



Chief Executive's Report

March 2021

Economic Development

LEO Wexford Business Supports

Despite the challenging year of 2020, LEO Wexford increased its grant aid to new start up business and expanding companies by 40%, with 27 companies grant aided and an increase from €403,919 to €752, 279 grant aid for job creation in the County. The new client stimulus fund allocated a further €300,000 to support 60 businesses with a €1 million investment. In addition to the funding the businesses will be provided with training supports including a new Advanced Owner/Manager Capability Development Programme which will be accredited by WIT. The national data will be released shortly on job creation performance of LEO's nationally but preliminary indications show that Wexford may have buckled the trend with net job creation.

In 2021 LEO Wexford has been allocated €1.5 million to support SME's in County Wexford. Following Brexit funding has been allocated to Wexford to focus on an export capability measure to assist new markets for companies. Further supports will focus on the green economy with Green for Micro, launched by An Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar T.D. on the 1st March, and training supports in the areas of Leadership Coaching, Innovation, Strategic Financial Capability Development and new market development.

To assist clients and small businesses with the new normal in relation to trade with the UK a Lunch & Learn on Brexit was broadcast. Featuring Minister Troy with the opening address the webinar looked at the key issues clients were facing and on their Brexit experience.



Film Industry Business

LEO Wexford are partnering with Screen Wexford to deliver a business programme tailored specifically for the film industry. The online programme will commence on the 9th March will look at issues specific to the film and animation sector such as funding and tax incentives.



Local Enterprise Week 1st to 5th March 2021

This national initiative will take place from the 1st to the 5th March across the 31 Local Enterprise Offices. Wexford is one of 10 LEO's selected nationally under the spotlight campaign which will be broadcast across Ireland and features a master class and case study of LEO client, Professional Hair Labs. Events scheduled for Wexford include:

March 1 st	Masterclass 1: Blaise Brosnan MRI "Congrats on getting thus far ... Where to from here for your business"	12.30 – 1.45 pm
March 2 nd	Trading Online Voucher Seminar Instagram for Business	2.00 – 4.00 pm 2.00 – 4.00 pm
March 3 rd	Trading Online Voucher Seminar Instagram for Business	2.00 – 4.00 pm
March 3 rd	Working with Wordpress Websites	2.00 – 4.00 pm
March 4 th	Masterclass 2: Blaise Brosnan MRI "Health checking" your Business for its forward journey.	7.00 – 8.30 pm

Spotlight Event
March 4th

Masterclass
Health checking your
business for its forward
journey.

Blaise Brosnan, Management Resource Institute, will
deliver a Masterclass on Working Capital:

- What does it mean in simple practical language?
- What are the Choke points in your Working Capital management?
- What are the GOLDEN rules re cash-flow management?

Venue: Online
Date: 04/03/2021
Time: 19:00 - 20:15
BOOK:
www.localenterprise.ie/Wexford/Training-Events/

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County Final – Student Enterprise Awards Programme 2021

The Pandemic certainly did not put a stop to entrepreneurship in County Wexford with 16 secondary schools and over 850 students taking part. The LEO office delivered webinars to second level schools across the county over the last 5 months and this was supported by online resources, including live broadcasts. Students have already submitted their reports and live judging will take place via zoom from the 2nd – 5th March. This year's county final will be a virtual event on the 11th March at 7.00 pm where we will announce the winners in the various categories from Junior to Senior. LEO client Bianca Divito has designed the trophies which will be presented to the winning students after the event when the schools reopen. Category winners in junior, intermediate and senior categories will go on to represent Wexford at the National Awards which will take place again virtually on the 14th May. Full details of the programme is available on www.studententerprise.ie. The Student Enterprise Ambassador is Derval O'Rourke. An invitation to the Virtual County Final will issue to members including a link to join the event.

Women in Business Network

LEO Wexford Women in Business Network continues to have strong attendance and the next event will be held on the 25th February featuring Larissa Feeney, founder of the award-winning Accountant Online who will speak about her journey from sole practitioner to a firm of Chartered and Certified Accountants serving over 1,800 clients across Ireland and the UK. Larissa leads a team of accounting professionals who work both remotely and in offices in Dublin and Letterkenny. A pioneer in using cloud technology in accountancy, the company has won many awards, most recently in 2020, winning the Irish Accountancy Awards for 'Medium Practice of the Year' and overall 'Practice of the Year'.

The international designer Chupi Sweetman Durney is the guest speaker at the network event on the 25th March. Members will hear how she transformed her business to a multi-award winning luxury jewellery brand with worldwide sales. The Women in Business Network provides an excellent forum for peer to peer learning and inspirational speakers sharing their knowledge in business development.

