



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**June 2021**

# Economic Development & Planning:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

**Small Business Assistance Scheme For Covid Q1** - Scheme closed on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Current Figures on SBASC for Q1 2021 show 144 businesses in County Wexford applied for funding of €472,000.

DATE 26 May 2021	22-May-2020 to 26-May-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME COVID STATISTICS		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	2	€8,000.00
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	2	€8,000.00
APPLICATIONS PAID	114	€456,000.00
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	26	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	144	€472,000.00

## Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid Q2

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May, The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD, extended eligibility for the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) to include businesses operating from a **non-rateable premises**. The scheme will widen the number of eligible SME's who can avail of support including:

- **businesses operating from a non-rateable premises such as a home office or hot-desk now eligible for help with fixed costs**
- **self-employed working from home, wedding planners, on-course bookmakers, travel counsellors and photographers among those expected to benefit**

The Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) is for businesses that are down 75% or more of turnover and are not eligible for CRSS or other sector specific grants.

The extension of eligibility for the SBASC to businesses operating from non-rateable premises will assist in defraying ongoing fixed costs. Such costs can include utilities, maintenance of equipment and mobile business, security, IT systems fees, storage, legal and accountancy and costs required to provide a safe working environment.

Business will be asked to declare that they intend to resume trading in full once government COVID-19 restrictions are eased. The Economic Department is currently awaiting details and will then commence a communications campaign. Those who applied under Phase 1 are still eligible to apply for a second payment of €4,000 if they continue to meet the criteria. Closing date for Phase 2 applications will be 21<sup>st</sup> July.



## Town and Village 2021 - Expressions of Interest Call

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

The Economic Department hosted an Information Workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> May, for communities. The measures that will be supported by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 include:

Tackling dereliction in town centres, turning vacant properties into remote working facilities and enterprise, cultural tourism and community hubs, supporting local authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns to attract remote workers to their county, upgrade and improve shop fronts on main streets, projects that support and enhance the night time economy and add vibrancy to town centres.

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

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

Details of the 2021 Scheme, online Expression of Interest application form and "*A Framework for Town Centre Renewal*" can be downloaded from the following link:

[www.wexfordcoco.ie/town&villagerenewal2021](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/town&villagerenewal2021)

## Connected Hub Funding Call 2021

This Connected Hub funding call is intended to develop and leverage the capacity and quality of **existing remote working facilities & Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)** in support of the National Hub Network initiative.

The fund will provide grants from €10,000, up to €75,000 for single hubs and up to €250,000 for multi-hub applications for the expansion or improvement of existing remote working facilities and BCP's including:

- Investment in hot-desks, office spaces and meeting rooms to promote remote working,
- Electric car charging points, upgrades to disability access and IT improvements.

Multi-hub projects: must have a minimum of 5 participating hubs/ BCPs. There is no upper limit on the number of hubs. Projects funded through this call must be completed before the end of 2021 and applications must demonstrate credible project timelines to this effect or they will be deemed ineligible.

Wexford County Council invited Expressions of Interest from applicants who may have a suitable project for consideration under the Scheme.

Funding will be awarded under the Connected Hub Call, following a competitive process and final project evaluation, by the Department of Rural and Community Development on the basis of proposals submitted.

A Scheme Outline, FAQ Document, Single Hub Application form, Multi Hub Application form can be downloaded from the following link: [www.wexfordcoco.ie/connectedhubs](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/connectedhubs)  
Closing date for applications is **17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**

## Funding

To assist with reopening the economy, the government has announced a range of funding schemes including supporting towns for outdoor dining capacity, urban animation schemes to support towns as tourism destinations, performance infrastructure and outdoor events. The Economic Department is currently working with a number of stakeholders to support submissions for Wexford.

## County Final – Student Enterprise Awards Programme

With 29,000 students nationally taking part in the Student Enterprise Programme, students from Wexford have taken four awards at the National Final. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative were broadcast virtually on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May from Croke Park with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Ambassador Derval O'Rourke speaking with host RTE's Rick O'Shea, as students and teachers watched on from across the country.

Lauren Williams, Bridgetown College won a 'Special Merit Award' in the intellectual property category and also the 'Best Commercial Potential' award in the senior category. Her business 'Irish Sea Mist' produces a wonderful range of seawater-based face mists made from natural ingredients.



**Cllr. Ger Carthy – Chairman WCC Presentation to SEP National Award Winner Lauren Williams, Bridgetown College.**

Grace and Issy Walsh are twin sisters whose business ‘2 Peas in a Pod’ produced a fun card-matching game for players of all ages that also promotes tourism. Peas in a Pod came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the overall junior category of the national competition. They also won an ‘Extra Special Merit Award for Excellence in Marketing’.



**Cllr. Ger Carthy – Chairman WCC Presentation to SEP National Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winners, Grace & Issy Walsh, St. Mary’s Secondary School New Ross.**

### **Women in Business Network**

The pandemic and the move to online have changed consumer behaviour. Has it changed forever? This question and more was answered by Grace Binchy, Bord Bia’s consumer trends specialist, at the LEO Wexford’s Women in Business Network held 27<sup>th</sup> May. As commerce has gone digital at unprecedented levels – 10 years’ gains in about three months, according to McKinsey research – buying and selling has changed. People have become used to staying indoors, relying on home-based screens for entertainment and retail.



### **Trading Online Voucher Survey**

Local Enterprise Offices nationwide are working with Frontline Consultants to undertake an evaluation of the Trading Online Voucher (TOV) Scheme to help inform the future of the Scheme and to ensure that it meets the needs of our clients as digitalisation is a key element of the LEO programme.



## Green for Micro

The Green for Micro programme is also available to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon economy to become more resource efficient for the future. LEO Wexford is now accepting applications for any SME with less than 10 employees that meet the criteria.



## Tourism



The very popular TV series Tracks & Trails is back on our screens for a ninth series this summer. Series Nine will consist of five episodes, and Wexford County Council in partnership with Visit Wexford have developed two of the programmes.

The Wexford episodes are scheduled for broadcast on RTÉ1 on Friday 18th June & Friday 25th June at 7.30pm

Both shows will be presented by the award-winning travel writer Pól Ó Conghaile who is the travel editor for INM's Independent.ie and Weekend Magazine, Pól also writes and shoots for the National Geographic Traveller.



These episodes in the series will showcase beautiful new or extended routes for everyone who wants to get outside, and the presenter will also meet some wonderful guests along the way. There is an emphasis, in this series on the health and well-being benefits associated with getting outside, and spending time in nature.

Episode 4. will begin in Ferrycarrig and will include a trip to the Irish National Heritage Park before Pól makes his way to Forth Mountain and the historic Three Rocks Trail.

The last stages of the walk he follows the gentle uphill slope towards Skeater rock to finish his walk on a high point of Forth Mountain with views across Wexford.



In the 5th and final show in this series Pól is walking in Ireland's sunny southeast and breathing in the sea air along the coastal trails and walks.

Pól starts his walk at Rosslare harbour and makes his way to the beautiful Kirwan's 'Secret Garden'. He descends onto the beach shortly after Rosslare harbour and continues on the beach before he turns inland at Ballytrent for a stretch of quiet roads, Pól finishes his walk and the series at Lady's Island in the sunshine, of course.



## PLANNING

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

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

### **Planning Applications**

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

No. of valid applications	712
No. of invalid applications	72
Extension of Duration	29
Exempted Development Declaration	32

Numbers are those received from the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 until 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

No. of valid applications	208
No. of invalid applications	14
Extension of Duration	8
Exempted Development Declaration	7

## Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	74
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	257
Average waiting time to meeting	26 days

## Forward Planning

### Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

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

### Heritage Officer Appointed

Wexford County Council is delighted to appoint Catherine McLoughlin to the new role of Heritage Officer. Catherine is qualified in the area of Archaeology and Built Heritage Conservation through Queens University, Belfast and Trinity College, Dublin. Wexford County Council is very fortunate to have attracted a candidate with the wealth of experience and talent as Catherine. She has extensive experience in the private sector prior to joining WCC and has a particular interest in the conservation of and access to historical sites and spaces for the greater public benefit. She is really looking forward to working closely with communities across County Wexford in her new role.

As Heritage Officer, Catherine will strategically manage and co-ordinate the heritage function of Wexford County Council. She will work closely with the Heritage Council to develop and improve all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage of County Wexford and will play a very important role in helping to achieve Wexford County Council's targets for biodiversity.

### Heritage Grants

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has approved grants for the BHIS 2021 and all applicants have been informed.

