, 1 awaiting further documents.</li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<p>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Water Treatment Plant output for May 2023 was at 45.7MLD and increase on May 2022 figures of 44.21MLD.</p>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<p>➤ <b>Planned Operational Leak Detection (PLD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planned leak detection was focused mainly on Wexford town, Rosslare, Cahore, Kilmyshall, Marshalstown and Castledockrell in May 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<p><b>Rehab Schemes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wexford – Ballysilla to Lacken (Airfield Road project) – Final works completed in May 2023.</li> <li>○ Wexford – Ballinesker main install was completed in May.</li> <li>○ Wexford – Barnablake project completed in June.</li> <li>○ Wexford -Gortins Great project to commence.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find crews were concentrated on Wexford town New Ross and Blackwater schemes in May.</li> <li>○ RC Acoustic logger crew are still in Enniscorthy. Team commenced deployment of loggers in Rosslare in May.</li> <li>○ RC Find crews x 2 are investigating leaks in Killag and Courtown.</li> <li>○ F&amp;F repairs by the LA in New Ross, Wexford town and Ballinellard.</li> <li>○ F&amp;F repairs by the RC in Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Bree and Gorey in May.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>BYS Services</b></p> <p><b>Wexford BYS Works -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Edenvale Avenue/Dolphin Road commenced in May.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Pressure Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Survey of 80nr PRV's throughout the county completed in May.</li> <li>○ 5nr PRV controllers deployed, final commissioning works still to be completed.</li> <li>○ PRV major service works commenced in May.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Meter Installation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Banogue and Ballyhogue meters installed by RC in May.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>First Fix</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UE Regional Contractor, Shareridge are conducting ongoing First Fix investigations and repairs around the county.</li> </ul>

# **TRANSPORTATION AND ROADS**

## **MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS**

### **N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour**

- Ground Investigation on-site works are ongoing.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- Pre-application consultation process with An Bord Pleanála in relation to Strategic Infrastructure Development has commenced. Meeting with An Bord Pleanála is due in coming weeks
- Archaeological Geophysical Survey Tender is due to be awarded in coming weeks.
- Additional Topographical Survey Tenders are due to be returned by the end of June 2023.
- The overall design of the development, including bridge options is substantially completed, taking into account comments received from the landowners collected on the Landowner Engagement Meetings held in April 2023.
- Engagement with the ESB/EirGrid, Irish Rail and other stakeholders is ongoing.

### **N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road**

The position on this project remains unchanged.

The decision from An Bord Pleanála, has not been received as anticipated (i.e. on or before the 26 May 2023). Correspondence from the Bord has been received within the reporting period, that application 177AE for N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road is currently at Board level awaiting a decision and no estimated date has been given for when this is hoped to be decided.

## **NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES**

### **2022 Pavement Schemes**

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,000,000)

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

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

### 2022 Safety Schemes

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

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

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

Works still to be completed: Final surface layer, Final accommodation works and landscaping.  
Works to be completed in June/July 2023

### 2023 Pavement Schemes

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

This scheme is being designed at present. Scheme will be tendered June and constructed in August and September.

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

This scheme is being designed at present. It is hoped to tender this scheme in July and construct the scheme in September and October.

### 2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations

Wexford County Council will be applying for additional maintenance funding from TII in 2023. This will relate to pavement repairs on sections of the N80 north of Ballycarney and sections of the N30.

Wexford County Council will continue to apply for additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11, N25, N30 and N80.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since 25 December 2021. A preliminary meeting was held with the consultant on site in January. Design report due by June/July 2023.

### Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

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

Funding of €500,000 was received for the R772 Tinnock scheme. This amounts to 50% of the scheme. A consultant has been appointed to look at the possibility of including a cycle facility as part of the scheme. It is hoped to tender this work in the third quarter of 2023.

### REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 14 February 2023. Wexford's allocation was €22,811,650. This allocation includes €1,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage and €1,500,000 for the Deeps Bridge remediation works.

#### Resurfacing/Strengthening

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

Roads resurfaced in the last month were:

School Street and Crossabeg junction (Both in Wexford Borough MD).

#### Surface Dressing Works

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

Roads Surface Dressed in the last month were: Tomanooole; Drumderry; Coolree; Dranagh; Curralane; Ballynakill; Mangan; Woodlands; Bolinaspick; Coolteige; Knockduff Bree; Craane; Clolourish; Gorteen; Ballyprecas; Killanure; Bree Lane (All in the Enniscorthy MD); Coolaught to Cloughbawn Bridge; Colemans Cross to Old Ross; Grange to Monksgrange; Quarry Hill; Courtnacuddy; Tominearly Lane; Mill Lane; (All in the New Ross MD).

#### Community Involvement Schemes

€502,650 was allocated in 2023.

Nook Road was resurfaced in New Ross District in May.



### Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Wexford County Council was allocated €610,000 to repair 17 bridges in 2023. One bridge (Kings Bridge, Cullenstown) is complete in Rosslare District. Repairs works are nearing completion on 2 bridges (Abbey Bridge & Barmoney Bridge) in New Ross District.

### Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. They both require Part 8 Planning and it is hoped work will commence in quarter 4 of this year.

Wilton Bridge in Enniscorthy District - Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 30 June 2023. The bridge will be repaired to its original form of masonry arches. Repair works are expected to be complete in September.

### Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

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

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. The project is on schedule. A retaining wall on the east side of the bridge has been constructed. All concrete repairs are complete on the piers. Concrete repairs are in progress on the deck and parapets. Over 260 concrete repairs are complete out of approximately 300. It is anticipated the road will be open by the end of August and the works fully complete by the end of September 2023.



***Deeps Bridge 29 June 2023***

### Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council was allocated €682,000 for 15 projects in 2023. Three projects are complete to date:

- Road edge protection on Regional Road at Lucas Park (Enniscorthy District).
- Upgrade a culvert near Ballywilliam (New Ross District).
- Upgrade a culvert to relieve flooding on Duncannon Line (New Ross District).

### Local Improvement Schemes

€411,705 was allocated to County Wexford in Round 1, 2023. One lane has been resurfaced to date at Corramacorra, Murntown in the Rosslare MD.

### General Maintenance

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

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

### Newtown Road (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

Section 38 Consultation process has been completed and passed by Council on 17 April 2023 for **Newtown Rd light segregation** from the junction at the hospital towards the Wygram Junction. Detail design and on-site surveying now underway.

**This proposal involves road carriageway narrowing utilising extruded kerbing, removal of right turn pockets and resurvey traffic speeds. Junction tightening works will then proceed following confirmation that speed has been reduced.**

Tender docs for Newtown Rd are now live on E-tenders with a return date of 19 July 2023 for the Active Travel cycling scheme on the **Newtown Road from Maldron Road Roundabout** to Applegreen.

A third phase of works from the Applegreen to the Hospital junction will be designed in house and discussed with roads senior management prior to issuing to the NTA for approval. There is currently on street parking on the Newtown Rd directly outside the Racecourse which will have to be reviewed further as part of the Preliminary design phase.

### Safe Routes to School

Three Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRTS Round 1) which involve traffic calming at front of school to encourage active travel are being designed in house in consultation with schools.

The Construction phase of the **Adamstown Scoil Naomh Abbann** will progress to construction in early July 2023 by Paddy McGees Wexford Ltd. The scope of works was agreed on site recently.

Section 38 consultation process was successfully passed by councillors on 21 June for **Scoil Mhuire Rosslare**. Detail design and BoQ's is currently underway. Construction is expected in Sept 2023 after the busy summer period in Rosslare.

### Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

The proposed cycle lane upgrade in **Roxborough** has now moved onto Preliminary design following approval from the NTA to develop the preferred option as part of the options assessment process.

### Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy ABTA – Tenders have been issued and are due back 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Wexford Town ABTA is currently underway by Atkins Consulting Engineers.

### Public E Bike Sharing Scheme

A Public E Bike Sharing Scheme in association with Bolt launched in Wexford Town during Bike Week on the 17 May 2023. This scheme is being run on a trial basis for a year to allow both parties to examine the benefits for Wexford town. Just over one month in the scheme is proving very popular. The following are some statistics on the first month of the trial:



### *Launch of Bolt eBike sharing scheme for Wexford town*

- There are now 1,030 unique users of the eBikes. This means that this number of people have signed up to use the service. This number is increasing every day
- There were 2,956 journeys undertaken to date
- 8,041 km were travelled within the Wexford Urban area (inside Ring Road and across the bridge as far as Ely hospital)
  - There is demand for increased parking locations and we will shortly be providing more parking locations at the top and bottom of Whiterock hill, at Drinagh near Celtic Linen and the Farmer's Kitchen, at Ely Hospital and possibly one further out in Crosstown.
  - The hotels – Whites, The Talbot, Whitford and Maldron have all expressed an interest in having bike parking at their premises and these should be in place soon.
  - There is a good spread of bikes being hired across town -see below - the busiest locations based on monitoring bike numbers and frequency of use are at Clonard, Summerhill, Aldi, Hill Street and Waters Technology
  - Early indications are that the scheme is proving popular, the good weather has helped too of course. Bolt may look at increasing the number of bikes in the near future to satisfy the demand.

## PUBLIC LIGHTING

### LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

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

Design works are completed.

A plan will be put in place to upgrade the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years.

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

### Public Lighting Development Fund

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

- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in June/July
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in June/July
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove to regional road. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in June/July
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road. 2 quotations received. A contractor has been appointed.
- Wexford Town - Kennedy Park. 2 quotations received. A contractor will be appointed in June.

Other locations will follow further to consultations with Municipal District Engineers. It should be noted that quotations are sought from the four recognised public lighting contractors in the country for these public lighting schemes.

All four contractors are now working on the 3 National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP) contracts across the country. This is leading to a delay in getting our Development Fund lighting contracts designed, tendered and completed.