Tourism

Tourism Industry Funding Supports 2021



The Tourism Business Continuity Scheme is part of a new €55m business continuity support for strategic tourism businesses announced in the Budget 2020. The scheme administered by Fáilte Ireland aims to support Fixed Costs for certain tourism services who have been unable to qualify for assistance under the Government's Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS).

The first phase of the Tourism Business Continuity Scheme is now open for applications from businesses in the following categories who meet the eligibility criteria:

- Outdoor activity providers
- Tourism golf courses
- Hop-on Hop-off bus tours
- Cruise hire companies
- Boat tours operators
- Visitor attractions not eligible for CRSS
- Caravan and camping / outdoor accommodation

The Closing date for applications is Monday 8th March 2021. All applications must be made Online via The Fáilte Ireland Trade Portal only. Application Forms can be requested from Fáilte Ireland Customer Support.

International Marketing

In August 2020 recording took place in County Wexford by Peninsula Television for a TV series called Ireland County by County, which will be carried on 239 public broadcasting stations across America. Transmission of the first series begins on the PBS Create Channel on Friday 12th March.



The series will feature again on networks for the weekend to the 18th March 2021 timing with the focus on Ireland by the US with St. Patricks Day providing exposure to the US audience of all that Wexford has to offer.

Peninsula Television is supplying the broadcaster and distributor with a full suite of promotional photographs, which were shot during the production of the series. These marketing tools will be distributed as part of the external promotions activity and used on social media in the United States.



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 1st January 2021 until 12th February 2021

No. of valid applications	178
No. of invalid applications	22
Extension of Duration	5
Exempted Development Declaration	3

Numbers are those received from the 16th January 2021 until 12th February 2021.

No. of valid applications	131
No. of invalid applications	17
Extension of Duration	2
Exempted Development Declaration	2

Pre-Planning Applications

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

Numbers are as follows up until the 12th February 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	58
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	58
Average waiting time to meeting	24 days

Staff Pollinator Project

The Planning Section is please to confirm that the Staff Pollinator Planting scheme at County Hall is now complete. Since November, the bank to the front of County Hall, adjacent to the existing wild flower meadow has been cleared of scrub and native pollinator plants including some trees have been planted.

Over 1,000 plants have gone into the ground with each plant representing existing staff and retired staff who work for Wexford County Council since we have moved into Carricklawn HQ. Over the coming months and indeed years as the plants grow to maturity the bank will be full of colour, scent and helpfully plenty of bees, bugs and birds which will be a wonderful visual feast as you approach County hall from the lower road.

This project has been funded by National Parks and Wildlife Service through the 'National Biodiversity Action Plan Extra Funding 2020'.

New Planning Leaflets

The OPR and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have produced 14 planning leaflets.

They are available to view on our website at: <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/planning-leaflets>

1. Introducing the Planning System
2. A Guide to the Development Plan
3. A Guide to Planning Permission
4. A Guide to Making a Planning Application
5. A Guide to Making a Planning Appeal
6. A Guide to Planning Enforcement in Ireland
7. A Guide to Applying for Planning Permission to Build a House
8. A Guide to Doing Work Around the House
9. Agricultural and Farm Development – The Planning Issues
10. A Guide to Planning for the Business Person
11. Environmental Assessments and Planning in Ireland
12. A Guide to Architectural Heritage
13. Archaeology in the Planning Process
14. Strategic Infrastructure Development

Forward Planning

Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

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

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

If the Members decide to make amendments to the draft plan and these amendments are material in nature the amendments will then be placed on public display for a period of 4 weeks. Submissions may be made during this period. This will be followed by a further Chief Executive's Report which will be considered by the Members prior to the adoption of the plan.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report for 16 January – 12 February 2021 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website.
 - Currently 47 Properties on Derelict Site Register
 - 22 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 2 properties placed on the Derelict Site Register.

Building Control 16th January 2021 – 12th February 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	19
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	0
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	10
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	3

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 12th February 2021 are as follows:

➤ Live Cases	292
➤ Cases Opened 2021	28
➤ Cases Closed 2021	28

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 12th February 2021 is as follows:

➤ Properties advertised on websites	51
➤ No. of warning letters served	0
➤ Cases Closed	2

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2021 up to and including 15th February, totals **7**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	2	0	2	0	0
Gorey	0	0	0	0	0
New Ross	1	0	1	0	0
Wexford	2	1	1	0	0
Rosslare	2	0	1	1	0
2021 Totals	7	1	5	1	0

Pre-enforcement:

Following the completion of a comparison report of applications on the Diamond Fire System, 18 letters have issued to inform Developers of the obligation for their development to meet the requirement under Article 20 of the Building Control Regulations, with the submission of a Disability/Revised Disability Access Certificate.