### Rewilding Wexford Programme

During National Biodiversity Week, the Leas-Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Councillor Garry Laffan MCC, announced the launch of **Rewilding Wexford**. The council has identified a number of sites it owns which will be given over permanently for development as biodiversity habitats. The objective will be to encourage and actively promote the evolution of these sites as natural habitats, to allow the native life to flourish. This has been hampered in recent years with modern agricultural practices which can inadvertently create environments which are difficult for pollinators and fauna to survive and thrive in. The Rewilding sites will provide islands of natural flora which will assist in combating this phenomenon. Wexford County Council is developing a programme of activities to combat climate change and the Rewilding Wexford project will contribute to this vital work. The project will help to fulfil Wexford County Council's objectives as set out in the Wexford



County Biodiversity Plan, the Corporate Plan and the Climate Change Adaption Plan. The project will also help fulfil national policy objectives including the National Biodiversity Action Plan, All Ireland Pollinator Plan and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The total area currently included in the programme is over 72 acres. Of these 50 acres approx. are wetland sites. A total of 21 acres will be developed as natural woodland and Manus Crowley of Enfor Ltd is working with the council to develop a tree planting project for these. A number of smaller plots will be developed to enhance their attractiveness for bees and other pollinators, as well as birds and small mammals. These plots will be developed through our Wex Bee Aware programme. It is expected that the land in this programme will increase over time and it is our ambition to have 200 acres under the programme this year.

The programme is being managed by the Planning Departments part of it's Heritage and Biodiversity remit but all departments of the council will be involved. Other landowners, particularly state-agencies, will be welcome to participate. It is also intended that a forum will be created with groups and individuals with expertise in this area to maximise the benefits of the programme for biodiversity.



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

Report from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 as follows:

- 36 property inspections/visits carried out.
- 17 Notices of Intention (to place on the Derelict Site Register) issued.
- 1 property placed on the Derelict Site Register.
- 2 properties removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- 1 Dangerous Structure Notice issued.
- 1 Dangerous Place Notice issued.

## **Building Control 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	83
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	24
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	7
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

## Planning Enforcement

➤ Live Cases	324
➤ Cases Opened	130
➤ Cases Closed	98

## Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases are as follows:

➤ Total Short Term Let Files	78
➤ No. of Warning Letters Served	35
➤ Cases Closed	21

## Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 totals **20**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	6	1	2	2	1
Gorey	3	0	3	0	0
New Ross	2	1	0	1	0
Wexford	6	0	2	4	0
Rosslare	3	0	0	3	0
<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

## Access Activity Update

### Disability Proofing from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	<b>48</b>

## Auditing of Trails and Parks

Access walk ability audits have been carried out on a number of walking trails in the hope to have at least one destination park and trail or amenity in each of the Municipal Districts for the coming summer month. This initiative in conjunction with the Environment Department also supports the Age Friendly programme with several members from Age Friendly and Active Retirement taking part in the audits.

## Changing Places Facilities

Proposals to provide a Changing Places Facility in the New Sports Hub Building at the running track in Enniscorthy and in Pearse Park New Ross are currently being investigated.

## Accessible WC Facilities

Proposals to install an accessible WC facility at Ballinesker Beach incorporating the relocation of the beach wheelchair facilities are underway. These works will come within the Environment Departments remit to be part funded by Access as one of the original Access Audits and Implementation Plan of 2010.

## Special Projects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The rail lifting and site clearance contract commenced in August and all of the rails and sleepers from the abandoned railway have been removed to storage in Rosbercon. Final site clearance works have now been completed.

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

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

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

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced URDF grant funding of €18.4m for the Trinity Wharf project in mid-April 2021 in addition to the €2.028m secured by WCC in 2018. This will support the construction of the site-development works required to open-up the site for private sector investment and building development.

**New Ross Fire Station:** Approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to award the works contract for the New Ross Fire Station. The contract for works has been awarded and works commenced on site 28/05/2021. The works are expected to take 9 months to complete.

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

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

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

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

**Kilmore Quay Link Road:** Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works commenced on site in November 2020. Following works suspension due to Level 5 restrictions, works recommenced on site on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. Completion is expected in August 2021.

**Monck Street Enhancement Scheme:** Preliminary design is on-going but site investigations works have been impacted by the current level 5 restrictions. This will impact on design completion and the tender date, as will the suspension of the current private building works underway on the street. It is planned to target September 2021 to commence street works and to complete in advance of the Christmas shopping season.

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

Hegarty Demolition Ltd. has been appointed for the Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) and works commenced on site on May 10<sup>th</sup> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**John Street Building Regeneration Project:** WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. The planners report has been completed and the CPO drawing and schedule, for the acquisition of the necessary lands, is now being prepared by Estates.

**Esmonde Street:** RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part VIII planning consent process was advertised on 13/10/2020. Planning consent was approved at the WCC December meeting. WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project. The project will now proceed to detailed design. RPS is progressing the detailed design work for this project and site investigation works are currently being tendered.

A further RRDF application for works funding was submitted for the project in December 2020 was not successful.

**Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building:** The planning stage design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed. A Part VIII application has been submitted and the observation and submission period has now been completed. A stage 1 pre-qualification suitability assessment for the design team services was advertised in December and was returned on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 and is currently being assessed. A detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design, along with an assessment of the future requirements of the centre building. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to design and prepare tender documents for the boathouse and associated access road and wastewater pumping station.

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

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender assessment process was delayed by the Covid 19 restrictions. This tender is a competitive procedure with negotiation. The negotiation process is complete and no contract will be awarded. Further proposals will be presented in due course.



**Mechanics Institute:** John Creed & Associates were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders were advertised in November 2020. A works contractor is expected to be appointed in March 2021 and will commence onsite in April 2021, subject to Covid 19 restrictions being eased. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

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

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

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

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman centre in New Ross has been completed. The tenders for tourism co-ordination and management services for the project are currently being assessed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Crescent Quay – Dredging:** Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders. Tenders have been assessed and an award of contract will be completed in June 2021.

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

A draft masterplan was presented to the members at the Enniscorthy MDC meeting. Consultation with the public & businesses will be undertaken in June and the masterplan will be completed by July/August. A contract for initial phase 1 works is expected to be awarded by October 2021.

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

**Enniscorthy Sports Hub:** O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. Modia Consulting were appointed in March to provide quantity surveying services. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in July with a contractor to commence works in October 2021.

**Curraclloe Water Sports Activity Facility:** WCC has received Stage 1 approval in principle for the development of facilities to support water sports activists at Whitegap in Curraclloe, to include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers. WCC is currently working with Fáilte Ireland towards obtaining Stage 2 approval. Given the early stage of the project, the timeline for delivery is as yet uncertain.

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

## Flood Defence Schemes

### **Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# REPORT ON COPORATE ACTIVITIES APRIL 2021

## FOI Office Requests April 2021

Type	April 2021	To end of April 2021
Freedom of Information	6*	28
Customer Complaint	4	10
Ombudsman Complaint	1	9
Access to Information on the Environment	0	2
Data Access Request	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>

\*Note not included are 3 appeals to the Office of the Information Commissioner on requests from 2020.

## Members Portal Queries April 2021

No. of Representations by Section (Open/Closed)					
Section	Closed	Open	Total	%	> SLA
Community	1	0	1	0%	0
Corporate	1	0	1	0%	0
Customer Service	1	1	2	1%	1
Environment	13	1	14	6%	0
Housing	159	5	164	68%	0
Planning	4	6	10	4%	2
Property	1	0	1	0%	0
Roads	27	20	47	20%	20*
Water - Non Irish Water Queries	1	0	1	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>

\*Agreement has been made to channel local roads queries to the districts (via a separate option on the portal) which will reduce this figure once this option goes live.

No. of Representations by Public Representative per District / National RepsNo. of Representations by District	2021		
	Apr		
District	Cases	Total	%
Enniscorthy Municipal District	37	37	15%
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	16	16	7%
Oireachtas	151	151	63%
Wexford Municipal District	37	37	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note 63% of reps are made by members of the Oireachtas and / or Seanad.  
No queries were sent in via the Portal in April from members of New Ross or Rosslare MD.

## CRM / CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT REPORT ON ACTIVITIES APRIL 2021

Area		April	
Agricultural Burns			25
Environment Complaints / Queries			564*
Change of Circumstances			34
General Queries			0
Housing Validation			95
Quick Calls			1,483**
Road Faults Log			57
Emails			3,355
	<i>1. Incoming External Emails</i>	<i>881</i>	
	<i>2. Incoming Internal Emails</i>	<i>682</i>	
	<i>3. Forwarding/Replies</i>	<i>1,318</i>	
	<i>4. Emails sent by CSU</i>	<i>474</i>	
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,613</b>

\* 36% of Environmental Queries relate to Community Clean Ups\*\* 44% of these calls relate to some Housing Service with the highest number relating to Housing Maintenance (232 calls).

## PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY MARCH 2021

### Tenders

No uploaded	4
No of tenders received	71



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

### HOUSING

#### New Homes for 23 Families

Cllr Ger Carthy, Chairman Wexford County Council pictured with Cllr Frank Staples, Chairman Rosslare Municipal District at the recent sod turning at Rosetown, Rosslare as construction begins on 23 houses on the vacant site in the ownership of Wexford County Council located between the estates of Cois Mara and Commodore Barry Park.