**Gorey Town Park:** The public lighting to the walking track was completed in June.

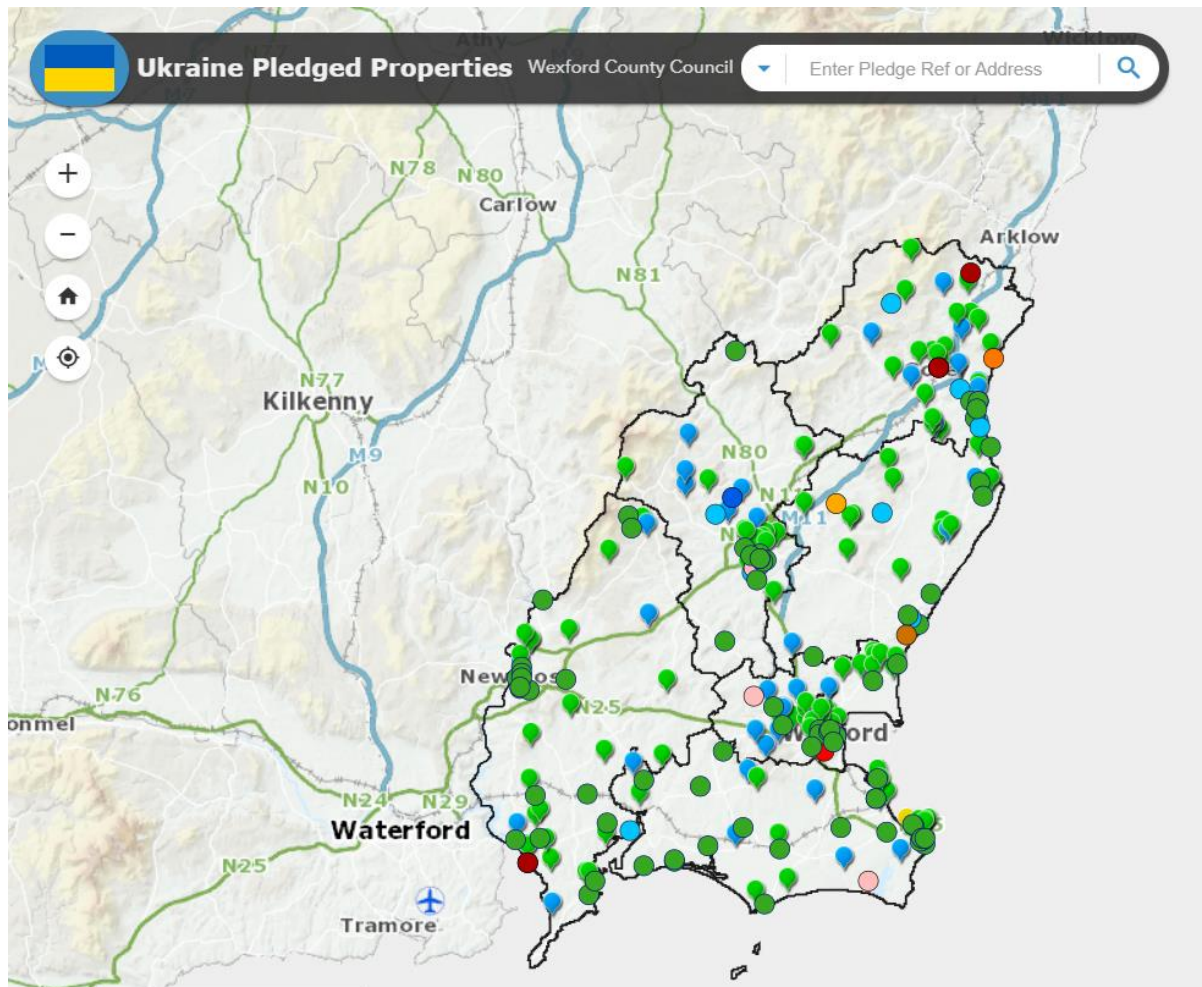


## UKRANIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

### Offer a Home

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas. To date some 102 properties have been allocated, housing 368 Ukrainian people who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTP's).

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



### Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The next meeting of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum will be held on the 3rd July 2023. It was agreed at the last meeting that the meetings will be held every quarter. The Community Response Forums are providing essential local engagement spaces for all the public, non-profit and private bodies who are involved in the provision of services and supports locally. This forum ensures that groups operating locally are working together for the best outcomes for those in need of support.

## Other Initiatives

### ***Local Authority Integration Team***

In the Programme for Government, a commitment was made to end the system of Direct Provision and replace it with a new International Protection accommodation model centred on a not-for-profit approach.

In this context the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), in collaboration with local authorities will establish permanent Local Authority integration teams (LAITs) in each local authority to co-ordinate the provision of supports to:

- (a) Applicants for International Protection (IP Applicants)
- (b) Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status
- (c) Programme Refugees, and
- (d) Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTPs)

The overall objective of the integration programme is to enable applicants to live independently in the community. Within this overall objective, a set of detailed objectives will guide the development, delivery, and monitoring of the programme.

The team will have four members initially, and the recruitment process has commenced.

## CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

### 1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	5
Customer Complaint	10
Ombudsman Complaint	4
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

## 2. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

Tenders from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

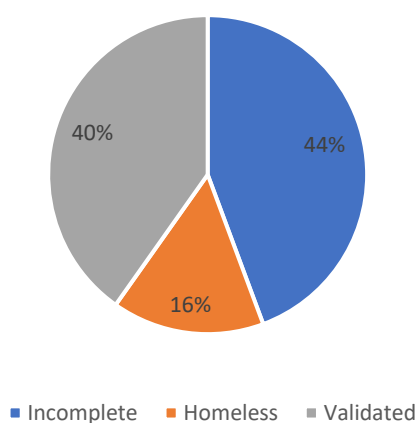
No uploaded	5
No of tenders received	12

### CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – June 2023

Area	June
Phone Calls	3543
Environmental Complaints	330
Change of Circumstances	31
Housing Validation	97
Quick Calls	2538
Roads Fault Log	36
Emails (Received & Sent)	898
Web Updates / Consultations	48 / 4
Newspaper Adverts	30

### Social Housing Application Validation Stats – June 2023

## Housing Validation Report



### Members Portal Queries by Section – June 2023

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Corporate	0	1	1
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	3	3
Environment	0	3	3
Finance	0	2	2
Housing	0	61	61
New Ross Municipal	0	1	1
Planning	0	3	3
Roads	0	3	3
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	0	13	13
Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD	0	11	11
Roads – New Ross MD	0	2	2
Roads – Rosslare MD	0	1	1
Roads – Wexford MD	0	3	3
Water – Non Irish Water Queries	0	1	1
Water – Rural Water and Well Grants	0	1	1
Wexford Municipal District	0	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>

Monthly Communications Report  
Month: June 2023

**Top Performing Posts**

**Wexford Area Plan Questionnaire**



19,396 views

**Wexford Area Plan Portal**



5,570 Impressions

**Wexford Area Plan Questionnaire**



19,221 views

**Top Performing Posts**

**Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition**



11,944 views

**Climate Action Survey**



3,603 impressions

**Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition**



11,643 views

## Monthly Social Media Stats

### PAGE REACH

51,826

### PAGE FOLLOWS

6,456

### NEW PAGE LIKES

56

### PAGE VISITS

6448

### NUM. OF POSTS

49

#### Learnings from this month:

We used targeted boosting of posts on Facebook and Instagram this month which resulted in a much higher reach and engagement. Some posts were boosted using only €50 budget and got a reach of 11,944 people.

#### TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:

**Your Council Day Videos of our staff were very successful. Great feedback**

Re: Anita "What a wonderful lady, a true professional and example of public service in action. Good wishes to you and your team with the mammoth task of housing"

Re: Billy Byrne "Well done Billy you are constantly networking and engaging for the betterment of the entire county"



## Monthly Social Media Stats

### PAGE REACH

3,381

### PAGE FOLLOWS

2,307

### NEW FOLLOWERS

74

### PAGE VISITS

423

### NUM. OF POSTS

28

#### Learnings from this month:

As mentioned on previous page, the boosted posts are great way of reaching more people for low cost.

#### TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:

Your Council Day videos attracted alot of interest on Instagram this month.





## Monthly Social Media Stats

IMPRESSIONS	MENTIONS	NUM. OF TWEETS
102K	332	67
PAGE FOLLOWERS	PAGE VISITS	NEW FOLLOWERS
13,973	3,672	28

### TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:



Response has been issued to customer.



## Monthly Engagements

### TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.

Sent in an enquiry to [@wexfordcoco](#) this morning asking them to send someone up our way to pick up litter that had escaped a bin and someone has just been to clear it all away. Great service, in fairness.

**Jono Hughes** @JonoKong · Jun 25  
Just some of the #dumping which faced our volunteers this morning. Too much for us to manage. Thanks to [@wexfordcoco](#) for collecting. Enforcement? Surveillance? Education (I think too late for that) [#enniscorthy](#) [@TidyTownsire](#)



I love how [@wexfordcoco](#) mount a dog fouling sign but there literally no dog dirt bin anywhere near it 🤔  
Definitely helpful  
Maybe more bins would be a solution this was at Greenville Enniscorthy and there none on the Moyne side either  
And yes I carried my dirt home!





## Press Releases June 2023

- 02.06.2023 National Food Waste Recycling Week Launched
- 02.06.2023 Businesses encouraged to avail of new energy efficiency grants
- 06.06.2023 Sully & Juno Company wins at National Enterprise Awards
- 13.06.2023 A New Local Area Plan for Wexford Town – Public encouraged to have their say on shaping the future of Wexford Town.
- 13.06.2023 Climate Action Event Well Attended
- 14.06.2023 County Wexford welcomes the Roses back to the sunny southeast for the Wexford Rose Tour 2023
- 16.06.2023 WEXFORD'S BEACHES EXCEL AT NATIONAL AWARDS Council awarded 8 Blue Flags for the 2023 Beach Season.
- 19.06.2023 Oilgate Playground Official Opening
- 20.06.2023 10 Sporting Groups , Organisations & Individuals honoured at Civic Recognition Evening
- 20.06.2023 Sporting Groups honoured at civic reception
- 23.06.2023 Launch of the Wexford town Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan
- 23.06.2023 Wexford County Council Launch Keep Wexford Beautiful Competiton
- 26.06.2023 Green Coast Award Flag raising at Rosslare Harbour
- 26.06.2023 Official opening of Rosslare Bowling Green
- 27.06.2023 New Cathaoirleach elected
- 29.06.2023 Minister O' Brien launches information campaign highlighting financial support to replace led pipes in homes

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

## Press Queries June 2023

8 Press Queries received in June. 5 responses issued.



# **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

## **1. Projects at Planning Stages**

### **1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:**

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

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

Moloney O' Beirne has been appointed to prepare preliminary designs and Part VIII planning application for the Market Square and the Castle Quarter. Roughan & O'Donovan have been appointed to undertake traffic design for town centre traffic alterations.

A Part 8 application for Market Square is expected to be submitted in August, with preliminary design work on the Castle Quarter commencing thereafter.

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

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

The activity centre building was lodged for Part VIII planning in March 2022. In response to a request from An Bord Pleanála for further information relating to the project was completed and submitted to the Board. The Part VIII planning application was withdrawn in October 2022. A process to procure a consulting team to prepare an EIAR and prepare a planning submission to ABP is now required.

The part VIII for the proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site was approved by WCC in February 2023. The tender for works were received on May 31<sup>st</sup> and are currently being assessed. It is expected that a contract award will be made by August with a commencement on site in Sept 2023.

### **1.3 Min Ryan Park**

Sole Sports and Leisure was appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA and skatepark are now both complete and open to the public. Killaree Lighting Services have now completed lighting installations to the MUGA and will complete Skate Park lighting installations in July.