Access Activity Update

Disability Proofing from 1st January 2021

Action 24, 25 & 75 WCC Disability Inclusion Strategy 2019-2022

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	13

The Website

Action 17-24 WCC Disability Inclusion Strategy 2019-2022

The Access Page has been extensively revamped and updated. One such update completed to support provisions under The Irish Sign Language Act 2017 (Act 40 of 2017).

Under the Act, public bodies are required to provide free ISL interpretation to people using or seeking access to services to include the availability of online IRIS.

The IRIS services has been set up and is currently available through CSU at Carricklawn and is informed on the website at <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/disability-access-for-all/accessibility-supports/irish-remote-interpreting-service-iris>

It is expected that the service will be rolled out through the Library Service locations later this year.

Accessible Transport

Action 100- 109 WCC Disability Inclusion Strategy 2019-2022

Initial investigation and collaboration has taking place with the National Transport Authority NTA for the provision of accessible bus stops, currently available in Wexford and New Ross, outstanding for Enniscorthy and Gorey. Also work involves drafting a programme for bus shelters. This collaboration is being supported by the Access Section and lead by the Roads Department.

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 are planned to commence on site following relaxation of the current Level 5 restrictions. The works are hoped to be complete by the end of Q2 2021, but this will depend on the starting date.

Crescent Quay: Works are substantially completed with minor snagging items to be completed following relaxation of Level 5 restrictions.

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 due to be opened when the safety works are completed.

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: Works commenced on site in May 2019 and were impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions in 2020. Works are currently suspended due to Level 5 restrictions, with approximately two months' work left to complete following recommencement. Tenders are being assessed for the playground and adult gym equipment with the installation to commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

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

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

The rail and sleeper lifting contract work commenced in August and all of the rails and sleepers from the abandoned railway have now been removed to storage in Rosbercon. Final site clearance and fencing works to be undertaken as part of this contract will be completed when the current Covid 19 Level 5 restrictions for construction sites are lifted.

The detailed design for the scheme is progressing. A number of tender packages are being prepared and advanced in line with the programme for the project. Tenders have been received for the initial contract for the urban sections in New Ross and Waterford. Tendering for subsequent works packages is programmed throughout the Spring of 2021. Works are expected to commence for the initial contract in March 2021 and to be completed by October 2021 (subject to Covid 19 restrictions). 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 expected by April / May 2021.

The tender documents for the proposed access road were advertised in October 2020 and 8 tenders were received by the closing date of mid-December. The tenders are currently being assessed and the works are now expected to commence on-site in Q2 2021 subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured to date for the scheme under the 1st Call for URDF projects and a further application, in response to a 2nd URDF Call for Applications, was submitted at the end of May 2020.

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. A contract with the preferred tenderer will be signed and works commenced on-site in Qtr. 1 2021 subject to CoVid19 restriction.

Wexford Arts Centre: Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. The works contract tender assessment is now complete and the tender report has been submitted for Departmental approval prior to the award of contract. Works will commence as soon as possible after relaxation of current Level 5 restrictions.

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

A tender process for works at High Hill advertised in Q3 2020 has been terminated without an award of contract, as the tendered sum significantly exceeded the budget allocation for the proposed works. A tender review was completed and retendering of the works was advertised on ETenders on the 3rd of February with a tender return deadline of the 10th of March.

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. Works are currently suspended due to Level 5 restrictions. There will be approximately 3 months left to completion upon recommencement.

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. Site investigation works and inspections of the site and tanks are complete.

A contractor has been recommended for the Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) and works are expected to commence in early 2021 following the award of the contract. The site commencement for the tank removal is postponed until Covid-19 restrictions for construction works are eased.

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

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

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

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. This process is expected to take circa. 2 months to complete.

The ground investigation works were completed in late October / early November. The preliminary design and bridge options report will be completed following review and assessment of the results of the SI works and is to issue to WCC by end of February for review.

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

John Street Building Regeneration Project: WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A CPO drawing and schedule, for the acquisition of the necessary lands, is currently being prepared by the Planning Section, with the CPO process due to commence as soon as this has been completed.

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.

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. A stage 1 pre-qualification suitability assessment for the design team services was advertised in December and was returned on the 10th of February 2021 and is currently being assessed. 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 underway with qualified tenderers and when this is concluded, the tender assessment report will be prepared.