The site is in walking distance of Rosslare Strand village centre. It is close to all local community amenities, including shops and transport links such as bus and train. The proposed housing units will include 15 No two storey three bed semi-detached dwellings, 2 No single storey three bed detached dwellings, 2 No single storey three bed semi-detached dwellings, 3 No single storey two bed semi-detached dwellings and 1 No single storey 3 bed special needs dwelling.



### Affordable Housing

The Government has announced its intention to publish the Affordable Housing Bill 2021. Wexford County Council is actively considering the development of affordable housing over the coming years and are assessing the viability of a scheme in Gorey. The Housing Department is undertaking a survey to get a sense of the level of demand, unit types required and affordability level for potential future schemes, for interested parties they can register their interest using the following link: <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/content/affordable-housing-expression-interest-application>

In the first instance, eligibility will be determined by criteria, which may include income, set nationally. In advance of finalising its plans, the Council wishes to establish that there is sufficient levels of interest from potential applicants who will be able to access mortgage finance.

While the final purchase price of the affordable housing has yet to be determined, the scheme will be targeted at those who cannot access social housing supports and cannot afford to purchase a property on the private market.

## New Housing Application form

An updated Household Means Policy and new application form for Social Housing Supports came into effect from the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The main change is that the calculation of weekly household income is now based on average income **over the previous 12 months**. This will ensure a more comprehensive assessment, based on both current and previous income. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit proof of income for the preceding 12 months.

Applicants claiming Medical priority must also submit an additional medical form, signed by two medical practitioners.

## Housing Supply Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Delays caused by leaking at parapets. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Additional funding has been approved by DHPLG. Will complete in Q3 2021
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced on site 17 <sup>th</sup> May 21
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Contracts signed. Works commence on site 24 <sup>th</sup> May 21.
Creagh	14	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	This is a combined project of what was reported previously as Creagh East and Creagh West. A revised Stage 2 is being prepared to include a higher density of houses. S2 Q3
Wexford Street	28/32	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Topo and SI complete. Unit numbers will be fixed now with site information to hand and Stage 2 is programmed for June 21.
Rosbercon	28/41	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q2 2021. Variance in numbers is due to different possible site configurations. Struct Eng organising the surveys which will determine layout and numbers.

Bullawn	2/3	New Ross	Stage 2	Special Needs house revised. Revised proposal to incorporate another unit. Revised plans to DHPLG June 21
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender for phase 1 (22 Units) posted on eTenders April 2021. Working on Design of pump station with IW to enable Stage 2 to (22 units)
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged April 21. Design Team preparing Stage 3 package for submission as soon as planning is approved.
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Due diligence required to prepare Planning and to consider this project for Design Build delivery.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Standard house reviewed and approved by DHPLG. Part VIII Q2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>243</b>			Based on lowest estimate where site configuration not agreed.

### Pre-development Stage

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

### Longer Term Projects

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

### Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	CPO complete. Demolition of old house in Q2 2021. Single stage Q2 2021. IW no capacity. Awaiting formal notification on same.
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Substantial additional funding required. Existing treatment plant inspected and awaiting engineers report. Tender for consultants underway.
Adamstown	20	Wexford	We are awaiting confirmation that there is capacity in treatment plant. We believe there is but IW to confirm. IW no capacity. Awaiting formal notification on same.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	3	Gorey	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs Awaiting Confirmation of Feasibility from IW to connect into treatment plant. Preparing documentation for S1 bungalows. S1 to be submitted Q2
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity with IW and land availability in Q2 2021.
Ballygillane	2	Rosslare	Derelict house on site. Assessment and proposal for the site in Q3.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>		

### Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	All units expected to deliver Q2 2021
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	16 units to deliver by end May 2021. Remainder to deliver Q3 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2022

<b>Tuath</b>			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	44 units delivered. 27 units to deliver by end June 2021. (14 further units (Part V) will deliver when further phases are built)
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	33 units delivered. 8 units to deliver by end May 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2021
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver Q2 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>298</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Commencement of further units delayed due to public health restrictions.
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	3 units complete. 2 units to deliver Q4 2021 and Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To be reviewed following changes to planning permission. Delivery 2022.
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	DHLGH approval received April 2021. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>		



## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	At snagging stage. To deliver Q2 2021.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	17 units delivered. 2 units to deliver June 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Expected to deliver May 2021.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expected to deliver Q3 2021.
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022 – delay due to Public Health restrictions.
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	4 units to deliver Q2 2021 Construction commenced. Remaining units to deliver Q3 2021 – delay due to Public Health restrictions.
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	DHLGH approval received April 2021. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	Expected to deliver Q2 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>206</b>		

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

## Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1st – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021)	111	65	101	93	71	441
Repair Requests Year to Date	496	353	524	487	341	2,201
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021)	96	56	88	77	57	374
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	341	251	352	357	228	1,529

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER

The Article 48 team processed 17 LEADER claims in May. The value of these claims was €479,160.27 which will support 8 enterprises and 9 community groups throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
Hook Rural Tourism CLG	€1,616.94
Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service DAC	€4,825.54
Killanerin/Ballyfad Community Development Association Ltd	€12,029.11
Ferns Development Association	€3,140.67
Amelhu Holdings Ltd	€20,053.74
Wexford Local Development	€13,049.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>€54,715.60</b>
<b>Approved for payment</b>	
O'Neills Dry Cure Bacon	<b>€7,300</b>
County Wexford Community Workshop	<b>€15,407.62</b>
Ferns St.Aidans GAA	€24,776.02
Rosslare Community Development Association	€6,553.49
Barron Energy Ltd	€200,000
Slaney Precision Ltd	€100,000

Wexford Arts Centre	€3,900
Promotex Ltd	€26,200
Wallace Mobile Homes Ltd	€17,062.50
St.Marys Rosslare GAA Club	€10,215
Trudies Catering Kitchen Ltd	€13,690
<b>Total</b>	<b>€424,444.67</b>

### **Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via MS Teams. Items discussed included CCTV update from County Secretary, Garda Youth Awards Presentation Inspector Graham Rowley & an FDYS presentation regarding 'Detached Youth Work/Pop Up Youth Café'.

The next meeting date is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, meeting format to be agreed.

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting**

A meeting of the LCDC took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via MS Teams. Items discussed included SICAP, a presentation of Healthy Ireland/Healthy Wexford Update, Local Economic Community Plan Presentation & a CEP proposal.

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via MS Teams.

### **Chief Officers Meeting**

Wexford County Council hosted a regional meeting of the EMRA Chief Officers on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Microsoft Teams. The main items discussed - LECP, LEADER, SICAP, Funding Schemes, Healthy Ireland & PPN

The next meeting will take place 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

### **Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting**

A meeting of the LCDC acting as Wexford Local Action Group took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via MS Teams. Items discussed included updated circulars as received from DRCD and Leader Administration/Programme Reports.

The next meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via MS Teams.

### **Horeswood Community Gain Fund**

A meeting of Horeswood Community Liaison Committee took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, at St. Michaels Theatre, New Ross, Co. Wexford. The focus of the meeting was to evaluate the funding applications received under the Horeswood Community Gain Fund.

### **SICAP**

The SICAP sub-committee met with the Programme Implementer on the 21<sup>st</sup> April to discuss progress on the implementation of the 2021 annual plan in the context of challenges posed by COVID19 restrictions. The next meeting of the sub-committee will take place with reference to the mid-year review which must be formally approved by the LCDC by the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

### **Community Enhancement Programme 2021**

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding of €150,065 for County Wexford under the above funding stream, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May. This iteration of the CEP is focused on improving community facilities and sports clubs by supporting groups as they re-open community facilities, which have been closed due to COVID19, through the provision of small-scale capital and operational grants, to a maximum of €3,000. Online application portal closes on the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## INTERREG – Celtic Routes

Phase 2 contracts have been put in place. The May Newsletter has been widely circulated. A lot of work has gone into updating and upgrading the Celtic Routes Website, with a lot more travel inspiration available. Over 7,000 photos and videos are now available on the Asset Library. These assets are free to use once Celtic Routes have been credited. Work continues for the Thematic Groups formation. Travel Journalist and Influencer visits are being arranged having been postponed since March 2020. Project attendance at the British Tourism and Travel Show in Birmingham in September is being organised.

## Age Friendly Strategy

Age Friendly Strategy public consultations with older people were carried out at 28 workshops with 190 participants from 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May. Age Friendly Alliance partners including Local Link, Library Services, HSE and An Garda Síochána as well as members of Wexford Older Peoples Council attended many of these workshops. The outcomes of these workshops will influence the actions identified in the 2022-2026 Age Friendly Strategy which will go to the full Council meeting by the end of 2021. Surveys and targeted focus groups are due to be held during June.



## Telehealth

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

## Creative Ireland Funding - Creativity in Older Age 2021

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

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

## Wexford Dementia Working Group

A draft leaflet has been completed as below by the Wexford Dementia Working Group which lists main services/contacts in Wexford for dementia patients and families. The purpose of this leaflet is to assist people with dementia on their initial diagnosis and link them in with local services.