### **1.4 Gorey District Park**

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

The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Contract award is expected in July.

## **1.5 John Street Building Regeneration Project, New Ross**

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement and the CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are appointed and undertook a preplanning meeting for the building in February. The Concept Design Report was presented to the New Ross MDC at the May meeting with Part 8 expected to commence in July, subject to screening for appropriate assessment.

## **1.6 Gorey Market House**

As agreed at the December meeting of Gorey - Kilmuckridge MDC, WCC publicly invited Expressions of Interest for the re-development of the Market House. A Competitive Dialogue procurement process to identify the best option for a town centre development, including a performance space, was advertised on eTenders and OJEU in February 2023. Following tender assessment, no suitable candidate was identified to proceed to the negotiation stage. The tender process has now been concluded and closed out.

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

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

### Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála in Q1 2024.

### Hook Lighthouse

The tender competition for interpretative design services for the Hook Lighthouse was advertised in February with closing date for tenders on 30/03/23. Tandem Design have been identified as the successful tenderer and will start work on the project shortly. The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be advertised in July as part of the framework created for architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the preliminary design will be completed in 2023 and submitted to ABP in 2024.

### New Ross Tourism Project

Tenders for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience have been received and a contract awarded to EPIC Design, based in Dublin who have prepared the preliminary design for the development, this is being reviewed at present.

Tender documents for the development of the Norman Themed Visitor Centre in the Old Bank/Murphy buildings for interpretive design have been advertised with an appointment expected in July 2023. A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with appointments expected in Sept 2023, the Norman Visitor Centre will be the first project from this framework.

## **1.8 Esmonde Street, Gorey**

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

## **1.9 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway**

The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has been paused, pending the publication of the All-Ireland Rail Review, that will determine the future of the line.

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

## **1.10 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway**

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022. It is now expected to submit to ABP for approval in H2 2024.

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works which has been carried out over the past two years by Irish Rail. It is planned to submit this section of greenway to the Part 8 process in Q1 2024

## **1.11 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy**

In May 2021, outline proposals for the Old Dublin Road were presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District. This was followed by a public consultation process in late June on the draft plan. The masterplan was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC's October meeting. The initial phase 1 works commenced in July/August 2022 and are now substantially completed.

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

## **1.12 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme**

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

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

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

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in Q4 2023.

### **1.13 Crescent Quay – Dredging**

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete with results currently being assessed. It is planned to submit the statutory consent applications by Q4 2023.

### **1.14 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. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. A redesign process for the project is now ongoing.

### **1.15 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility**

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

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

### **1.16 Ferndale Gymnasium, Wexford:**

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. It is planned to tender for a works contractor by July 2023 and to commence works on site by Q4 2023.

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

### **1.17 Adoration Convent Wexford**

Part VIII is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. A design team appointment is approved by GSU. It is intended to tender out these works out in Q1 2024 with works to commence in Q2 2024.

## **2. Projects Under Construction**

### **2.1 South East Greenway**

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glás Civil Engineering and works are now substantially complete. Snagging works are now nearing completion.

The works are ongoing on site for fencing, public lights ducting and temporary car parks for the greenway section from New Ross to Glenmore. The expected completion date is July 2023.

The works contract tender for Lot 5a – Ferrybank to Curraghmore (5.5KM) was advertised in March with a contract award expected in August 2023.

Wexford County Council's Arts Office, in partnership with the Southeast Greenway Project Team, has commissioning designers 'Elements Of Action' with visual artist Aoife Banville, to develop a pilot creative public art project for the Raheen to Glenmore section of the greenway. This works is expected to complete prior to the opening of this section.

The process to procure replacement technical advisors for the completion of the Southeast Greenway project has commenced. The first appointment will be for the technical advisor to act in the role for Employer's representative duties for the works contract lot 5A . The second appointment will be for a technical advisor for all remaining components of the Southeast greenway project. Lot 4 – Mount Elliot will be their first priority to complete and issue for tender.

Phase 1 of the SouthEast Greenway -New Ross to Glenmore will be officially opened on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.

### **2.2 Trinity Wharf**

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2<sup>nd</sup> March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Works are ongoing on site with completion expected in Q4 2023.

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

### **2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park – Oil Tanks Site**

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site. The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was complete in July 2021.

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The main works contract has been awarded to MJS and works have commenced. Completion is expected in September.

## **2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford**

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

## **2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford**

A Part VIII submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site, including the construction of a temporary surface level car park.

The Part VIII was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting.

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

The demolition contract has been awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd. Works are ongoing on site. Completion of the current works contract is expected in August.

### **3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme**

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





## 4. Flood Defence Schemes

### 4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

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

The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme.

Flood Defence Scheme - The hydrology and ecology baseline data is currently being updated. The scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. MMD has issued a programme of work – the preferred option report & environmental assessment reports are scheduled to be completed in Q3 2023. It will be necessary to review planning options and the preferred planning mechanism selected.

New River Slaney Bridge - The ecology baseline data is currently being updated and the traffic surveys are complete. ROD has issued a programme of work.

## **4.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme**

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

The appointment includes flood risk modelling; assessment of options for flood prevention; preliminary design; the preparation of planning and other statutory consent applications; detailed design; tendering for works contractors and construction management services.

# HOUSING

## Choice Based Letting

Wexford County Council are implementing Choice Based Letting (CBL), this is a way that social housing supports applicants can express their interest in available and suitable social housing and approved housing body houses. All approved social housing supports applicants will receive their username and passwords within the next few weeks which will enable them to login to the new system. We will be holding information sessions for applicants in each Municipal District as follows:-

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Enniscorthy
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Wexford / Rosslare
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	New Ross
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Gorey / Kilmuckridge

We will be giving a demonstration to elected members at the Housing & Community SPC and at the July Municipal District meetings.

## Official Openings

### Baile an Róigh, Rosetown, Rosslare Strand



The Official opening of 23 houses in phase 1 at Baile an Róigh, Rosslare Strand took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June by Minister James Browne. The development includes 2 bed bungalows and 3 bed two storey semi-detached houses. WCC designed the scheme to maximise the use of the land available to provide comfortable and robust homes for a range of family sizes and to achieve high energy NZEB performance standards.

### Droichead Carley

The Official opening of 17 houses in Droichead Carley, Enniscorthy took place on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June by Minister James Browne. The development includes 2-bed and 3-bed bungalows and two storey semi-detached houses. The houses were handed over complete and ready for allocation to tenants in January 2022. The houses and the estate are finished to a very high quality and all houses achieved an A2 BER rating.





### Baile an Róigh, Rosetown Phase 2

The sod was turned on Phase 2 of Baile an Róigh by Minister James Browne on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023, which will see the delivery a further 12 A2 BER rated NZEB houses by Q3 2024.



## **Housing Supply**

### **Capital Projects**

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Unit type</b>
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare	Complete	Substantial Completion Date May 19 <sup>th</sup> 2023.	12 x 2 Bed
Marconi Park	1 TAP	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete in July 2023	1 x 2 Bed
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete in Q4 2023.	6 x 1 Bed 12 x 2 Bed 4 x 3 Bed
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. Ground Floor Slabs in place. Progressing well.	12 x 1 Bed
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Contractor appointed. Commence construction 19 <sup>th</sup> June 23	12 x 2 Bed
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced construction April 23 Target Completion Q3 2024.	18 x 3 Bed 4 x 2 Bed
Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced on site 22 May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow)	1 x 1 Bed 1 x 2 Bed 6 x 3 Bed
Francis St.	2	Wexford	SS approved	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare tender documents Q3 2023	2 x 2 Bed
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete May 23. Stage 3 and Tender in Q3 2023.	2 x 1 Bed 1 x 3 Bed

Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 4	Stage 4 approved May 23. Construction contract to commence 3 July 23.	12 x 1 Bed 11 x 2 Bed 7 x 3 Bed
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Awaiting Funding approval for enabling works applied April 23. Appoint Enabling Contractor Q2 23.	15 x 1 Bed 10 x 2 Bed 9 x 3 Bed 4 x 4 Bed
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Stage 3 and tender documentation for submission Q4 23 subject to Part VIII approval.	18 x 3 Bed 12 x 1 Bed 24 x 2 Bed 6 x 3 Bed
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Combined Stage1 and 2	Stage 1 and 2 approved 16 May 23. Consultants to be formally appointed to prepare tender documentation July 23.	4 x 1 Bed 16 x 2 Bed 2 x 3 Bed
Monamolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monamolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII and funding application July 23.	1 x 2 Bed 4 x 3 Bed
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monamolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII lodged June Funding application Q3 23.	2 x 1 Bed 2 x 2 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monamolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII and funding application Q2 23	2 x 1 Bed 2 x 2 Bed
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>269</b>				

## Pre-Development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment		
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Appoint Archaeologist. Other appointments will follow Archaeology report. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q3 2023	3 x 1 Bed
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Stage 2	Stage 1 and 2 Approved May 23 Tender for DB construction July 23	6 x 1 Bed 4 x 2 Bed 8 x 3 Bed
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Demolitions complete. Funding application to DHLGH Q3 2023	1 x 1 Bed 1 x 2 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>				

## Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment	
Clonard	26	Wexford	A proposal has been submitted by a neighboring developer. Review programme road delivery June 23.	
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Part VIII Approved. Appoint Project Management Q3 23	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>			

## Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment	
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Surveys complete. Part VIII Q3 23. SS submission Q3 2023	
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Pre Planning July 23. Part VIII and Single Stage Application in Q3 2023	
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys.	
Group Housing TAP	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>			

### Affordable Dwellings

	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	9 No Expressions of Interest received. Stage 2 (tender) calls scheduled for July 23
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Appoint Project Management Q3 23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>		

### Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cluid</b>				
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024.
Bridgemedows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey	To deliver Q3 2023.
<b>Tuath</b>				
Ramstown, Gorey	68	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units to deliver Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q1 2024.
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2023
<b>Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)</b>				
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units to deliver Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q1 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>244</b>			



Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 488 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

#### Offers of Support for AHB Proposals (Subject to Planning and Departmental Approval)

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	146
Gorey	170
New Ross	43
Rosslare	29
Wexford	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>

#### Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	4 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	4 2-bed 6 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units to deliver from Q3 2023 2 units to deliver Q4 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 2-bed 2 2-bed apt 4 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHLGH Approval Dec 22. To deliver from Q2 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered Q4 2022, 2 units to be delivered Q4 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	2 x 3-bed 7 3-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. Amendment to planning permission being sought. To deliver on phased basis from Q4 2023.
Ard na hAbhann, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Under Construction. Funding approval received May 2022. To deliver Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	DHLGH Approval Feb 22. To deliver Q4 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>			

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q1 2024
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q3 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross (includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q2 2024
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q3 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	8 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2	2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q3 2023
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q3 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2023
Old Forest, Bunclody	8	4 x 3-bed 4 x 4-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>			

The Housing Dept. continue to periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey acquisition. Future calls will be targeted at smaller unit types in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) and will include proposals for land. All proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by an Internal Assessment 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, 2023:

<b>Repairs</b>	<b>Enniscorthy</b>	<b>Gorey / Kilmuckridge</b>	<b>New Ross</b>	<b>Wexford</b>	<b>Rosslare</b>	<b>Total</b>
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023)	142	73	159	169	79	622
Repair Requests Year to Date	645	449	707	733	435	2969
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023)	113	61	124	118	60	476
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	509	347	520	530	309	2215
<b>CLOSED</b> Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023)	101	51	118	104	60	434
<b>CLOSED</b> Repairs Requests Year to Date	482	290	508	483	293	2056

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

## **Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme**

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

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

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

As part of this programme, the Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 37 properties in 2022. We propose to complete the balance of our 2021 to 2023 target no of units in 2023 and are currently on track to deliver and claim in excess of 130 units in 2023. The value the grant funded works planned for completion in 2023 will exceed €3.1 million.