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, with a works contractor expected to be

appointed in February 2021 and commence on site in March 2021 subject to Covid 19 restrictions. 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 design services teams for the INHP has been impacted by the Covid 19 restrictions and an award of contract has not been possible to date.

Tenders for the environment services required for the Hook project are currently being assessed and an award of contract is expected later this month. An award of contract for the tourism and environmental services is expected by the end Q1 2021 subject to Covid restrictions and contract.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman centre in New Ross has been completed.

County Wexford Attractions Review: Over the next 3-4 months BOP & Associates a UK based tourism consultancy will conduct a review of the four tourism attractions that have grant funded investment programmes in place. The purpose of the report which is supported by Failte Ireland and Wexford County Council is to identify and develop options for the best governance and operation models to support the future development of each attraction.

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.

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: Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents were completed in 2019. The EIAR & NATURA Impact reports were delayed due to CoVId19 and are now substantially complete with the drawings and schedules being finalised. Further local public information processes were undertaken at Rosslare Strand and Belview which have now been completed. The planning application to An Bord Pleanála is being finalised and we would expect to make a submission in the coming months.

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

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

Crescent Quay – Dredging: Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders. Tenders are currently being assessed.

Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy: A master plan for the Old Dublin Road business and commercial area in Enniscorthy is to be developed by WCC by Q2 2021. This master plan will allow for packages of works to be developed and advanced on a phased basis subject to funding. A tender for design services was advertised in Dec 2020 and a number of submissions were received by the closing date. Tender assessment is substantially complete and an appointment is expected to be made by the end of Feb 2021. A submission for aspects of the project has been made under the NTA's the active travel programme.

Enniscorthy Sports Hub: O'Leary Sludds Architects have been appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in June with a contractor to commence works in September 2021.

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

Flood Defence Schemes

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme: The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme requires formal confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in order to proceed. This is a statutory requirement under the Arterial Drainage Acts.

The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by the DPER and a public consultation process. The confirmation documents for the scheme, including the EIAR & NIS, were signed off by the OPW and submitted to the DPER in March 2020.

DPER completed the public consultation on the 28th August 2020. DPER completed the review of EIAR & NIS and sent a request for supplementary information to the OPW on the 06/11/2020. WCC are assisting OPW with this request. The Scheme Design Consultants Mott MacDonald are preparing a Response Report for the OPW which is to be issued by the 31st March 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 excluded under the pass/ fail criteria were notified. Correspondence has been received from the excluded candidates and this is currently under review.

The legal agreement required for the diversion of Irish Water services has been completed, Archaeological licences are in place, the bridge agreement with Irish Rail is being progressed, the application for the foreshore lease and foreshore licence is being progressed with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government - public consultation on the foreshore application finished on the 15/12/2020. The Foreshore Licence is expected to be issued in June 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 9th July 2020. A tender assessment has been carried out and a recommendation was issued to the Commissioner of the OPW. An appointment is expected in Q1 2021 on conclusion of the tender assessment procedures.

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

HOUSING

Housing Section and Covid 19

Due to Covid-19 we have returned to level 5 restrictions which were introduced in early January 2021. This has impacted on our construction programme. Sites that were not sufficiently advanced have been temporarily closed in line with government restrictions. However, our Technical staff continues to progress and monitor all of our Capital Projects. Working with consultant teams remotely has allowed many projects to proceed with funding stages and applications as can be seen in the updated Capital Schedule below.

Although it has been a challenge for the Housing Section we continued to provide the following critical services during the pandemic:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services
- 3) Allocations

Housing Staff are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable. We operate in teams for the following reasons:-

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

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

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

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	To complete Feb 2021 awaiting ESB connection and drying out.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Will complete in Q2 2021. Site closed due to Covid 19
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022. Site closed due to Covid 19
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under construction	Under Construction due to complete Q4 2021. Site closed due to Covid 19
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Stage 4	Stage 4 Approved, Funding shortfall source agreed. On DHPLG advice contracts will only be signed when lockdown is lifted.
Whiterock Hill (<i>deliver units in 2 phases</i>)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender for phase 1 (22 Units) Q1 2020.
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved. Design Team working on Part VIII submission. WR have agreed to contribute additional funding for the capital spend. Lodge Part VIII Q1 2021
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Stage 2 in Q1 2021 for Phase 1 for 25 units. Engineer reviewing services to confirm best route to connections.
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG in Q1 2021 Planning is in place.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Allocation requires further savings. Standard house reviewed as requested by DHPLG. Consultants to review costs then lodge Part VIII Q1 2021
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q1 2021 Present sketch proposals to New Ross members in March Meeting. Struct / Civil Engineers selected for the project. EO being prepared.
Wexford Street	28/32	Gorey	Stage 2	Full Design Team appointed. Site investigations underway. Site closed due to Covid 19. Stage 2 Q2 2021
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 2	Seeking Stage 2 Q2 2021.
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 2	Stage 2 submitted 20 Nov 2020.