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

The Mobile Music Machine returned to Wexford in May for their 3rd set of concerts in 10 nursing homes throughout the county. The writer, Michelle Dooley Mahon has commenced her work on a project to document the concerts with the focus on the experience on the residents and staff. Further concerts are planned for July and August.

## **Walkability Audits**

WCC Access Section have identified 10 walks that may be Age Friendly. Wexford Older Peoples Council & Age Friendly Programme Manager are assisting in this work with walkability audits taking place in May.

## **Keep Well Campaign:**

The following Keep Well projects have taken place:

### **Wellbeing Packs for older people**

As part of the Keep Well Campaign 450 wellbeing packs were delivered to older people in the county via Meals on Wheels Services, Local Link and the Gardaí. This involved collaboration with the forementioned as well as Civil Defence, Wexford Food Family and the Arts Office WCC. Packs include local food produce/treats, art project, bee friendly seed bombs, bird food/feeder, old songbook and garden/wildlife booklet.

### **Music Therapy for dementia patients**

As part of the Keep Well campaign a music therapy 6 week pilot project has commenced for patients of the 21 bed unit at St. Johns Hospital, Enniscorthy. Feedback received as follows: *"It was absolutely wonderful. Residents were so engaged and responsive. Staff were hugely supportive and we are already looking forward to returning next week."*

Funding as above has been received from Creative Ireland to expand and continue this project.

### **Storytelling – Tale A Phone**

Tale-A-Phone completed the 8 weeks of storytelling which was fully booked with 80 older people receiving stories over the phone. Feedback has been very positive.

### **‘Pebble’ Fall Detector Devices**

All 10 fall detector devices have been allocated and delivered to vulnerable older people at risk of falls.



Healthy  
**Wexford**

Healthy Ireland Round Three Funding Action Partners have been able to begin progressing some further activity with the lifting of restrictions. Ongoing consultation with Pobal continues on the action revisions and preparations have begun for financial reporting with Action Partners.

Some work continues on the Community Resilience Fund projects, with the fund continuing to end June. Weekly reporting of activity is provided as part of the LGMA reporting requirements.

Update Presentations were made by the Healthy County Coordinator at the May Municipal Districts for New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey Kilmuckridge. Due to technical difficulties the Rosslare



MD update was deferred to the June meeting. Support was sought for a number of upcoming initiatives.

At the May meeting of the Healthy County Committee the new tasks were identified and allocated. Some projects have already progressed to planning stage – particularly the Social Prescribing Project and the ‘Not Around Us’ Campaign.

## PPN

A new PPN Support Officer and a new Resource Worker took up work with the PPN on 4th May and 24<sup>th</sup> May respectively.

The PPN facilitator submitted his resignation on 18th May, and a new facilitator is to be selected by the PPN Secretariat on 31st May.

Meetings of the PPN Secretariat were held on zoom on 10th and 31st May. A meeting of the PPN Development Communications and Training subcommittee was held on zoom on 24th May. The 2020 Annual Report for the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) is due for submission by 14th June.

Wexford PPN social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter are being used to disseminate relevant information. An information bulletin for May is also e-mailed to all PPN members. Twenty new organisations that had been pending registration were added to the PPN database in May.

## Sports Active

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
2020 Sports Ireland LSP Annual report launched	Sports Active Wexford is one of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) featured in the Annual Report 2020 published by Sport Ireland today. The report highlights the work of the LSP Network and the impact they have on participation levels by engaging key target populations across Ireland. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Sports Active Wexford has continued to provide programmes and initiatives to ensure that everyone in County Wexford could share in the enjoyment as well as the mental and physical health benefits of sport and physical activity. <a href="https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-05/lsp_eng_20_annual-report.pdf">https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-05/lsp_eng_20_annual-report.pdf</a>
Sport Ireland Participation Plan (2021-2024) launched.	The Sport Ireland Participation Plan identifies what Sport Ireland aims to achieve from 2021 to the end of 2024, how we propose to achieve it, and what resources will be required to achieve these goals over the next four years. Our vision is a country where everyone can regularly enjoy taking part in sport and physical activity for life. <a href="https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-05/plan_final_eng-000001.pdf">https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-05/plan_final_eng-000001.pdf</a>
Open Water Swim Lessons	Sports Active and Swim Ireland opened registration for open water swim lessons throughout the summer in Courtown, Rosslare and Kilmore.
‘Swimmin Women’	Swimmin Women is a series of swim programmes aimed at women from teenagers up. We will be starting with 45+ swim classes in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool in June.

Swim for A Mile	Swim for A Mile lessons will start in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool the first week of June and run until the main Swim for A Mile event in late August.
Women's Cycling	Sports Active will be running a Women's cycling programme in Wexford every Friday evening during June and July.
Active Schools Week	Support will be provided through resources and equipment for schools throughout Wexford for the months of May and June. Equipment includes Dance mats, Playground markings, scooch, go for life games and table cricket
Teachers Summer Course	The teachers summer course is booked to run from the 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> of July. Registration has now opened on Co Wexford Education Centre. Included in this course is Cricket, GAA, Fundamental Movements Skills and disability inclusion training.
Slaintecare	The IEP has finished their final block of exercise programmes for the current period. All exercise sessions were via telephone. Overall attendance rate has been excellent with an average cancellation from clients; is one session per week. The IEP is now finalising work for the final evaluation of the Project with Waterford Institute of Technology. The IEP will be presenting at a Slaintecare Webinar on Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> of May on behalf of the Project Management Team showcasing the work that has been done so far.
Support of Slaneyside Super Stars	Supports have been put in place to provide opportunities throughout the summer for children with a physical disability in Wexford. Sport opportunities include GAA, orienteering, swimming, rugby and athletics.
Wexford Local Development Sports Day	Dates have been set in July and August to provide sports days for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sports Active Wexford will link with Wexford Local Development and their outreach team to target children in Wexford, Courtown, New Ross and Enniscorthy.
Traveller Women Sports Days	Activities are organised for traveller women in 6 different locations in Wexford in June. The venues will include Bunclody, Gorey, Enniscorthy, Clonroche, New Ross and Taghmon.
Small Covid Grant for Clubs and Communities	This grant is now available for Clubs and community groups to avail of in support of their return to sport in the coming months. All information is available online. Link: <a href="https://www.achieveservice.com/sports-active-wexford-covid19-community-and-club-small-grant-scheme">Sports Active Wexford Covid19 Community and Club Small Grant Scheme - My Online Services (achieveservice.com)</a>
Club Volunteer Training Grant	There is currently a Club Volunteer Training grant available for clubs to apply for.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding Courses 5 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 80 participants. 2 Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed with a total of 27 participants.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards

On May 25<sup>th</sup> An Taisce announced the following

Award	Number	Locations
Blue Flag Beaches	5	Morriscastle, Ballinesker. Curracloe. Rosslare and Carne
Green Coast Beach Awards	9	Cahore`, Oldbawn, Colleton's Gap St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, and Booley Bay.

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

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

### Anti- Dumping Initiative

As with previous years allocations, the 2021 Anti-Dumping initiative aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping nationally by providing funding for projects aimed at tackling the problem, using a collaborative approach involving local authorities, communities, and other State Agencies. Wexford County Council has received funding for 13 projects in 2021 to the value of €94,460. Projects include mattress amnesty, rotary bikes project, clean ups / monitoring of black spots and pilot bulky waste project.

### Green Your Picnic Campaign

Green Your Picnic campaign in conjunction with Waterford City & County Council will run over the Summer months. The months of June July and August 2021 will see an increase number of people holidaying at home, taking day trips and visiting all public amenities in our Counties. As evidenced by staycations in Summer 2020, these 'staycations' will result in pressure on waste disposal at these locations. With this in mind the Green picnic campaign will ask people to bring their litter home with them and bring reusable items wherever possible.. We aim to promote positive and active participation in a campaign that will focus on the theme of reuse and encourage all to take responsibility for their actions and their waste.

## A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Throughout the third lockdown, work has continued in line with the CCMA's guidance document of 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020. Office based staff are now working an alternate teams pattern to minimise attendance, ensuring that the office is covered while increasing physical distancing. All staff have the resources to work remotely while not physically in the office.

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

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

## **B. COASTAL MATTERS**

### **Harbours -**

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

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

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

Carne dredging completed in April 2021.

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

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

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

### **Beaches -**

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

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

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

Sampling and testing of the bathing waters started on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Results are available throughout the summer season on the EPAs website [beaches.ie](https://www.epa.ie/).

### **Coast -**

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

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

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

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

## C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

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

Beach lifeguards will commence duty the June Bank Holiday weekend and each weekend in June, with daily coverage July & August.

Litter wardens will commence duty June Bank Holiday weekend and remain in place until the end of August.

## D. WATER, AIR & NOISE

### 1. Water Framework Directive:

Under the Water Framework Directive every catchment in the county must be assessed to identify required actions to maintain and improve water quality. This work which is being carried out by Wexford Co Co in conjunction of LAWPRO is being supervised by the Sub-Catchment Unit of the EPA.