The following table shows the status of the 2023 works contracts included in the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program to date .

<b>Status update Jan to June</b>	<b>No of Properties</b>
Properties completed & claim prep in progress	43
Works Ongoing	17
Tender Awarded/Mobilisation Stage	35
Tender Evaluation Stage	22
Tender Stage	0
Tender Preparation Stage	23
Survey Stage	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>

Properties current at survey stage will be tendered and awarded in Quarter 3 and 4 to allow us to upscale delivery in line with department objectives and have work in progress or ready to commence in January 2024.

## **Vacant Homes**

A Vacant Homes Officer was appointed during 2022 whose role is:

- To actively promote and lead the uptake within the local authority area of various initiatives, schemes and funding programmes to address vacancy and bring vacant properties into residential use.
- To collect, monitor and assess vacancy data locally and use that data to actively engage with property owners and promote schemes to encourage activation of properties
- Play a communication, promotion and advisory role both internally within the local authority and externally as a contact point for members of the public and key interested parties on vacant homes/properties.

***Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund*** - Towns & Village Property Refurbishment Fund aims to tackle property vacancy & dereliction and will provide new choices for people to live in towns and villages. It is a **€50 million** fund and is targeted at delivering 2000 homes by 2025.

- A maximum grant of €50,000 is available for refurbishment of a vacant property.
- A top up grant of €20,000 is available where the property is confirmed as derelict (ie. structurally unsound and dangerous) or listed on the derelict property register.

### ***Summary to date***

- **Croí Conaithe** - 110 applications received from commencement of the programme in July 2022 up to June 2023
- **Repair and lease** - 26 Expressions of Interest (EOI) for 2022 and 11 EOI for 2023 received. Each Expression of interest (EOI) may have multiple units.
- **Buy and Renew**
  - 2 works in progress
  - 2 tender preparation stage
  - 1 awaiting closing of contract to purchase.
  - 3 identified for CPO/Acquisition

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER PROGRAMME

LEADER FINANCE – 01/06/2023 – 28/06/2023

The Article 48 team processed 5 LEADER claims in June.

The value of these claims was **€120,451.23** which will support 4 community groups and 1 enterprise throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
1. National Opera House	€12,485.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€12,485.00</b>

Payment Processed	Processed Total
1. Rosslare Community Development Committee	€36,629.28
2. Riverchapel Community Complex	€15,156.00
3. Our Lady's Island GAA	€29,850.00
4. Amelhu Holdings Limited	€26,330.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 107,966.23</b>

## JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING –

*County Wexford Joint Policing Committee*

A hybrid meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 12th of June 2023. The agenda included all statutory agenda items including –



- *Garda Division Update, Preventative & Operational Policing* from Chief Superintendent Derek Hughes
- *Gardaí interaction with the Municipal Districts.*
- *CCTV Update, County Secretary*
- *Chairmans Update including JPC Pilot Initiative, Property Marking Project*

The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is provisionally scheduled for the 11th of September 2023.

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING –**

Two hybrid meetings of the Local Community and Development Committee were held on the 15th and the 28th of June 2023.



Summary of the main items discussed included –

- *The Local Economic Community Plan 2023 – 2028.*
- *Local Development Strategy / LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027, Consultation with Wexford Local Development*
- *Chief Officers Report, including funding and Community programme updates.*
- *SICAP*

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee will be held in July, the date is to be agreed.

## **LOCAL ACTION GROUP MEETING -**

A hybrid meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.



Items discussed included –

- *the LEADER Transitional & EURI Programme with the members of the LAG approving funding for 4 x Community and Enterprise projects totalling €324k for the June Meeting.*
- *Leader Administration and Project Extensions*

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is to be agreed.

## **COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAMME UPDATE –**

### **2023 Community Recognition Fund Launch – Tuesday 20th June 2023**

Wexford County Council Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Whelan welcomed community groups from across the county to the launch event for the 2023 Community Recognition Fund.

Wexford County Council was successful in securing over €1.5 million in funding with the Department of Rural and Community Development approving applications submitted for 27 Community Projects across County Wexford.

The range of those projects includes applications for –

- Trail improvement works.
- Construction of New Multi User Games Area and Playgrounds,
- Energy Improvements, extensions and upgrades to Community Facilities
- Public realm improvements
- Development of community/sensory gardens, to name but a few.



The major initiative is designed to support and reward communities that have welcomed families and citizens from Ukraine and other countries and aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.



### **Community Support Fund announcement – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

Following an announcement by the DRCD regarding the Community Support Fund applications, the Community Development Team have commenced administering grant payments to all approved projects.

The funding programme is aimed at helping communities and voluntary groups to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together.

Over 226 applications were received, with the members of the LCDC approving funding of **€340k** to numerous project groups across county Wexford.



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



### **WEXFORD LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)**

A meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, items discussed.

- *Stage 3, Draft Actions and Objections*



Following approval by both the LCDC and Economic SPC, KPMG Future Analytics will host consultation events in July with both targeted stakeholder groups and the general public to supplement the LECP development process.

## **WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP) -**

### **Oilgate Playground Official Opening**

The newly developed Oilgate Playground was officially opened on Friday 16th June by Cathaoirleach of Gorey Municipal District, Cllr. Donal Kenny supported by Cllr. Willie Kavanagh. Also in attendance were Minister James Browne (representing Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, Hildegard Naughton TD), Deputy Paul Kehoe, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr. George Lawlor and a number of council officials including LCDC Chief Officer Dymphna O'Connor, Gorey District Manager, Philip Knight, and Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer Ann Marie Laffan.

The fully accessible playground includes a number of pieces of play equipment including a disability access carousel and age friendly seating. The project received 100% funding from the Department of Health's Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and Gorey Municipal District.



### **Georgia Southern University student visit**

Wexford SHCP Local Development Officer, Ann Marie Laffan hosted a number of Public Health students from Georgia Southern University for 2 days in June. The students were given an overview of the SHCP programme including an insight into the community development work involved in the project. Site visits included visits to a number of the projects, including Southend Family Resource Centre, St. Marys GAA Club Maudlintown, Loreto Secondary School, Enniscorthy Community Allotment and Enniscorthy Learn to Cycle Park.





## **AGE FRIENDLY -**

### **Directory of Services launch**

The first Wexford Directory of Services for Older People was officially launched on 13th June by Minister Mary Butler T.D., Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People at an event co-hosted by WEXICOP (Wexford Integrated Care of Older Persons) and St John's Community Hospital in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. This document was co-funded by Wexford County Council Healthy Wexford, the HSE/South East Community Healthcare's Health and Wellbeing service, WEXICOP (Wexford Integrated Care of Older Persons) and developed through Wexford Dementia Alliance. Wexford Age Friendly including Wexford Older Peoples Council were actively involved in the project and ensured the voice of the older person was central to the development of the directory.

The Directory which provides information on many of the essential services and supports available for older adults and their families in Co. Wexford, is available on the Wexford County Council and HSE website.

Copies were distributed by all stakeholder groups, to HSE healthcare sites, public and commercial outlets across county Wexford and can be requested from Wexford County Council Customer Services Unit.



### **Healthy Ireland Round Four Funding**

The Healthy Ireland Round 4 funding for 2023-2025 contract from Pobal for has now been received and signed by the LCDC Chief Officer. Work is progressing by the Healthy County Coordinator on reviewing contract conditions in tandem with initial project and SLA agreement meetings with project partners.

## Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

With the success of the monthly **Country Connects** series of monthly walks, led by Wexford Walking Trails in collaboration with Wexford County Council, Wexford IFA, and Healthy Wexford, it has been agreed to extend the series to year end. Wexford Walking Trail are finalising schedule for same.



Walks are open to all and full details available on Wexford Walking Trails website <https://wexfordwalkingtrail.ie/>



The second in the pilot '**Meet Your Neighbour**' events to try increase local social connection opportunities took place in Courtnacuddy on 20<sup>th</sup> May and was a great success.

The Mental Wellbeing Working Group will review feedback from both events to look at further roll out of the initiative.

In May, Healthy Wexford highlighted the opportunity for community/voluntary groups who are involved in outdoor leisure activities to get involved in the **2023 SunSmart Sunscreen Dispenser Pilot** from HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), trialling the unit for a period of 12 weeks (June-Aug).

Following expressions of interest we are delighted that 13 groups in Wexford are now included in this pilot, with dispensers going up across the county.



**Mens Health Week 2023** took place from 12<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Healthy Wexford actively promoted the daily themes and supported distribution of the new FREE 'Action Man' Manuals which provide ten top tips for men's health, along with signpost to relevant supports.

Hard Copies of these are still available from the Healthy County Coordinator or online here <https://mhfi.org/news/1358-free-action-man-manuals.html>

Supported by Wexford County Council, the Healthy County Coordinator spent two days in Tipperary upskilling in **Climate Action**

As part of the Community Team she is also working with the new Climate Action Team to include Community Department Climate Actions in the new Climate Action Plan currently under development.



The work and activity of Healthy Wexford continues to be shared through our **Healthy Wexford Social Media** -

 @HealthyWexford  @HealthyWexford  @healthywexford

In addition this media is used to highlight and support the work of Wexford County Council and other agencies in areas relating to health and wellbeing. Examples from June include sharing of details of Wexford County Council Planting Grants & Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition,

Sports Active International Yoga Day activities & Fun in the Sun and the #YourCouncilDay activity from Wexford County Council.