				New OT report, revise house for Special Needs. Re-submit Stage 2 Q1 2021.
TOTAL	226			

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 prior to signing construction contract. Start date subject to sites re-opening.
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design and Detailed survey commenced. Engineers tenders are due back 4 th March. Single Stage Application to be lodged with DHPLG in Q2 2021
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – not approved by DHPLG (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold, no funding stream (no activity)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, Sign contract and commence on site when restrictions are lifted. Funding secured. PEP submitted and EO sought.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance approved.
TOTAL	5		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q2 2021) Reviewing House types prior to submission.
Daphney View	10	Enniscorthy	Access issues – Review and develop smaller site with access. Phase 1 dependent on land purchase from adjoining neighbour.
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once Rosbercon is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works.
TOTAL	57		

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.
Adamstown	20	Wexford	We are awaiting confirmation that there is capacity in treatment plant. We believe there is but IW to confirm.
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling 1works 2020. Confirm capacity availability Q1 2021
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to a Municipal District meeting in 2021
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. S for Q2 2021
TOTAL	57		

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	9 units to deliver Q1 2021
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver in 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	Under construction. To deliver Q3 2022
Tuath			
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	28 units delivered. Remainder will deliver over Q1 and Q2 2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	33 units delivered. 8 units to deliver Q1 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q1 2021
Clonattin	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver Q1 2021
TOTAL	312		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	18 units complete
Roxborough Manor,	22	Wexford	14 complete. 4 units to be

Mulgannon			delivered in Q4 2021 and 4 units Q2 2022
Clonard	6	Wexford	Delayed until Q2 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
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	Delayed until 2021 due to change in Planning
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
TOTAL	79		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q2 2021
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	15 units delivered. 4 units to deliver Q1 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	Not on site yet. Expected to deliver 2022
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	expected to deliver April 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	expected to deliver Q3 2021
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	4 units to deliver Q1 2021
TOTAL	172		

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

Through our media channels we have reached 24,494,745 people with Celtic Routes inspiration. We have created a promotional video and a considerable photo bank for each county and their relevant tourism social media channels to use. We have created a TV advertisement campaign which will commence in the 1st week of March on SKY, RTE and S4C and will be followed by a radio campaign. At the beginning of March, we will be creating Thematic Groups to steer and inform further collaborative ideas, Learning Journeys and investment.



March Report (21st January – 18th February 2021)

During Level 5 Restrictions the 'Keep Well' Community Resilience campaign continues to highlight ways to keep well with key focus areas of: Keeping Active, Minding Your Mood, Eating Well, Staying Connected and Switching off & Being Creative.



The Healthy County Coordinator continues to highlight local and national activities through our social media and in support to the #WexfordTogether Radio Programme and local press activity. She is also progress on the local 'Keep Well' Community Resilience Funded activities, in collaboration with colleagues and partners across the county. Some of our locally devised supports have been picked up nationally and are receiving good reaction.

The Healthy County Committee met in February and the meeting progressed review of the Healthy County Plan Strategic Priorities with an update on activity to date collated and plans in place for a committee workshop in early March. The outcome of same will guide the work focus for the committee during 2021. In tandem, the new challenges that have emerged as part of the recent pandemic will also be considered by the committee for committee focus in 2021.



Healthy Ireland Round Three funded activity continues to be impacted by Covid19 and the current restrictions are significantly impacting for all actions. A review of work and spending projections is now required by the funders in order to progress the fund for 2021. This will be completed in collaboration with Action partners.

The Healthy County Coordinator remains an active contributor to the Community Forum – regularly updating this group on the Keep Well Fund and activities in addition to other updates. The Coordinator is also engaging with other departments at Wexford County Council to progress delivery of a Healthy Wexford.

Burial Grounds

Burial improvement works have been approved for Bunclody and Rathnure, to the value of €40k. The works at Bunclody will consist of accessibility improvement works to the main access route. The works at Rathnure consist of the replacement of the main entrance wall and gates.

Comhairle na nÓg

Wexford CNN will be participating in the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Youth Climate Conversation – LOCAL LEVEL. This initiative will provide an opportunity for members of Comhairle na nÓg to meet up online for a structured conversation

about their hopes and concerns, ideas for climate action in their local area, and how to support deeper youth engagement in climate issues. Their feedback, which will be integrated into a summary 'climate conversations' report, is also intended to inform the development of the 2021 national Climate Action Plan currently being drafted.