### 2. Water Sampling:

A Total of 556 water quality samples are taken by Council Scientists from 85 sampling sites in the county per year with analysis carried out by the EPA. 11 surveillance sites are being sampled 12 times per year.

### 3. Septic Tank Inspections:

Works have commenced on selecting areas and sites for Septic Tank Inspections in 2021. Inspections have commenced with 8 carried out so far with the owners permission. A full programme of inspection will begin in May now that 5km travel limit has been removed. All work will be external with no requirement to enter a dwelling.

Progress is being made with open files with letters being sent to owners requesting updates on works carried out to enable the closing of files or offering extensions of time, as appropriate.

10 files have been closed and 15 extensions of time have been granted in 2021. 1 Grant application is being processed in 2021.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding on 31/12/2020	Closed in 2021
2019	156	48	108	37	2
2020	111	38	73	58	3

There are currently 8 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 5 of these are for hearing and 3 are for mention.

#### 4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 99 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and a number of licence reviews have been completed.

Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences will be dispatched in June.

#### 5. Climate Action

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

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

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

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

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

#### Decarbonisation Zone

Under Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 each Local Authority is required to identify a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ). *A Decarbonising Zone is an area in which a range of climate mitigation measures can co-exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs. The DZ will at a minimum **reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 7% per annum** from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade) and will become a demonstrator area, either urban or rural, for other areas in the county.* Wexford County Council identified Enniscorthy as candidate Decarbonising Zone and have notified the Department by the closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

## E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Landfills:

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

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

### 2. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites April 2021	Recycling out (End April) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End April)2021 (t)
Glass bottles	108	1251	1482
Aluminium Cans		31	40
Total	108	1282	1522

#### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Apr 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Apr 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Apr 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Apr 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- Apr2020	Recycling out Jan - Apr 2021	Recycling out Jan - Apr 2020	Recycling out Jan-Apr 2021
Total Recycling out	186	224	212	248	257	294	169	197
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	668	882	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Apr	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2019	2020
	58	71	110	117	82	142	78	90

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



### 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

<b>Activity</b>	<i>To end April 2020</i>	<i>April 2021</i>	<i>To end April 2021</i>	<b>% +/-</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>42</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>78</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>66</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>36</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>35</i>		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>1421</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>2961</b>	<b>+108%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>180</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>180</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>253</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>107</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>16</i>		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>5352</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>5352</b>	<b>0%</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>1672</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>1623</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>59</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>126</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>86</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>67</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>71</i>		

*\*Including Towns*

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. Waste Facility Permits:**

We currently have fourteen Clean Soil and Stone sites in operation; seven construction and demolition sites, eight End of Life Vehicles and twelve Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council’s website. Altogether there are 57 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County and three of those are in the process of renewal.

#### **6. Enforcement:**

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2021 inspection plan is being finalised and 2020 return were submitted to the EPA. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,752 routine inspections by 25 Full Time Equivalent staff member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

The national waste priorities for 2021 are;

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Multi-Agency Sites of Interest,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.

## **F. LITTER MANAGEMENT**

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

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

Any evidence collected from littering incidents is used in bringing action under the Litter Pollution legislation. It has been noted that less evidence is being recovered. More transactions have moved online and people are removing waste that may incriminate them. The use of CCTV has been halted due to restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Commissioner. The local press regularly reports

on such cases. We will continue to target illegal dumping black-spots and the county's roads throughout the year.

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	85
Fines Paid in Full●	78	48
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	26
Successful Prosecutions**	20	0
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	32
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€2,445

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

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

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

### Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

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

## F.GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	1 Jan to 30 April 2021
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>4609</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>2442</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>3526</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>3769</b>	<b>3720</b>	<b>1733</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>71%</b>

### Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2020	2021
Dogs collected	532	99
Dogs reclaimed	127	64
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	46
Dogs put to sleep	32	7
Dog Fines	5	7

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

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

### Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** An Taisce has circulated guidance documents for each of the green schools themes to help schools continue with their green schools programme safely. Closing date for applications has been extended until June 2021. Green flag assessments will be carried out virtually.

**School Workshops:** Online workshops will be offered to schools. Themes covered will include biodiversity, marine environment, litter & waste and recycling.

**Annual Environment Artwork Competition:** It is hoped to run the competition in September 2021 if it is deemed safe under current government guidelines. The theme will be 'Wildflowers' and competition will be open to both primary and secondary schools.

**Trees for Wexford Campaign:** The trees for Wexford Campaign received 156 applications. All groups have received their trees. Due to restrictions trees were delivered to all groups.

**Community Clean Ups:** Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. Registrations have

doubled on the same period last year. Registrations will be accepted from family group and individuals only according to current government guidelines.

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

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

**Green Estate Programme:** The Green Estate Programme was officially launched by Cllr Leonard Kelly Mayor, District of Wexford on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The programme is an initial step to encourage residents to begin to think about creating areas for nature within the public spaces of their estate. The pilot programme is open to all estate in the Wexford Municipal District.



**Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign:** This Campaign was launched by Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cathaoirleach on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The campaign is result of an initiative by Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford City & County Councils. The campaign promotes a simple message “Bag it & Bin it and will run for the remainder of 2021 and is set to firmly emphasize that dog fouling is your responsibility as a dog owner. The campaign will address a range of issues surrounding dog fouling, from its effect on the public who use our streets, parks and beaches, to attitudes to cleaning up as dog owners, from health issues to civic pride. The campaign will reach across social media, local newspapers, radio, community groups and schools.



The Green Dog Walker Campaign was promoted during January and received over 500 pledges in 4 days. The scheme is open again for registrations.



## LIBRARY SERVICE

### Response to COVID

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

The national Newsread delivery service resumed service on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, allowing patrons the opportunity to request items both online and in the library from other counties.

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

### Book Call Delivery Service

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

	Total Contacts	Total items (approx.)
Jan 2021	182	1456
Feb 2021	235	1880
March 2021	198	1584
April 2021	196	1520
May 2021 (To date)	39	283
<b>Total year to date</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>6723</b>

### Radon Testing Monitor Loans

Wexford Libraries, in collaboration with EPA, are expanding the Digital Radon Monitor Loans Scheme @ your local library in 2021. Since December last year a total of 38 members have borrowed digital monitors from New Ross library with 20 being issued during the month of May.

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

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

Wexford County Council Public Library announced the launch of the First 5 Little Library initiative, 'Little Library Bags' each containing five books, one in Irish and four in English. There was also a book bag of 5 Irish titles for all Naíonraí. All Early Learning and Care service providers, including registered childminders were invited to collect free book bags and other resources from their local libraries throughout County Wexford. The bags contained a number of extra resources, including a library card and a guide to Wexford Libraries Children's Services. The First 5 Little Library initiative

aims to develop a consistent link between early learning and care services and their local library to encourage a love of books and reading among young children and their families. Wexford Libraries are delighted to work together with Wexford County Childcare Committee to support reading and literacy development.

## **Decade of Centenaries 2021**

### **“Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade” podcast**

This podcast has now had nearly 1,000 views.

### **Views on Wexford Libraries YouTube**

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

The Burning of Wexford’s Country Houses, 1919-1923 – 795 views

The Road to Independence – film on the War of Independence in Wexford – 385 views

### **Historian in Residence Programme**

Interviews for a “Historian in Residence” for a nine-month period were held on Friday, May 7th. The role of this residency is to support the Wexford County Council Decade of Centenaries programme. Examples of work under the scope of the project include research, outreach, communication, liaison with community groups and publications.

### **Commemorative Initiatives through the Municipal Districts**

Plans are underway for commemorative projects in each of the five Municipal Districts. Projects underway include commemorative gardens, locally led seminars and events.

## **IT Literacy**

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

The age friendly ambassador scheme continued to be rolled out across Wexford Libraries during the month of May. This programme aims to support older people access online library resources, particularly while physical library services were suspended as part of government measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Wexford Libraries now provide an Age Friendly Digital Ambassador in each of their 5 library services. Staff are trained to assist older people to join their local library online, access online library resources, download their favourite books or listen to audio books. This is a peer to peer programme which helps participants develop the confidence to become mentors themselves and show their peers how to do the same.

## **Keep Well Campaign**

Wexford Library Service has been allocated funding under the Keep Well Campaign – Switching Off and Being Creative. A photo competition was held over the month of April with over 300 entries being submitted under the theme of what was allowing people to #KeepWell during lockdown. A winner and two runners up were awarded Visit Wexford Hampers. Shortlisted photos can be viewed on Wexford Libraries Facebook Pages and will be exhibited in Libraries in Autumn 2021.

### **Grow it Forward Initiative. (GIF)**

Grow It Yourself, in partnership with Healthy Ireland and public libraries distributed 50,000 free food growing kits as part of a new ‘Grow it Forward’ initiative. Free seed packs could be claimed by contacting local branch libraries. As part of the Government’s Keep Well programme, the campaign was designed to help the nation eat well by inspiring and supporting people to grow some of their own food at home while connecting with friends and family to join them.