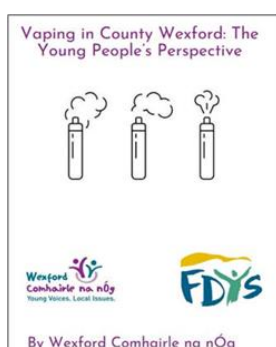
These platforms are managed and updated by our Healthy County Coordinator.

Our Healthy County Coordinator has represented Healthy Wexford at a number of **launches and events** recently including the following:

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, our Healthy County Coordinator attended the Official Launch of **Wexford Directory of Services for Older People** by Mrs. Mary Butler T.D., Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People was held in St John's in Enniscorthy. Healthy Wexford programme supported the production of the document.



Our Healthy County Coordinator joined some of the HSE Slaintecare team HSE Health Promotion at the **START Promotion** at the Sports Day for St John of God Primary School, The Faythe. The was the first use of the interactive START resource in Wexford and our Coordinator and HSE colleagues will feedback on same for future use across the county.



At the June Council Meeting, members of Wexford Comhairle na nÓg presented to Wexford County Council on **The Young People's Perspective on Vaping**, highlighting results of their Youth Survey with over 1700 secondary school students respondents. Our Healthy County Coordinator was delighted to attend to observe same.

Their survey report can be viewed here: <https://publuu.com/flip-book/163226/407230/page/1>

## **CELTIC ROUTES -**

Celtic Routes and in particular the Celtic Experience Collection are being extensively promoted via our social media channels in several travel writers and influencers:

### **Phase 3:**

- Mountain Molls, who visited Wales in March, has uploaded all of her agreed outputs. [Instagram here](#), [blog here](#).
- Lydia, who visited Wales in April, have uploaded all their agreed outputs on [Instagram here](#). They are also doing a YouTube vlog which the trip with be featured in, [keep an eye out for it here](#).
- Lauren Harwood has just completed her trip in Ireland, check out her [social media content here](#).
- Jessie Clayton of Tailor Made Adventures will be the final trip for phase 3 – the second Ireland trip began on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June. [Her social media here](#).



#### Phase 4:

- The winner of the social media competition, [Ebby Ferguson](#), who chose to visit Ireland from 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June. Her accommodation was booked and an itinerary planned.
- 2 Phase 4 influencer trips have been secured: [Steff & Ells](#) will be visiting Wales at the end of June. To Ireland, [Eva](#) will be visiting, likely beginning of July

The four Virtual Reality Headsets with Celtic Routes content will be distributed to the 4 Local Authority supported tourism entities within Wexford.

- The Project Officer attended and presented at the Ireland Wales Cooperation Fund Closure Event in Portmarnock in late June. This event was addressed by the First Minister of Wales, Mr. Mark Drakeford and Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and National Development Plan Delivery & Reform, with representatives from the EU Commission, in particular the Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy with responsibility for EU policy on regions and cities in attendance.
- Organisers of this meeting were the Managing Authority and Programme Partners of the Welsh European Funding Office and the Southern Regional Assembly in Waterford. The central highlight of the event was the cross-border collaboration between countries and between the Projects, with the Project Officers and Managers taking central stage.



- Detailed research and consultation is ongoing, formulating a legacy continuation option for presentation to the three Irish Partner Local Authorities in due course.
- The final video and photography contract will be awarded in the first week in July at a value of £65,000. All contracts must be finished and payments must be paid and defrayed by the 31<sup>st</sup> of August at the closure of the project.

#### **SPORTS ACTIVE -**

##### **International Yoga Day**

To celebrate international yoga day a series of yoga sessions were carried out.

Curraclloe Beach (21 participants, all female)

Chair Yoga, Astro Active Enniscorthy (18 participants, 6 male and 12 female)

New Ross Library (11 participants, all female)

Wexford Library (5 participants, all female)

## **Swimmin Women**

Swimmin Women will begin on Wednesday 28th of June in Bunclody Outdoor Pool from 7pm. Currently there are 13 women registered for the 8-week programme.

## **Playground Leaders**

Two Playground Leader Courses were conducted. One in Rathnure National School on the 13th of June and one in Castletown National School on the 15th of June as part of Active School Week.

Twenty participants attended Rathnure National School 12 girls and 8 boys. Seventeen participants attended Castletown National School, 9 girls and 7 boys.

## **Inclusive Physical Activity**

SAW delivered a series of inclusive physical activity sessions in Horeswood National School as part of their Active Week on Monday 19th of June. 79 children attended the sessions.

## **Activator Pole Launch**

Activators Poles have been launched in Enniscorthy Library on 7<sup>th</sup> of June. Launch was conducted along side an activator programme in Astro Active, Enniscorthy with five registered, all females. Activators Poles now ready to be leased out from each library.

## **Activator Pole Programme**

Activators Pole programme in commenced in Min Ryan Park on Tuesday the 6th of June with 10 participants (all female).

## **Enjoy Tennis**

Windmill Therapeutic Services completed their 10-week Enjoy Tennis on Wednesday June 14th. The programme is an inclusive tennis programme for adults with intellectual disabilities. Ten females attended this programme.

## **Watersports Inclusion Games**

The Watersports Inclusion Games will be held on the 24th and 25th of June in Wexford Harbour Boat and Tennis Club. This event is held by Irish Sailing. The event will have approx. 150 participants, including people with disabilities and from disadvantaged area.

## **Strong and Steady**

Strong and Steady will finish on Wednesday 28th of June. There are 5 to 7 participants in class each week. 2 males and 6 females.

## **Couch to 5km**

Couch to 5km programme in partnership with DMP Athletics and WLD ongoing. Based in DMP Athletics track, Sinnottstown with 20 participating (18 Female & 2 male).



## Social Soccer

A 6-week Social Soccer programme was launched in Courtown Direct Provision as part of Men's Health Week. The initial 3-weeks of the programme is focused on skilling up the men, the following 3-weeks is focused on integrating the men into their local club, Courtown Hibs. The programme will be completed with a tournament including teams from Courtown Hibs, Gardai, Fire Service and Rosslare Direct Provision. 11 men attended.

## Safeguarding

10 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 161 participants.  
3 x Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 27 participants



International Day of Yoga 2023 was held on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> June. Beach yoga was held at 7am on Curracloe Beach among other events.



6 week social soccer kicked off in Courtown Direct Provision as part of Men's Health Week

## ENVIRONMENT

# ENVIRONMENT

## A. COASTAL MATTERS

### Harbours -

In April 2022, Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) announced funding of 23 projects with a total construction cost of €1.4m in Co. Wexford under a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved a second tranche of funding in December 2022, with a total between first and second tranches of 25 projects with total construction cost of €1.79m. The DAFM funding has increased from 85% to 95%, with Wexford County Council paying the 5% match funding on construction. Note that WCC must pay all non-construction costs including design, environmental reports etc.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Consulting engineers are appointed to progress the detailed design. A planning application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála. This development is part of the above BALAMI scheme.

**Ports Past and Present:** There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists, and our project partners in University College Cork and two Welsh universities. This 4 year project started in 2019 and the official project end date is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

The annual Rosslare Harbour Maritime Festival will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Regular updates and further information are available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

Significant movements of sand have been experienced this winter particularly along the South and East Coasts of the County. The navigation channel in Wexford Harbour has been considerably affected. Regular dredging works are being carried out at Courtown Harbour.

## **Beaches –**

Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards: On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 An Taisce announced 8 blue flags and 10 green coast awards for County Wexford.

Blue Flag Beaches (6): Ballymoney, Morristown, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare Strand, Carne.

Blue Flag Marinas (2): Kilmore Quay and Three Sisters Marina, New Ross

Green Coast (10): Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, Rosslare Harbour, St Helen's, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, Booley Bay.

Bathing water: sampling started on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and continues throughout the bathing season. All results are posted on the beaches.ie website and incidents are published on this website.

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works. Wexford CC confirmed funding of €160,000 towards accessibility and age friendly improvement works which include the beach access and accessible toilets. Consultants are working on the detailed design of the improvement works to the access. Works on the accessible toilet started in April with completion over the coming weeks.

Rosslare Strand – Bearlough: 2 new disabled car spaces at the entrance to Rosslare Burrow Holiday Park are completed. These spaces will provide access to the beach along the new macadam path to Bearlough.

## **Coast -**

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

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being finalised. Flood and erosion options are being developed and it is expected that public consultation days will be held in the coming months.

The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at

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

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries. Public consultation days will be held later in 2023.

Seaview, Kilmore: emergency works to protect the access road were completed in Jan 2022. Ecological, bathymetric and seabed surveys on the overall coastal protection scheme are complete. University College Cork has completed the coastal modelling. A planning application is being prepared which will include coastal protection works and a new beach access, the application is being prepared for submission.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). A further public consultation notice was published in local paper and Irish Independent on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the application is under consideration by the DHLGH.

Kilmannock Drainage Scheme – this is a land reclamation and drainage scheme dating from mid 1800s; draining approx 1,000 acres of land near the Great Island Power Station. Environment Dept carried out clearance / maintenance works at the drainage embankment area in Dec 2022. Survey works at the outfall point to the River Suir were carried out in February 2023 to determine the operation of the outlet valves on the drainage system. Further works will be undertaken over the next few months to make the drainage scheme fully operational.

## **B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

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

### **1. Septic Tank Inspections:**

139 inspections were carried out in 2022. Wexford had a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2023. 42 inspections have taken place up to the end May with 28 passes and 14 fails. 37 further inspections have been pre booked for June/July 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 101 files were closed during 2022. 68 extensions of time were granted in 2022. There are currently 71 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 8 open for 2023, a total of 79 open cases. 40 files have been closed in 2023.

Twelve applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date of which nine have been processed for payment.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of inspections</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Closed in 2023</b>
2019	156	48	108	12	2
2020	111	38	73	8	2
2021	91	24	67	18	8
2022	139	50	89	23	18
2023	18	8	10	8	6

There are currently 13 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 7 of these are for hearing and 6 are currently for mention..

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

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 5 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 4 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange. 2018 have 5 open files with good progress on 3 of these, 2 are in court. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above.

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

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

## **3. Air Quality:**

Wexford County Council enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with Wexford County Council. These Certificates must be renewed every 3 years. On-going enforcement action is carried out to ensure sites remain certified. Wexford has a 100% compliance record in this regard for all 3 below categories in 2022.

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

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

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

### **No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:**

<b>Category of Facility</b>	<b>No. Issued in 2021</b>	<b>No. Issued in 2022</b>	<b>No. Issued in 2023 (to end May)</b>	<b>No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)</b>
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	15	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	9	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	N/A

A national working group was established in January 2021, to develop Guidance Documents for Local Authorities to assist with the implementation of new certifications to Petrol Stations under Stage 2 Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 2011.