Playgrounds

- Wellingtonbridge – repair to pod swing, new seat for car springer, new multi -unit platform and slide panel, repairs to bike springer
- Ferndale – replacement of pod swing
- Ferns – repair to pod swing and gyro bearing and multi -unit.
- Maudlintown – new yellow bucket rotator installed, repairs to yellow and green vertical rotators, repairs to climbing frame and new parts installed on snail rocker.
- Gorey Town Park/Clonattin Village – surface repair
- New signs installed in Kilmore, Raithinn Cuilinn, Wellingtonbridge
- Duncannon – replacement of two flat swings, new matting installed under zip line, replacement cap on rocker, new spring on zip line, new casing on elephant rocker, new seat and footrests on elephant rocker, cleaning of walkways at outdoor gym area
- Assumption Tce – Surface repair
- Enniscorthy Library – repair to slide unit

LEADER

There were twelve grant payments to the value of €337,039.52 approved by the Article 48 team and these are awaiting payment by the Dept.of Rural and Community Affairs. There were nine payments made to grant applicants to the value of €293,140.33.

Telehealth

Work is continuing to progress on the national Telehealth pilot which Wexford Age Friendly are working on with the HSE, Waterford IT and Tunstall Emergency Response. Clinicians from Wexford Hospital from the disciplines of Diabetes, COPD and Chronic Heart Disease, through technology provided by Tunstall Emergency Response, are monitoring patients they discharged from hospital. To date 28 patient referrals have been made. The technology being used in this pilot has been used extensively elsewhere, but this is the first time being used in the Irish healthcare context. The primary objective of the pilot project is to establish a proof of concept for the provision of remote patient monitoring services (telehealth) which will lead to the scaling up across other counties.



Tablets for Nursing Homes

Working in collaboration with the HSE (Health & Wellbeing) and Age Friendly Ireland to support older people and enable them to use technology to link with family and loved ones during the pandemic, Wexford Age Friendly have purchased 6 Acorn tablets for a number of Nursing Homes in Wexford. Residents and staff will be given ongoing support and assistance for the 12 month pilot. Tablets were received mid-February in the following nursing homes – Knockeen (Barntown), Middletown House Nursing Home (Courtown) and Oakfield Nursing Home (Courtown).

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

In March 2021, 10 nursing homes in Co. Wexford will commence hosting classical and opera-based outdoor concerts on their grounds as part of an Age Friendly initiative supported by Creative Ireland. 5 concerts will take place in each nursing home every 6 weeks up to the end of August 2021.



The following nursing homes are included:

Castlebridge Manor Nursing Home
Cherrygrove Nursing Home
Kerlogue Nursing Home
Knockeen Nursing Home
SignaCare Bunclody Nursing Home
Older Person's Services St.John CNU
Community Rehabilitation Team, Millview
Community Rehabilitation Team, Havenview
SignaCare New Ross
Valentia Nursing Home Wexford

Keep Well campaign

Age Friendly Wexford are running a number of initiatives for older people under the Government's Keep Well campaign. Current projects include:

- Tale-A-Phone – storytelling by phone running from 3rd February to 31st March
- 'Pebble' Fall Detector Devices – for vulnerable older people at risk of falls



'Tale-a-Phone Exchange'

Storytelling by phone for older people

Joint Policing Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 08th March 2021 via MS Teams.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 25th March 2021 via MS Teams.

Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group is scheduled for the 25th March 2021 via MS Teams.

As stated in the January report, The Transitional LEADER Programme will commence on 1st April 2021, with LAGs approving new projects from 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2022. The Transitional LEADER Programme will bridge a gap between the wind-up of the current 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the start of the next EU programme, which is not likely to commence until 2023 due to delays at EU level.

Sports Active

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Online Exercise Classes	HIIT with Theresa Roche takes place on Mondays from 6-6.30pm and Yoga with Sarah Dunlea on Wednesdays from 6.30 – 7.30pm. Videos are emailed to all participants so they have an opportunity to do the class in their own time or repeat it again during the week. Classes are running on a four week block with options to pay €2.50 for one session or €10 for all four. There are 22 people participating in the yoga class and 7 people in the HIIT class.
Virtual Couch to 3K	110 participants signed up for Sports Active Wexford's six week couch to 3k virtual programme. All participants will receive packs for completion of the programme.
Operation Transformation Virtual 5Km run	Operation Transformation virtual 5k Run will take place over the weekend 18 th – 20 th February. Sports Active Wexford are encouraging as many Wexford people as possible to take part.
Courtown LTI and Gorey Youth Needs 5k challenge	Sports Active Wexford are supporting Gorey Youth Needs and Courtown Local Training Initiative with their current 5k team challenge. There are 45 participants in total.
Workplace Activity Programme	Staff Pilates with Anna (IEP) with Sports Active Wexford began on 5 th February. This is a pilot programme for the month of February. There are currently 29 staff members signed up. Videos are sent to the group every Friday and can be done when suits best.