### **GIY - Online Videos and Story-times created for Children include:**

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 'The seeds are sprouting' 382 views

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 'Growing and progress of seeds. 175 views

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 'How your garden grows' 119 views

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 'How your seeds are progressing' 62 views

### **Healthy Ireland Webinars**

A series of Healthy Ireland At Your Library online webinars were premiered on the library Facebook pages throughout May. These webinars were delivered by Dr. Padraic Gibson who is a Clinical Director of The OCD Clinic® Ireland and a Consultant Psychotherapist and Clinical Director with the HSE.

5th May: 'The Twelve Most Common Mental Traps' 36 attendees

12th May: 'Understanding the Four Faces of Depression' 38 attendees

19th May: 'Obsessions, Compulsions and Reassurances' 20 attendees

## **Heritage & Culture**

### **Bealtaine**

To celebrate Bealtaine Festival 2021 Elaine Hoysted, former assistant Art History lecturer at the Department of Art History at University College Cork, delivered an online lecture entitled 'Irish Art Through the Ages', an exploration of art works by some of the most famous Irish artists of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The Lecture examined four paintings: James Barry's 'King Lear Weeping Over the Dead Body of Cordelia', Frederic William Burton's 'Hellelil and Hildebrand The Meeting at the Turret Stairs', Seán Keating's 'Men of the South' and Mainie Jellett's 'Decoration', each providing a unique insight into the culture, politics and social context in which they were created.

### **Adult Literature**

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

The 'Fully Booked' interview series continued in May featuring Billy Roche. The highly acclaimed Wexford playwright was in conversation with Librarian Imelda Carroll, which premiered on library Facebook page, and remains available on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

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

Wexford Libraries' Online Book club is a private Facebook group that hosts a book club discussion each month. The online book club presently has 269 members from across the county. The book club discussion in May centred around The Lovely Bones by Anna Sebold.

## **Parenting Today 2021**

### **Bilingualism-How to get your child to speak your native language and why it matters.**

The May talk for Parenting Today 2021 was delivered by Dr Francesca La Morgia, lecturer, researcher, consultant and trainer in child language development and child bilingualism. Francesca is also a passionate advocate for social inclusion and migrant integration. This was a webinar full of practical tips, that have been tried and tested by parents raising bilingual children. It aimed to help families find out about all the best strategies to encourage their child to talk more in their native language. Speaking your first language at home supports the child's development, reading and educational progress, particularly in the early years. Native language also plays an essential role in

celebrating identity, culture and a pride in heritage and upbringing, establishing the child's identity and promoting an understanding of history and culture. 489 viewers have watched the recording on YouTube to date.

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

### **Storytime and Rhyme-time**

Regular story times & rhyme times continued online from all branch libraries throughout May, supporting families and pre-schools with early literacy development. Each library offers at least one session each week, preparing, presenting and filming their story times while complying with all copyright and conditions required by publishers

### **Online Supported Reading for Dyslexic Readers**

Covid 19 restrictions required that junior book club meetings be provided digitally. Books in digital and audio format were available to download through e-Resource Borrowbox. This resource offers support for young dyslexic readers whilst providing books in audio format, thus offering positive and encouraging experiences to enhance continued interest and love of reading. The dyslexia book club currently has eight members.

### **Tall Tales of Wexford with Karen Tomkins Children's Writer, IMRO award winning Broadcaster and Independent Audio Producer.**

As part of Spring into Storytime, a Right to Read initiative, the children of County Wexford were invited to send in facts about themselves and their local area to help create 'Tall Tales of Wexford' a series of 4 audio stories featuring Duncannon Fort, Rosslare Harbour, Wexford GAA and Zorro! The stories were recorded and made available for everyone to enjoy listening to on the Wexford Public Libraries YouTube channel.

### **Books and art packs for children and teenagers in Rosslare Direct Provision Centre**

Books bags for children and young people aged from birth to 15 years were delivered to the centre in May. Titles were carefully selected to provide a range of award winning and recommended titles that children and their families could enjoy together. Objectives included supporting language and literacy development from birth onwards, encouraging creativity and promoting positive mental health. Reading support resources, drawing materials and seed packs were also included.

### **Fairytales with Monageer Knitwits**

Work commenced in May on partnering with local community organisation Monageer Knitwits to promote reading for children over the Summer period. Their yarnbombing programme this Summer will include a series of Fairy-tale scenes. Wexford Libraries have ordered copies of all the fairytales associated with the series. These will be available to borrow through our branch libraries. There will be leaflets and posters in Monageer promoting the stories and our Summer Stars reading adventure which aims to encourage children to keep reading over the Summer break. Recorded readings of the fairytales by Wexford Library staff will also be available to view together with a photo gallery of the knitted fairytale scenes on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

### **Literacy Licences**

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

## Services to schools

### Engineers week – Online STEM workshop for Wexford Schools

A STEM based 'Go Fly Your Kite' workshop was offered to schools in celebration of Engineers Week this year. It was an interactive workshop for children and a way to re-engage students in the classroom as opposed to virtually during lockdown. Schools interested received a number of Kite Kits and a link to a 26-minute pre-recorded flight workshop video, this covered STEM topics e.g. how do things fly, gravity, simple experiments, aerodynamics and engineering and the history of flight – famous engineers throughout history. Approx. 100 students across County Wexford participated.

## Local Studies & Genealogy

### “On Your Own Ground” on sale in local bookshops

Over 150 copies of Volumes 2 & 3 of “On Your Own Ground: County Wexford parish by parish” have been sold mostly through online sales. It is available to purchase from bookshops and libraries in Co Wexford.

### Queries

There were 8 genealogy enquiries and 22 local studies enquiries in May.

## ARCHIVES

### Collections Management

The Archive dealt with 48 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during May. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, to facilitate researchers until the Archive's reading room reopens.

### Outreach / Digitisation

Extant minute books of County Wexford's poor law unions continue to be digitised on a phased basis for remote research and are proving very popular for family history research. The third batch of minute books of New Ross workhouse covering the period 1856-78 was uploaded to the Archives website during the month.

The first six volumes of County Wexford Board of Health and Public Assistance minutes were digitised during the month. Having these available in searchable format will greatly enhance their research potential with regard to incoming enquiries relating to mother and baby homes / boarded-out children.

The Archive is one of the participating institutions in the Beyond 2022 project spearheaded by Trinity College Dublin. A day of online events including videos, lectures and discussions on the Grand Jury records took place on 25 May to commemorate the centenary of the burning of the Custom House on that date in 1921. To coincide with the event, the Archive provided online access to a finding aid for its extensive holdings of grand jury material for County Wexford (1817-1899). The earliest manuscript presentment volume covering the period 1817-23 was made available online as were the earliest two printed presentment books (1847-59). The remaining volumes will be digitised on a phased basis over the coming months.

**Artlinks Artist Bursary**

Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford art offices. There was a high interest and 17 applications were selected for Wexford bringing a total of €25,000 fund for Wexford. The Artlinks award in Wexford has average grants of €1,000 - €3,000 max. Successful artists were:

Aileen Lambert / Traditional Arts, Alison Martin/Theatre, Cat Hogan/Writing, Claire Keegan/Writing, Darragh Gillece / Performance, Michelle D Mahon/ Writing, Paul McCloskey/Visual Arts, Rob O Shea/Visual Arts, Ruah Berney Pearson/Visual Arts, Declan Dempsey/Writer, Helen Gaynor/Visual Arts, John Busher/Visual Arts, Simon Bates/Visual Arts, Sylvia Cullen/Writing, Vivian Brodie Hayes/Dance, Marc Aubele/Music, Serena Caulfield/Visual Arts.

**Artlinks Collaborative Award**

An open call took place in March for a Collaborative Award where artists from two or more Artlinks counties must apply and collaborate on the creation of new artwork which they will showcase in both counties in 2021-22. This award is worth €10,000. Applications are currently being assessed by an independent panel and awards will be announced the end of May.