Wexford County Council is co-chair of this group, along with Waterford County Council. The WG produced two separate Guidance Documents for Local Authorities, including specific guidance on processing certifications for Petrol Stations under Stage 1b Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 1997 and Stage 2 Petroleum Vapour Emissions Regulations 2011. Stage 2 certifications for relevant sites is required to be implemented, as are significant changes to Stage 1b certifications for all sites.

### **Low Smoke Fuel Areas**

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

## **4. Climate Action**

Preparation work on the development on the Local Authority Climate Action plan continued. The plan is required under the “The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021”. The plan will include both mitigation and adaptation measures. The plan will also include the development of a decarbonisation zone (DZ) which will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the proposed Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford. Minister Eamon Ryan requested Wexford County Council to commence its Climate Action plan on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with 12 months to prepare, complete and fully adopt the plan.

The Plan will set an ambitious target of 50% energy efficiency by 2030 and an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51%. Wexford County Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing, facilitating and advocating others to meet their own targets.

A significant element of the Climate Action Plan is to encourage the public and various stakeholder groups to contribute to the preparation of the plan. A stakeholder engagement event is being organised for 1<sup>st</sup> June at Wexford County Council Headquarters and will cover the themes of Agriculture, Biodiversity and Food, Transport and Energy. The Climate Action Team promoted the event on South East Radio with Alan Corcoran on the Morning Mix. An online climate action survey and public consultation portal were launched on the Wexford County Council website inviting the public to have their say and contribute to the preparation of the Climate Action Plan.

[Link for portal - Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan \(LACAP\) | Wexford County Council Online Consultation Portal \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](#)

Submissions were also invited through a dedicated climate action email or to be posted in.  
[Climate action online survey - https://arcg.is/1C1TqL](https://arcg.is/1C1TqL)

Five stakeholder engagement workshops were held for secondary school students inviting and facilitating their ideas and input into the plan. Nearly 50% of all secondary schools were represented.

Wexford County Council took part in the Reduce your Use campaign. This mandatory initiative through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) aims to reduce the public sector's energy consumption over the winter period by 15% to help combat rising energy costs and reduce emissions.

Wexford County Council continues to support communities and householders in their work towards climate action and sustainability. Two Home Energy Information sessions were held to support householders in becoming more energy efficient and energy aware. The 1<sup>st</sup> session was presented by Fiona O'Loughlin, Sustainable energy Communities (SEC) mentor and Sustainability consultant. The second workshop was facilitated by the South east Energy Agency and supported by Wexford County Council in Wexford library on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The workshop was delivered through the Community Energy Hub to support community groups and individuals to turn their energy efficiency project ideas into reality. The project will develop practical learning tools to address the challenge of energy efficiency in homes and community buildings. This is a project in partnership with the Wexford County Council. Wexford County Council through a MOU continues to provide Bridge funding for finance applied to the SEAI for the Sustainable Energy Communities.

Wexford County Council is involved in two Creative Climate projects to raise awareness and promote behavioural change. The first project through the Wexford County Council Arts Office is on the theme of the pilot Decarbonisation Zone in Enniscorthy and the project will be exhibited in the Presentation Centre in Enniscorthy in June and July. As part of the project a Biodiversity walk took place on 25<sup>th</sup> May in Enniscorthy where Catherine Keena from Teagasc gave an overview of the importance of hedgerows for Biodiversity and carbon Sequestration. The second project is called Líníte na Farraige and is through the Creative Climate Fund and is in collaboration with the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and third level institutions. Líníte na Farraige is a series of light installations across Irish coastal sites. The lines of light represent future sea level rise, based on predictions from the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, and historic storm surge data. The installations, designed by artists Timo Aho and Pekka Niittyvirta, demonstrate the need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt together to protect our coastlines, communities, and infrastructure from the effects of climate change. Its aim is to connect the public visually to the risks from future sea level.

## **5. Agriculture:**

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

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

A total of 95 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed.

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

## 6. Planning

The Environment Section makes an assessment and recommendations on planning applications relating to the environmental aspects of the application.

The main issues regarding the impact of planning on the environment which have arisen in recent years are as follows:

- 1) Density of housing.
- 2) Applications for extensions and upgrades of existing houses on sites where the soil is unsuitable for discharge of wastewater via a domestic wastewater treatment system.
- 3) Applications for detached granny flats and other detached ancillary accommodation.

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, 509 files were referred to Environment from the Planning Department.

### Q1. Breakdown of planning applications referred from Planning January-March 2023

Single dwellings	Commercial	Discharge/ glamping	Housing estates	Schools	Solar Farms	Sports	Agricultural	Compliance assessments
145	21	2	9	9	3	3	17	39

## D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. New Recycling Items

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

### 2. Food Waste

The Food Waste Regulations 2013 are in force in all towns with >500 population. They impose obligations on Waste Collectors and householders. Collectors must provide separate bins for collection of food waste and householders must segregate their waste by either using "brown bins" provided by their waste collection company; composting at home, bearing in mind that certain food wastes cannot be composted, or bringing it to an authorised facility.

Householders in all towns and villages to whom the regulations apply were visited by Council staff as part of our ongoing information campaign. Food waste is now accepted at all four household recycling centres. The locations where the food waste regulations apply are outlined on map which shall be uploaded to the council's website shortly. Food waste inspections without notification are currently being carried out with householders and commercial businesses.



### 3. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites May 2023	Recycling out (End May) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End May) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles		1549	1512
Aluminium Cans		39	38
Total	108	1588	1550

#### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-May 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- May 2022	Recycling out Jan - May 2023	Recycling out Jan-May 2022	Recycling out Jan-May 2023
Total Recycling out	246	251	275	270	359	359	214	202
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1004	1266	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-May	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	69	68	111	114	120	148	76.3	80

### 4. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end May 2022	May 2023	To end May 2023	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	1,254	184	1,033	-17.6%
Gorey *		45		
Enniscorthy *		44		
Wexford *		42		
New Ross*		31		
Rosslare		22		
Total Bring Site Inspections	4,086	733	4,417	+8%

<i>Gorey</i>		<i>181</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>178</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>218</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>105</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>43</i>		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>7,458</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>398</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>940</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>+8.4%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>144</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>247</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>224</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>178</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>59</i>		

## 5. Waste Facility Permits:

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

Altogether there are 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County. There are 4 renewal applications being processed at present.

## 6. Enforcement:

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

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

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,

- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

## E. LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-MAY 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	100
Fines Paid in Full●	111	28
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	50
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	8
Legal Proceedings In Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	51
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€3843 litter / €1,375 Waste – total €5,218.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€1700

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

### March 2023:

Two successful litter prosecutions were heard in Gorey District Court in March, 2023 whereby a total of €400 in fines were awarded and a total of €500 in costs to Wexford County Council.

### April 2023:

In Gorey District Court the Council had two successful prosecutions under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2018 whereby each party received a fine of €150 and costs of €300 were awarded.

### May 2023:

In Gorey District Court the judge awarded €500 of a fine and €250 contribution towards Legal costs to Wexford County Council for a litter case. Three parties prior to court complied with agreements made to pay their fines, Legal costs or to provide proofs before hearing and were therefore struck from the hearing list in May 2023.

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

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

## Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2023(May)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
<b>2023</b>	100	9	1046 (to date)
<b>2022</b>	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
<b>2021</b>	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
<b>2020</b>	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
<b>2019</b>	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
<b>2018</b>	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
<b>2017</b>	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
<b>2016</b>	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
<b>2015</b>	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
<b>2014</b>	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
<b>2013</b>	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
<b>2012</b>	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
<b>2011</b>	209	17	1,329
<b>2010</b>	370	27	1,338

## F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – April 2023
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>3896</b>	<b>1577</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>4568</b>	<b>4736</b>	<b>4876</b>	<b>3333</b>	<b>1229</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>78%</b>

## Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023 (February) – May unavailable
Dogs collected	532	429	546	165
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117	34
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370	118
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51	17
Dog Fines	5	18	21	11

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

To date in 2023 two horses has been seized.

## Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** 32 schools were awarded their green flag at an Awards Ceremony in Kilkenny on May 10<sup>th</sup>. St Edan's NS, Ferns, New Ross Educate Together National School and Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy received their first Green Flag on the Litter & Waste theme. This year 3 schools were awarded on the Water flag; 7 schools on Travel; 8 schools on Biodiversity; 4 schools on Global Citizenship Litter & Waste; 3 schools on Global Citizenship Energy, 3 schools on Global Citizenship Marine Environment and 1 school on Global Citizenship Travel. Great work has been completed by all the schools.



**Climate Action School Workshops:** 5 secondary schools participated in the Rubbish Film Festival as a pilot and due to its success we will continue in September with another 5-6 secondary schools. Each school creates a short 1 minute film and a poster on an environmental issue of their choice. 5 secondary schools participated this year and a County Award of Best Film, Best Runner Up Film and Best Poster was chosen. The County winners were announced on April 18<sup>th</sup> online. Colaiste an Atha received Best Film Award for their film 'You Can't Run and Selskar College win Best Runner Up Film for their film 'Would You Like it'. Gorey Community School received the award for Best

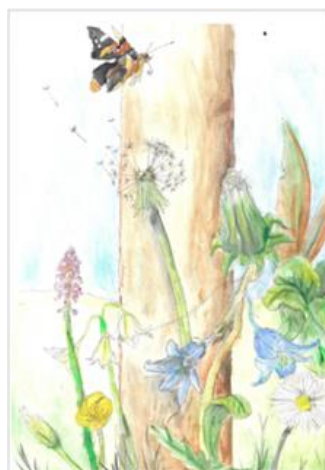
Poster. The County winners were forwarded to the National Awards which were held on the 3rd May in Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co Meath.

**Linte Na Farraige Workshop:** A Linte na Farraige (Lines of the Sea Project) workshop was held with students from Presentation Secondary School. The workshop was facilitated by the Caro (Climate Action Regional Office) and Trinity researchers and is based around a game idapt.

**Annual Artwork Competition:** The awards for the annual artwork competition took place on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The artwork competition is an initiative run by the Environment Section of Wexford County Council in conjunction with Wexford Naturalists' Field Club. The theme of this year's competition was 'Wildflowers.' Councillor George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council, presented prizes to 40 school children representing both primary and secondary schools.




Overall Secondary School Winner  
Mikolaj Perek,  
Colaiste an Átha, Kilmuckridge



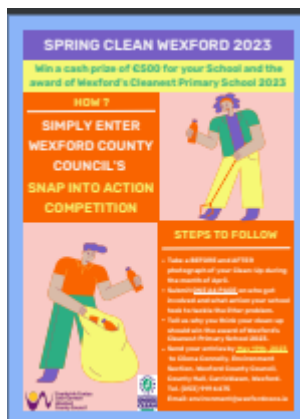
Overall Primary School Winner  
Conan Kelly  
Wexford Educate Together NS

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

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	1 <sup>st</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	93
	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	566

**National Spring Clean:** Registrations closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April for An Taisce's National Spring Clean.