Staff Wellness Packs	Sports Active Wexford developed Activity packs for staff who wanted ideas and opportunities to increase physical activity especially at the moment during Covid. 140 staff members across Wexford County Council signed up for these packs. All packs will be packed and delivered by the end of February.
Keeping Well campaign	We continue to support the 'Keeping well' campaign with articles in the local newspapers and appearances on the Radio Programme on Thursday evenings. Alongside the promotion of activities on our online social media.
MoveMENT MoMENTS	Frank Fahey from FitWalk Ireland has developed a seven week functional fitness exercise series. This pilot programme will be delivered to members of Men's Shed around the county starting on 22nd February and is aimed at introducing easy short slots right through to longer sessions that will increase the fitness levels of participants, so they can easily manage the physical challenges of daily living. Each week participants will receive a video of the exercises, for those who are not good with technology there will be a paper form of the exercises. Funding from last year's HSE grant will be used on this initiative. At present we have 17 registered for the programme including 6 men from Havenview Intellectual Disability Rehab Unit.
Slaintecare	<p>The IEP is mid-way through the third block of exercise programmes. All programmes are still being delivered via online or telephone call. The IEP is linking clients in with resources, event and links from SAW where possible. This block is due to finish at the start of next month.</p> <p>The programme Presentation has been delivered to the Board of Sports Active Wexford and Waterford University Hospital, by the research Team.</p>
COPD Peer and Exercise Support Group	Weekly Zoom exercise classes for Wexford COPD Peer Support group started on Friday 5 th February and will continue every Friday from 2-3pm. The class is open to new members to join. Sports Active Wexford will fund the cost of 16 weeks of classes and our tutor Theresa Roche will deliver these. The funding for this is from the 2020 HSE grant.
Havenview	A series of workout sessions have been developed for the residents of Havenview Intellectual Disability Rehab Unit. The session can be done from seated/standing, with no equipment and from the comfort of the resident's room. The residents will receive weekly updates during the current lockdown. Inclusive Physical Activity Equipment has also been purchased for the centre and will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Table Cricket	We have purchased two sets of Table Cricket for the County to replace the sets lent to us by Cricket Leinster last October. We will be working with our partners in Cricket Leinster to arrange demonstrations and delivery to schools with ASD units and centres for people with disabilities over the coming weeks
Safeguarding	Safe Guarding Courses 2 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 32 participants.
Staff Training	All staff attending Two online Social Media training sessions

ENVIRONMENT

A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Throughout the third lockdown, work has continued in line with the CCMA's guidance document of 21st 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.

Coastal Erosion

With considerable frequency of storms this winter a number of stretches of coastline have been impacted in terms of erosion. These areas are being monitored closely. In relation to Seaview Kilmore which has been severely impacted in recent months a report has been sent to the OPW seeking funding to proceed to design of detailed coastal protection works.

Closed Landfills

Funding of €227,000 has been received from the Department of Environment, Community and Climate for remediation works at 4 closed landfills in the county, Carcur, Ballykeerogue, Gorteen and Lucas Park

B. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

The tender for Hydrographical Surveying of the ports and harbours has been assessed and the contract will issue at the completion of the mandatory standstill period.

Quotations have been sought for the provision of Marina Survey and Repair works. The Closing date for submissions is 24th February.

Piers and Harbours Byelaws 2020 were adopted at December's monthly meeting by the elected members, they officially came into force from 1st February, 2021.

The Ports, Past and Present project is ongoing. This is an EU-funded four year long project under the Ireland-Wales programme.

Beaches - Curracloe Beach won Ireland's Favourite Beach under the 2020 Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards.

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

C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

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

D. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

Under the Water Framework Directive every catchment in the county must be assessed to identify required actions to maintain and improve water quality. This 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 will commence when the Covid-19 situation improves.

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.

5 files have been closed and 7 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 were dispatched in September.

5. Air Quality:

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a number of locations in the county. Proceedings have been initiated against the owner of a Pig Farm in Kilugger, Killinick for persistent offences that contravene air pollution legislation.

Wexford County Council enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with Wexford County Council. These Certificates must be renewed every 3 years.