**Emergence Visual Art Award**

The Arts Department and Wexford Arts Centre in partnership with Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (IT Carlow) made an open call on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, to artists at the earlier stages of their careers or those re-engaging in their practice after a period of absence. The aim of this award is to support visual artists with the development and promotion of their practice. In exchange the artist will engage with Wexford Campus Carlow IT and students devising a programme of work over the period. This award is presented bi-annually to one visual artist based in Ireland, a monetary value of €15,000 and includes additional mentorship support and solo exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre in September 2023. Closing date 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Wexford Playwright Studio**

New works in progress by eight Wexford playwrights was launched by Wexford Arts Centre in association with Wexford County Council Arts Department in May 2021. These eight filmed staged readings of new work in progress can be viewed on line via [www.wexfordartscentre.ie](http://www.wexfordartscentre.ie) The Wexford playwright studio was launched in March 2019 to support new writing for theatre by Wexford playwrights. Following an open call 35 applications were received and 8 were selected to take part: Joe Brennan, Imelda Carroll, Sheila Forsey, Jack Matthews, Dominic Palmer, Megan O'Malley, Hannah McNiven and Eoghan Rua Finn. Over the past 12 months the playwrights received mentoring supports, through a combination of online and face to face workshops, from established playwrights Billy Roche, Deirdre Kinahan and dramaturg Thomas Conway to each develop a script. Work in progress Stage readings were directed by Ben Barnes behind closed doors( due to Covid) and expertly filmed by Ted Moran with a company of twelve actors over two weeks in March 2021. Company Cast included: Jamie Beamish, Sharon Clancy, Ingrid Craigie, Naoise Dunbar, Heather Hadrill, Mark Lambert, Elishka Lane Barnes, Ronan Leahy, Gary Lydon, Cian Malin, Katie

McCann and Tiernan Messitt Greene. All eight Filmed work in progress staged readings can be viewed online via Wexford Arts Centre [www.wexfordartscentre.ie](http://www.wexfordartscentre.ie)

## Small Arts Festivals 2021

This grant scheme aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals and experimental events throughout Wexford County. 24 applications received in total. 11 festival/ events received awards for 2021 with grants between €1,000 - €3,000 max totaling €23,200.

The successful groups were:

*Three Billboards outside Gorey, Fuddle Fest (Fuddletown, Kilinick), New Ross Piano Festival, Sean Nós Singing i nGuaire On Board The Gorey Caravan Féile, Spring Moves Dance Festival, Theatre Al Fresco- with St. Michael's Theatre, The First Fathom (Kilmore Quay, Little Beach, the Burrow and surroundings), The Gap Arts Festival 2021(Ballythomas) north Wexford, The Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre "One Festival, Two Countries" New Ross, The Wexford May Bush Festival 2021, One Voice Festival – Tales from the Quay (Wexford Arts Centre).*

## The Wexford May Bush Festival 2021

This Festival was a recipient of the Small Arts Festival and Experimental Events Grant Scheme 2021. In response to Covid 19, the Wexford May Bush Festival which is a community driven festival invited individuals and communities across the County to participate by simply erecting a May Bush in their village, community, townland or home and posting their photos to <https://www.facebook.com/TheWexfordMayBushFestival>.

## Summer 2021 online training supports for Artists

### Webinar – Per Cent for art funding applications with Maeve Mulrennan.

Funded through Creative Ireland and delivered by Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) the Arts office held a zoom webinar for Wexford artists on 4th May.

Attended by over 50 artists on the day.

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

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

## Music Generation

A partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in Wexford county working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings. Since Easter the Musicians are back working in the schools and, they are delivering new online workshops

- The High Street Opera Zoom with Elizabeth Drawl and Aileen Donohoe
- Mini maestro's preschool online programme with Aileen Donoghue and Pete Mc Canley.
- Uke-N-Player 7-12-year olds launched in 15 schools countywide.
- Wexford Wind Jammers Online Group Music Lessons for 10-18-year-old facilitated by Louise Malone, Geraldine Mahon and Ed O'Neill.

- Yellow Bellows singing group workshop for teenagers 12-18 years old free via Zoom commenced April.
- Barrow Song Lab for 12-18-year olds is a song writing online let by Justin Cullen, Dunbar and John Mullins in which the participants will be creative with lyric writing and new technologies, to able them to write their own songs.

### **New programmes commenced in May include:**

**Music Generation Wexford with Music Ireland** are working to bring classical music to children through their Wells House concert series. These educational videos will be introduced to primary schools in and around Wexford so that children can learn more about classical music.

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

### **Screen Wexford**

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

- Research undertaken to compile an application for Screen Stakeholders Funding with Screen Skills Ireland to run a two-phase training initiative in Wexford in the area of immersive technologies. If successful, this will involve a series of masterclasses in Virtual Reality and Virtual Production under phase 1. Phase 2 will involve Immersive Labs where participants will gain hands-on experience in the field of VR production immersive storytelling (at Gorey School of Art / online).
- Locations drive. Screen Wexford executed extensive research on the ground to identify and secure new locations for our database of potential film locations. This included flier drops, cold calling at doors and phone calls to get people excited about and invested in the potential of having their premises featured on our locations database. This is ongoing.
- Preparation for new locations database overseen and developed by Screen Ireland. Offered to beta-test this.
- Documentation of locations for 360-degree immersive display. This included Browne Clayton monument, the National Opera House and Wexford County Council.
- Liaising with creative teams who were awarded the New Voices Film Bursary Award in the development of their films.
- Marketing material generated for our next Skills Development Masterclass on May 22nd with Editor Tony Kearns. Recruitment process initiated - disseminated on social platforms, newsletters and in press.

- Liaising with Fiona Kinsella, Producer, who is running the Wexford Writers Academy via Bodecii Films. This is supported by Screen Wexford.
- Preparation of industry development industry talks in the area of self-distribution and building your portfolio to follow on from the Start Your Own Business Programme.

Input on Film Forum with regional film offices and outreach to Donegal & Galway partners.

## **Creative Ireland**

### **Eileen Gray Architecture Project**

The Arts Office in partnership with Creative Schools were funded in 2020 by Creative Ireland to work with students from Meanscoil Gharman in Enniscorthy to celebrate the legacy of world famous Enniscorthy born designer and architect Eileen Gray. This involved artist Laura Ni Fhlaibhín and architect Ben Mulligans working with transition year students through a series of workshops in celebrating Eileen Gray in terms of innovation in design and dynamic creative practice. The project culminated in a series of outdoor sculptures. A webinar open to the public was held on Wednesday 19th May featuring prominent speakers in the fields of architecture and designer, accompanying this talk was a short film created by filmmaker Terence White showcasing the overall project

<https://youtube/iniuJ8MDC18>

### **Cruinniú na nÓg 2021**

On Saturday June 12th, children, young people, and families in Co. Wexford are invited to unleash their creative spirit and celebrate our culture and creativity as part of the national event Cruinniú na nÓg. Over the past 3 years Cruinniú na nÓg has become a key point in the calendar for children and young people to try something creative, develop an appetite for discovery and acquire new skills. Workshops will be available under a number of different themes including music, singing, dance, traditional craft, architecture and film-making.

All events are free, mostly online and in some cases available throughout the day and beyond for children to interact in your own time.

Visit the Wexford County Council website to find out more about events locally and [cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie) to learn more about events happening across Ireland.

Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is presented in partnership with Wexford County Council and RTÉ.

#### **Creative Communities Projects**

At the beginning of May through an open call with the Arts Department three community engagement based projects were funded by Creative Ireland. The successful projects were:

- Tomhaggard Women's Shed in a creative writing project,
- South West Wexford FRC in the creation of a contemporary sculpture and short film
- Saltmills & St. Kearns in an environmental project.

The aim of these projects is to engage hard to reach communities in creative ways and the outputs from these projects will be showcase at the end of the year.



## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

### **Assistant Civil Defence Officer**

Sinead Furlong commenced her role as the Assistant Civil Defence Officer for Wexford on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Sinead has over 27 years' experience with Wexford Civil Defence both as a volunteer and Instructor.

### **New Drone**

We have received funding for the provision of an additional drone to complement our Drone Unit. A new Mavic 2 Enterprise Dual Drone, with Beacon, Spotlight, Speaker, and thermal imaging camera.

### **New Recruits**

Ten new recruits finished their recruit training and were issued with their uniform and PPE on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. 4 will join the Wexford Rescue unit, 2 to the Enniscothy Unit, 3 to the Gorey Unit and 1 to the New Ross unit. They will commence training with their local units week 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **EMT – CPC**

Further EMT CPC training was carried out on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> May with online training.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

### **The Fire Service Capital Programme 2021-2025**

Sod turning was held Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 for the new New Ross Fire Station. The Gorey fire station Refurbishment is approved to proceed through 2021/2022. One new fire appliance has been allocated to Wexford. The administration staff of the fire service have commenced training in the XRS Debt Collection Software which will streamline the debtors system.

### **COVID-19**

The fire service operational training continues to be is kept under constant review and updated as required.

## Fire Operations

There were 99 incident responses in April as detailed below.