**Snap Into Action Competition:** Closing date for the Snap Into Action Competitions was May 19<sup>th</sup>. Prizes were presented by Cathaoirleach George Lawlor on May 25<sup>th</sup> in the County Hall.



This competition encourages people from all walks of life to take action against litter.

Kilmyshall National School received first prize in the Snap Into Action School Competition and received a prize for €500.

Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group were the winners in the Snap Into Action Community Group Competition and received a prize of €500. Enniscorthy Community Allotments, Enniscorthy Tidy Towns and Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns were presented with runner up award of €250.

**Community Engagement:** A family drop-in session on Waste Prevention, household recycling and waste segregation took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May in Enniscorthy Library from 10.30 – 11.30 am.

**Heritage Stewardship Fund:** Application was submitted for a baseline hedgerow survey of Co. Wexford to the Heritage Council under the Heritage Stewardship Fund. Our application was successful with an award of €27,675. Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants were awarded the contract and a team of ecologist are due to start surveying early June.

### **National food Waste Recycling Week:**

Councillor George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council officially launched National Food Waste Recycling Week at County Hall on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Now in its second year, the National Food Waste Recycling Week will run from the 5<sup>th</sup> until the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The campaign is being managed by MyWaste, supported by Local Authorities and funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

This year's campaign aims to ensure that people understand that food waste needs to be fully separated from all packaging such as plastic or other containers to prevent contamination at the compost and anaerobic digestion facilities leading to higher quality recycling.

Events will be held locally and nationwide to highlight National Food Waste Recycling Week 2023.

### Local Events

Free Food Waste Kitchen Pack Distribution Events at the following locations, on the below dates between 10 am - 12 noon & 1 pm – 3 pm

- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Gorey Household Recycling Centre
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June - Enniscorthy Household Recycling Centre
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June - Holmestown Household Recycling Centre
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June - New Ross Recycling centre, Hewittsland

At the above events, subject to availability, attendees will receive a food waste caddy, each with a starter pack of caddy liners and an information leaflet.



For more information on the National Food Waste Recycling Week 2023, see [www.mywaste.ie/national-food-waste-recycling-week/](http://www.mywaste.ie/national-food-waste-recycling-week/)

**Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign:** The 'Bag It Bin It' will be reinforced by a social media campaign to run from early March. The campaign is set to firmly emphasize that dog fouling is your responsibility as a dog owner. The campaign will address a range of issues surrounding dog fouling, from its effect on the public who use our streets, parks, and beaches, to attitudes to cleaning up as dog owners, from health issues to civic pride. The campaign will reach across social media and local community groups and Tidy Towns groups will be asked to share images on social media.



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

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

### Libraries, Archives and Arts Report to Wexford County Council, July 2023

#### CE Report

#### Community and Culture

#### Your Council Day 2023

Members of the public were invited to call into all Wexford Library branches on Friday June 23rd to take a closer look at the services we offer. Special story-times were offered and staff highlighted library resources and services, including library tablets, literacy programmes and eResources. MicroBit demonstrations were given and Lego and 3D printing promoted. Gorey Library held My Open Library Inductions. New Ross Library promoted My Open Library, the Magic Table, Sensory toys and boardgames. On the day all branches saw new members join the library and children register for our Summer Stars Reading Adventure.

#### Public Consultation Strategy for the Wexford Town Local Area Plan:

A drop-in clinic for the public consultation stage of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan was held in Wexford Library on Wednesday 14th June 10:30am-1.30pm.

#### Empathy Day 8<sup>th</sup> June, World Refugee Day 20<sup>th</sup> June

This June Wexford Libraries supported World Empathy Day. There were great free resources and videos to support the day. Early years and library toolkits for Empathy Day were sent to all

branches and mobile libraries for distribution to schools and individuals. Libraries created empathy-focused book displays, and book promotion by asking children to recommend books that make them see things through the eyes of another person.

Books collected for Empathy Day tied in with titles for World Refugee Day 2023 on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the international day to honour people forced to flee from their homes. To mark World Refugee Day Gorey Library facilitated a gathering of Ukrainian nationals and asylum seekers of various nationalities on June 23<sup>rd</sup> for an information session given by Director of Service Amanda Byrne. Held in association with John Kelly and Wexford Local Development, the emphasis was on voting rights and the process of voting in local elections.

### **No Twixing or Crossing: Book Launch**

Transcribed and interpreted by artist/folklorist Michael Fortune from conversations with a group of Traveller Women from Bunclody, this collection of superstitions, beliefs, practices, rituals, cures, verses, and stories from Bunclody was officially launched by Councillor Aidan Browne, Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District in Bunclody Library during the month. This project was funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

### **Local History**

A total number of 37 local history requests, comprising of 18 local studies enquiries and 19 genealogy enquiries were completed and responded in June.

### **Decade of Centenaries**

In 'Reflections on the Irish Civil War in County Wexford from March 1923', Barry Lacey, Historian in Residence spoke in Bunclody, New Ross and Enniscorthy branches about the incidents that took place in Wexford during March 1923 as part of the Civil War. Barry reviewed how the incidents were reported in the local newspapers of the time.

**Virtual Tour of Downtown New Ross 1923:** With Myles Courtney (New Ross Street Focus) this was held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June in New Ross Library and discussed history hidden in plain sight with stories of people, places and events along the route.

**Crown and Harp:** On June 17<sup>th</sup> David McCullagh, journalist, author and presenter with RTÉ, presented a talk in Gorey Library entitled 'Crown and Harp: from Free State to Republic' where he discussed the events which led to the Civil War and further on to its eventual resolution. Starting with the Treaty and the split that led to Civil War, he then looked at how the Treaty was dismantled initially by Cosgrave and then by de Valera, and finally the declaration of the Republic in 1948.

### **Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library**

#### **Summer Stars Reading Adventure**

Summer Stars 2023 got off to a great start in all Wexford Libraries on Monday June 12<sup>th</sup>. Summer Stars, supported by local schools and education practitioners, has become an important summer library initiative. It encourages children to keep reading while on their summer break from school which helps to maintain and improve their reading skills. Children receive a reading card and collect incentives for reading books throughout the summer months. Every child taking part will receive a Summer Stars certificate of achievement.

The value of Summer Stars has been highlighted in the recent report by the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, **PIRLS**, which is one of the core studies of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). The reading skills of hundreds of thousands of children across almost 60 countries were tested and Ireland placed second in the international league table, just behind Singapore.

### **New Collection for Children**

Wexford Library Service has put together a pilot collection of books to support engagement with children from the Traveller and Roma communities in Wexford. A selection of fiction and non-fiction books (35 titles per set) will be available to borrow from Wexford and Bunclody library branches. The level of education attained by the Traveller Community is significantly below that of the general population. Education is a key factor in socio-economic advancement and literacy is a key factor in education. Literacy development is supported by promoting an interest in, and enjoyment of books, and by offering access to a wide range of reading material that will appeal to the children's interests. It can be challenging to find books to reflect the Traveller and Roma ways of life and traditions, but books are a valuable resource to help libraries connect with marginalised families in their local communities. The initiative offers an excellent opportunity to make connections, strengthen existing relationships, and support partnerships. It is hoped that the children who read these books will be encouraged to participate in the Summer Stars Reading Adventure in Wexford and Bunclody libraries.

### **My Little Library Book Bags**

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. The initiative sees every child in Ireland starting school this September receive 3 books and a bag of resources. It was launched at Bloom Festival over the June Bank Holiday weekend. Wexford Library Services has worked with our partners in the Wexford County Childcare Committee, TUSLA and CYPSC to identify all the children due to start Primary School in 2023. The My Little Library Book Bags have been distributed and delivered to our 5 branches. Invitations to collect the bags have issued via our network partners and a nationwide media and social media campaign. Collection has been brisk. Each child receives a library card wallet and families are encouraged to join the library if not already members.

### **Supporting your child's transition from pre-school to primary School**

This National Parents Council workshop with practical hints, tips, and information for parents to use at home and in everyday life with their child was held in Wexford Branch.

### **Book Launches**

There were two book launches in Wexford Branch in June; Margaret Galvin with 'Our House, Delirious', a poetry and prose collection and Mary Beary with her revised collection of poems from her book 'Healing: The Long Road Back'.

## Learning and Information

### Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Sports Active Wexford held an introductory programme to using Activator Poles in the Astro Active Centre, Enniscorthy. There were four sessions in total. Activator Poles are now available for library members to borrow from New Ross, Wexford and Enniscorthy Library.

### International Yoga Day. Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June

To celebrate International Yoga Day, New Ross and Wexford libraries hosted a gentle beginners' yoga class for adults in association with Sports Active Wexford.

### IT Literacy

A drop-in information session for members of the public with queries or needing help downloading and logging into BorrowBox on their own device, was held during June. BorrowBox is a free app available to library members, it allows members to borrow and read or listen to eBooks and eAudiobooks.

A Digital Ambassador Clinic in Bunclody Library helped participants to familiarise themselves with their digital devices.

### Literacy Support Programmes

A range of literacy support programmes provided to schools and the community by the library include: TTRS, Nessy Reading and Spelling, Reading Eggs, Mathseeds, Times Table Rock Stars. All literacy and numeracy programmes are in great demand by the public and primary and secondary schools. LOTE4Kids is also being promoted particularly to Ukrainian Nationals.

## Environment and Climate Action

### Home Energy Kit.

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

**Digital Radon Monitors:** Introduced in early January 2020 in conjunction with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) digital Radon Monitors are currently available free to library members in all five library branches in the county.

## Creative Ireland

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of celebration and free creativity for children and young people under the age of 18. It took place on June 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Part of Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth plan it is delivered in partnership with 31 Local Authorities and supported by RTÉ.

Spinning Plates, circus skills workshops, Anyone 4 Science, Creative Writing, costume, puppetry and mask making, Sew Fun 'Create a Tapestry' Workshops and Claymazing ocean themed workshops all took place in various library branches this year for Cruinniú na nÓg. Moo Music, paper crafts with Grace, a dance workshop and live performance with Becci Whelan Artistic Director of 2 Many Dance Moves and 'The Explorer of the Imagination' Theatre Performance completed the line up on the day.

## Our FABulous Place:

A collection of new writing and a short film celebrating and reflecting on life in the Coolcotts area of Wexford Town was launched in Wexford Branch by An Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council, Cllr. George Lawlor on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of June in the presence of Mayor of Wexford Cllr. Maura Bell. This project was supported by Creative Ireland under the Creativity in Older Age Programme.

## ARCHIVES

### Collections Management

In addition to 36 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 6 researchers visited the Archive during June, three of whom made 3 return visits. Research topics included a study of a diary written by Richard Lawlor from Tacumshane of his 3½ year voyage on board the SS 'Orbita' (1915-18); Church of Ireland notifications in the *Wexford Evening Post* newspapers (1826-29); research through local newspapers for a GAA history of Camross-Taghmon club (1950s-80s); research on Dr Michael O'Leary, Medical Officer of Carrigbyrne dispensary (1932-43) through Board of Health minute books; research through the 1886 OS maps for the town of New Ross.

### Outreach

To coincide with the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1798 in County Wexford, the Archive presented a large, printed copy of two historic paintings by Fr Edward Foran of the Battle of Three Rocks (Forth Mountain) and the Battle of Oulart Hill for display to both venues in late May/early June for their respective commemorations.

## ARTS

### Living Arts in School Programme 2023-24.

This programme sees four primary schools around the county being selected for a 15/8 week visual art residency with a lead and assistant visual artists. The selection panel met in June and the schools selected were St. Aidan's Parish School, Enniscorthy, St Annes National School, Rathangan, Gaelscoil Moshíológ, Gorey and Scoil Chroi, Ballymurn. The lead artists consist of Kate Murphy, David Begley, Deirdre Buttimer & Caoimhe Dunn. They will begin the new residency in schools during October 2023.

### Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2023 recipients:

**Enniscorthy Street Rhythms and Dance Festival** – a festival of culture and heritage through music and Dance which took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June in Enniscorthy town.

**Irish-Polish Folk Night, Polska Éire Festival 2023** in Gorey celebrated the Polish Arts and culture on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June which included drama workshops, film screening followed by Q&A with the polish actors & directors in the and a fashion show and family entertainment in the Civil Square, Gorey.

**Jazz at Johnstown** - The biggest outdoor jazz festival in the South East took place in Wexford across three days from June 23 to June 25. Over 14 bands and 35 musicians from throughout the country took part in the third outdoor Jazz at Johnstown festival.

## **‘Creative Places’ major Arts Council award to Enniscorthy Town**

The Presentation Arts centre in Enniscorthy in partnership with the Arts Department and Enniscorthy Municipal District has been awarded a major Arts Council grant of €330,000 over the next 4 years 2023-2026 to develop creative programmes in the town in partnership with local communities and key stakeholders. Four local authorities were awarded Creative Places funding in 2023 following a national open call out and competitive selection process. The focus of Creative Places Enniscorthy will be on themes of sustainability and climate action, and it aims to build on the momentum and networks developed locally through the Reimagining Enniscorthy public art programme 2022- 2023. A steering committee is meeting in June and a part time coordinator will be engaged over the coming months to drive the programme in consultation with local communities.

**Reimagining Enniscorthy Exhibition opening** - Reimagining Enniscorthy is public art & community decarbonisation project, that took place in 2022-23 throughout Enniscorthy town. The Reimagining Enniscorthy final Exhibition/Showcase opened 17<sup>th</sup> June and will run until 1<sup>st</sup> July in the Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy. Funded through Creative Ireland the Per cent for art programme.

## **Artists Supports**

**Tyrone Guthrie** - Two bursaries for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre for 2023 have been awarded to visual artist Olivia O'Dwyer and playwright Megan O'Malley. This award enables two artists in all art forms who are resident in County Wexford to spend two weeks at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a two-week period, the use of a studio, and a stipend of €300 towards expenses.

**Drama League of Ireland Scholarships**, The Arts Department announced the provision of two scholarships for the Drama League of Ireland's Residential Summer School which takes place at the University of Limerick from 22nd to 29th July 2023 has been awarded to Kathleen Byrne (The Wayside Players Blackwater) and Elaine Jordan (Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group).

**Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme** – Wexford writers, Caroline Lawless and Joy Redmond, have been selected by the Irish Writers Centre to receive professional literary mentoring over the next eight months from acclaimed Irish writers of their choice.

## **Music Generation Wexford June highlights**

**Primary School Programmes** 24 primary schools continue to work with Music Generation and their team of musicians within the school over the academic year. In addition, the following out of school programmes took place or are ongoing.

**Uke ‘N’ Sing** to celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg 2023 a free workshop for ages 10 up to 18 years old held on 10th June and followed by a fun performance for an audience in The Presentation Arts Centre Enniscorthy. The performance was showcased as part of the Wexford Cruinniú na nÓg programme.

**Cruinniú na nÓg / Trad Jam involving over 40 young people** took place Sat 10 June Medieval Ringfort, Irish National Heritage Park. This was part of the Wexford Cruinniú na nÓg programme 2023 delivered in partnership with Creative Ireland.

### **‘Seedlings’ Music Generation Youth Opera**

Intensive rehearsals are ongoing for month of June for new youth Opera which has been devised in collaboration with the young people attending Music Generation Wexford’s Opera workshops, written and directed by Elizabeth Drwal and composed by Andrew Synnott. That storyline was devised by the young people over the past year and focuses on the theme of Climate change. Seedlings consists of a cast of over 30 young people from Wexford. This opera opens on Fri 14<sup>th</sup> July in the National opera House O Reilly Theatre.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

### **Civil Defence – Operations / Training Report July 2023**

#### **Civic Duties:**

- **July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**– Relay for life 24hr event – Parc Charman- Ambulance cover
- **July 13<sup>th</sup>** - Bannow & Rathangan Show- Killag- Medical & Ambulance cover.
- **July 29<sup>th</sup>** – Courtown Colour Run- Courtown- Ambulance Cover

#### **Weekly Training**

- Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.
- Training includes FAR- new & recerts, CFR- New & Recerts, Water Awareness & Swiftwater Food Responder- New & Recerts. Patient Handling new & recerts
- Child Protection & CISM training for each unit- Gorey & New Ross completed. Wexford units remain.
- Boat & Sonar training July 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>
- July 11<sup>th</sup> VEMS training CDO & ACDO to attend.

#### **Patient / Public Transports**

Transport continues because of involvement during Covid, also persons having no other means of attending appointments. 2 x transports booked so far for July.

#### **Ukrainian Refugee Supports**

We remain available for transport duties.

#### **Volunteer Recruitment**

- Interviews completed June 17<sup>th</sup>. 15 new recruits. Induction & Manual Handling training commences July.

#### **New Headquarters**

- Plans for new building for Wexford Civil Defence are progressing.



## FIRE SERVICES

### Wexford Fire Service Report May 2023

#### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls May 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1 / 1 (2)	47	48
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1 / 4 (5)	32	22
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	4	1
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	1	0
Flats (2) Privately Owned	2	2	4
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	0	1
School	0	0	3
Other Institution	0	1	1
Factory	0	2	2
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	1	2	8
Shop/Supermarket	0	1	0
Office	0	1	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0
Restaurant	1	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	0
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	2	10	22
Unoccupied Building	0	4	0
Agriculture Business	2	2	5
Forest/Bog/Grass	10	38	29
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	4	1
Outdoor Storage	1	1	4
Outdoor Rubbish	2	13	9
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	1	6	3
Gas/Chemicals	0	1	3
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	2	17	14
Other rescue	5	18	28
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	1	2
Road traffic accident	20	61	72
Water pumping/flooding	1	2	1

Incident Type	Calls May 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	19	98	113
Malicious	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>399</b>

### Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	22	7	9	8	2	48
Other Fire in House	4	3	8	8	0	22
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	0	0	0	0	1
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	0	0	1	0	4
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	0	0	0	0	1
School	0	0	3	0	0	3
Other Institution	1	0	0	0	0	1
Factory	0	0	1	1	0	2
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	4	1	3	0	8
Shop/Supermarket	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public House ( incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	8	5	4	4	1	22
Unoccupied Building	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture Business	1	2	1	0	1	5
Forest/Bog/Grass	7	8	4	2	8	29
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1	0	0	0	0	1
Outdoor Storage	1	0	2	1	0	4
Outdoor Rubbish	3	1	4	1	0	9

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	1	2	0	0	0	3
Gas/Chemicals	1	2	0	0	0	3
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1	3	4	5	1	14
Other rescue	17	5	4	1	1	28
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	2	0	0	0	0	2
Road traffic accident	29	14	16	10	3	72
Water pumping/flooding	1	0	0	0	0	1
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	36	25	26	21	5	113
Malicious	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>399</b>

### Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in May 2023:	16
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	62
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	57

## Finance:

### Budget 2024

Preliminary work will commence in the coming weeks on the preparation of the 2024 budget. There will be no decision required by members to vary the LPT rate for 2024.

Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, states that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022 provided updated requirements for local authorities who may wish to vary their local property tax rates for a specified period, in accordance with section 20 of the Act. At the Council meeting in September 2022 members approved the adoption of a Local Adjustment Factor to vary the LPT rate by + 15% for a period of 2 years i.e. 2023 and 2024.

Therefore, the next decision of the council in respect of a local adjustment factor for the Local Property Tax and the associated public consultation process will not need to be undertaken until August/September 2024 in advance of the 2025 Budget process.

### Vacant Homes Tax (VHT)

The Minister for Finance announced the introduction of a **Vacant Homes Tax** (VHT) in his Budget statement on 27 September 2022. The legislation providing for VHT is contained in Part 22B of

the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. This legislation was introduced in the Finance Act 2022 and the first chargeable period for VHT will be 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. The amount of VHT chargeable for this period is three times the basic rate of LPT payable for 2023. The Local Adjustment Factor (LAF) does not apply to the Vacant Home Tax.

VHT will be a self-assessed tax and it will be the responsibility of the property owner to assess their liability and submit a VHT return for their property to Revenue where they deem a liability to exist. Where a property owner assesses that they have no liability for a vacant property in their ownership they are required to gather and retain evidence of their reasons for making this assessment as they may still be asked by Revenue to justify the reason for determining there is no liability. The Revenue website indicates that the evidence must be kept for a period of six years commencing from the end of the year in which the chargeable period ends or the date of completion of any enquiries made by Revenue.

VHT is an annual tax that applies to residential properties in use as a dwelling for less than 30 days in a 12-month chargeable period. An exemption may be available in certain circumstances. Any liability to VHT is in addition to a liability to LPT. Further details on the Vacant Homes Tax are available at [Vacant Homes Tax \(VHT\) \(revenue.ie\)](https://www.revenue.ie/en/vht/)

At the moment the Council have not been notified of any role in the determination of VHT and no information has been received about any additional income that might arise from this tax for local government. Members will be kept informed as soon as any such information comes to hand.

### **Audit of Accounts 2022**

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Local Government Auditor will formally commence the Audit of Wexford County Council Accounts for 2022.

### **Audit Committee**

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> September. At the June meeting the Audit Committee reviewed the 2022 Annual Financial Statement and associated reports and it is expected that the agenda for the next meeting will include a meeting with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the findings of the 2022 Audit and the contents of the 2022 Statutory Audit Report.

### **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 31st December, 2023.

***Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.***