### Call Statistics

Incident Type	Calls April 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	11 / 5 (16)	78	77
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	2 / 7 (9)	25	21
Road Traffic Accident	8	18	22
Industrial fire	2	5	5
Commercial fire	0	1	4
Assembly fire	0	2	0
Agricultural fire	1	5	2
Motor Vehicles	3	6	23
Forest/bog/grass etc	22	37	31
Rubbish	5	15	21
Non-fire rescues	9	29	15
False alarms – good intent	19	68	87
Malicious false alarms	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	5	16	17
Total	99	305	326

### Fire Safety

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

Applications Received	Year to date	April
Fire Safety Certificates	34	8

Number of Inspections	Year to date	April
FSA Inspections	17	8



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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## **COVID -19**

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

# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works to follow in early 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> <li>➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Stage 2 completion Spring 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<p><b>Gorey RWSS</b> To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun.</li> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under construction</li> <li>○ Borehole works ongoing during 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works have commenced on site. It is programmed to be complete 18</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>(UTAS)</b>	<p>months from commencement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tender documents have been issued and tenders are due to be returned in April</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> The direct labour crew are continuing with their work on the Find and Fix project as part of the overall leakage reduction programme. 2020 targets were successfully met with ambitious targets set for 2021.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> We are currently finalising designs and construction programme for mains rehabilitation scheme in Rectory Road in Enniscorthy. The Coolballow Road pipelaying works have commenced.</li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital



### IW Minor Water Schemes

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

### IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>H&amp;S Improvement Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New valve chambers and access covers to improve H&amp;S at Carne PS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Wexford monthly Capital Maintenance budget in Q1 has been <b>€108k/month</b>. The Q2 to Q4 has not yet been revised</li> <li>➤ €640k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021, which month on month is over budget.</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Enquiries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17 pre-connection enquiries received for Water Connections</li> <li>○ 16 pre-connection enquiries received for Wasterwater Connections</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17 applications received for Water Connections</li> <li>○ 16 applications received for Wastewater Connections</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 23 Water Connections sent for tapping</li> <li>○ 1 Water Connections made and closed on Maximo – New connections have started back again this month so only essential connections were being completed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Rising main works are now completed.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS have started on site, and M&amp;E works materials are currently being procured by the contractor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design and site surveys have been completed for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network.</li> <li>○ Tender processes are now complete and contractors are appointed, and works expected to take place during Q2 and Q3 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Close, Oulart- COF Received from IW. Design complete</li> <li>• Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW</li> <li>• Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made</li> <li>• Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</li> </ul>



### 3. Rural Water Programme



#### Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

- **Killaneran GWS**
  - Waiting on assessment as to whether the existing borehole and well head were constructed correctly. Based on these findings it may be appropriate to correct the existing extraction point and see if the issue is resolved. Avenues of exploration based on recommendations and conclusions of zone of contribution report previously prepared for Killaneran by NFGWS.

#### Measure 3 - Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation

- **Blackstairs GWS**
  - Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021.
  - WCC shall commence engagement of a specialised Hydraulic Modeller to carry out a hydraulic model of the network. This may result in the requirement for a new tank at Caim obsolete as alternative low-cost measures may be surface to resolve the issues.

#### Measure 5 - Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes

- **Bing GSS - Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)**
  - A response has been sent by the Chairman of WCC /Director of Service to Minister
  - The Bing Community have secured an increase to the number of participants - which is now at 74 which equates to 97% uptake

#### Measure 6 - Community Connection Networks (Water)

- **Battlestown CWC**
  - Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers
- **Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC**
  - Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability

#### Measure 8 - Individual wells (private or household wells)

- **Individual Well Grants**
  - In Qtr. 1, 58 well grant claims have been recouped from the Dept. totalling €73,843. A total of 98 new well grant applications were received to date for 2021.

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for April 2021 was on average 44.1MLD.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Leak repairs</b> Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 41nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in April 2021, including repairs on main, boxes, meters, hydrants and services.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</b> Planned leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Bree, Ballyhogue, Coolballow, Enniscorthy and Kilmyshall in April 2021. Planned leak detection has commenced in Wexford town and Kilmuckridge in May 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marys Lane BYS works were completed in April 2021, savings of 4.5m<sup>3</sup>/hr were observed.</li> <li>○ Coolballow rehab project Wexford commenced May 4th 2021.</li> <li>○ Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, rehab project is in the final stages of design and will commence late Autumn 2021. The Forth Road Gorey, rehab project design has commenced.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find resources were concentrated in the South Regional and Carrigbyrne during April 2021. They returned to Enniscorthy WSZ 24/05/2021.</li> <li>○ The contractor Find crew is currently investigating Ballykale DMA near Gorey.</li> <li>○ Direct Labour Fix crew completed 25 repairs in March 2021, with a saving in night flows of 6.5m<sup>3</sup>/hr. Repairs were completed in the Carrigbyrne, New Ross, Duncannon and Gorey.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>First Fix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coffey Northumberland recommenced First Fix cold calling in Wexford on 19/04/2021. This was originally on hold due to Level 5 restrictions.</li> <li>○ The CRU has announced increased funding for free first fix scheme, now also including shared services and NDU with domestic allowance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

## NATIONAL ROADS

### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

A TII peer review process of the scheme is currently being finalised and the project remains on schedule to confirm the preferred scheme route option during the week ending 18th of June. A public information campaign will be launched online, door to door and in print, broadcast and social media.

### N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The design and environmental assessment of the scheme continues to progress and it is anticipated that a planning application will be prepared for submission in Q4 2021. Site investigations and surveys will proceed in June in compliance with evolving Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions.

## National Road Pavement Schemes

### 2021 Pavement Schemes

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

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

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

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

TII Archaeologists are working on tender documents for the archaeological monitoring.

This will be tendered in early June.

Following a tender process in Q3 2021 and landowner issues, construction is likely to commence in the August, subject to TII approval. The contract duration will be 12 weeks.

### Future Pavement Scheme Planning

Survey works have been completed at the following locations in preparation for future pavement improvement schemes:

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

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

### Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 6 April after delays due to C-19 restrictions.

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

Kilrush to Ballyrankin; Glaslacken; Clolourish to Ballynabarny; Tomfarney (All in Enniscorthy District); Tinnacross to Effernoge; Clonmore to Mountforest; Scurlocks bush (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Bradleys Hill to Borsiloge Cross Roads; Haystown; Lacken Cross to Knockroe; Lacken Cross to Lacken Underpass; Ballindoney Cross Roads to R730 (All in New Ross District); Pollrane to Gentstown (Rosslare District); Red Bog Lane (Wexford Borough District).

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

Pegs Bar to Ballygarrett; Monawilling; Boleany Cross to Bridge; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Dunmain Junction (New Ross District); Ballymittie to DoYLES Cross; Rosegarland to Rospile; Edwardstown to St Tenants; Carrick to Bannow Mor (All in Rosslare District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

It is planned to commence the surface dressing programme on the 21 June.

### **Active Travel Measures**

Wexford County Council was allocated €3,603,000 for 50 Active Travel projects in the County. Works are in progress at several locations including; Ballyhogue; Duncannon; Fethard; Ballinaboola. Preliminary designs are being developed for cycleways at; Newtown Road; Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue in Wexford; Oaklands to Kents Cross in New Ross.

### **Additional Outdoor Infrastructure**

€673,000 was allocated to Wexford County Council under the Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund (2021) for 11 projects throughout the county.

### **Specific Improvement Works**

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd have been appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March. The structure and site investigation works are in progress. An underwater inspection of the bridge structure has been carried out. An Appropriate Assessment Screening is in progress and the design options will be planned and considered over the coming months.

### **Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works**

Wexford County Council submitted a proposed list of 2021 Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works to the Department of Transport for consideration on the 31 March.

### **General Maintenance**

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

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

Over 11,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

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

It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 1,500 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by the end of September 2021.

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

Additional public lighting is being installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund.

- Tomhaggard Village. Agreed alteration by contractor to be completed early June. Connection by July
- Craywell Road New Ross. Works completed. Awaiting ESB Connection
- Askamore Village. Works completed. Awaiting ESB connection.
- Marshallstown Village. Contract awarded
- Railway Square Enniscorthy. Contract awarded
- Milehouse Road Enniscorthy, lighting infill.

Budget is limited to €80,000 per annum. This has been supplemented from savings from the Led Upgrade programme (€150,000 in credit).

The budget for 2021 is approximately €230,000 and proposals are being considered.

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

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

- Kilann Village. Contract awarded
- Campile Village. Quotations due
- Duncannon Village. Quotations will be sought week commencing 31<sup>st</sup>. May
- Fethard Village. Quotations will be sought week commencing 31<sup>st</sup>. May

## **Finance:**

### **Q1 Finance Report 2021**

The Finance Report for the first quarter of 2021, i.e. to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, has been circulated. The results for Q1 confirm the ongoing impact of the Public Health Measures on the finances of the council with a reported deficit for the first quarter of the year, which is at a level for this period of the financial year, not seen since at least 2016. Members will recall the 2021 budget did include income levels for the main Goods & Services income at the same level as 2020 and it is clear during Q1 that these levels were not achieved and this is understandable in light of the sudden and severe lockdown immediately after Christmas 2020. In addition Wexford Co Council facilitated the establishment of the Haulier Test Centre and costs here were unplanned. Both these factors are informing the outturn reported in the Revenue Account at the end of March 2020.

### **Audit of Accounts 2020**

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Local Government Auditor has formally commenced the Audit of Wexford County Council.

### **Audit Committee**

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> June and will include consideration of the 2020 Annual Financial Statement and financial performance for 2020.

### **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, 2021. The Public Health emergency continues to impact on cash flow since the beginning of 2021 and this will be continuously monitored as the year progresses. Government funding has been committed to a six month rates waiver for certain business categories in a more refined scheme than the 2020 Rates Waiver Scheme.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**