Audits of these facilities to ensure compliance,

Vehicle Refinishers: In 2020, 51 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. A Fixed Payment Notice (FPN) of €500 was also issued against a vehicle refinishing facility in 2020, which was the first FPN of it’s type issued in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

Dry Cleaners: In 2020, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

Petrol Stations: In 2020, 81 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2019	No. Issued in 2020	No. Issued (to end of Jan 2021)
Vehicle Refinishers	22	21	1
Petrol Vapour Emissions	23	28	4
Solvents	4	2	0

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 2020), provided for the introduction of the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of specified fuels in the specified area of **Enniscorthy** with effect from 1 September 2020. (S.I. No. 260 of 202)

6. 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.

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations Goal: Mainstreamed and integrated into all functions and activities
Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment Goal: Effective management of climate risk and informed investment decisions
Theme 3: Land Use and Development Goal: Influence positive behavioural changes to low carbon resilient society
Theme 4: Drainage and Flood Management Goal: Understand risks and consequences of flooding etc
Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure Goal: Implement meaningful approaches to protect natural and key cultural assets
Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing Goal: 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. The training will also be offered to Elected Members.

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

Climate Action Training

Number Offered Training	Training Successfully Completed
63	5

7. Noise and NAP 2019-2023

Noise complaints are dealt with on an ongoing basis. Two complaints of persistent noise pollution are currently under investigation.

The Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2019-2023 relates to general noise nuisance from large infrastructure or from motorways. Since the first plan was produced, Wexford County Council has steadily improved its resources with respect to the management of noise.

Wexford County Council submitted the Annual Noise Action Report describing all actions undertaken within the previous calendar year to the EPA in January 2021.

Action by Wexford County Council in 2020

In 2020 Wexford County Council purchased equipment for four permanent noise monitoring stations at a cost of €10,000. Three stations are active in Gorey, Enniscorthy & Wexford.

Potential Quiet Areas have been identified as below

Quiet Areas in Settlements	Quiet Areas in the Open Country
Redmond Park, Wexford Town Peace Park & Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy New Ross Town park, New Ross Gorey Town & District Park, Gorey Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy Town Gorey Town and District Park Mount Carmel/New Ross Youth Centre, New Ross Town	Mount Leinster/Black Rock, Blackstairs Mountain Blackstairs Commons, Blackstairs Mountain Bantry Commons, Blackstairs Mountain Tacumshin Lake, Ballyhealy The North Slobs (River Slaney Estuary) Drinagh Intake, West of Rosslare Kilbride Wood, Kilbride Coolatrindle/Ruanmore, Court Annagh Hill, Annagh Croghan Mountain, Croghan

These areas have been included in the Wexford Draft Development Plan 2021-2027

8. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 102 farm inspections undertaken as a result of pollution incidents or complaints, 50 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon five farms and Section 3 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon two farms where deliberate direct discharges to watercourses.

A total of 114 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed and a further two planning permissions were queried to assess if the applicant had complied with the conditions of planning permissions granted.

Wexford County Council completed odour monitoring assessments on a two separate sites in 2020 on foot of several hundred complaints from the public. These sites included a pig farm and a composting facility where compost is produced by processing straw and animal wastes. Section 24 notices under the Air Pollution Act 1987 have been served upon these businesses.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	14	11	2	0

9. Planning

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

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

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

As of the end of January 2021 the Environment Section has received 44 planning applications for assessment. In 2020 Environment Section assessed 924 planning applications. A breakdown of these applications is given in the tables below.

South Wexford (Wexford, New Ross and Rosslare Electoral Districts)

Year	New Dwellings	Extensions to Dwellings	Granny Flats	Housing Estates	Commercial Sites	Sport/ Recreation	Schools/ Childcare Facilities	Health care/ State Bodies	Energy	Infill Sites
2020	358	86	16	8	8	2	6	7	1	
2019	296		23	10	28	6	8	9	5	1

North Wexford (Gorey, Enniscorthy and Kilmuckridge Electoral Districts)

Year	New Dwellings	Extensions to Dwellings	Housing Estates	Commercial Sites	Sport/ Recreation	Schools/ Childcare Facilities	Discharge Licensed Sites	Quarries	Infill Sites
2020	346	34	12	27	1	6	5	6	2
2019	337		4	30	0	3	2	1	0

10. Duncannon EIP Project

Wexford County Council is currently lead partner in the Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Communities Scheme. We were successful in receiving funding of €550,000 to run this project for 3 years.

The project is now engaging with 36 farmers covering over 950ha of the 1300ha catchment. To date, engagement with all farmers continue with approximately 4 visits to each farm every year where baseline and final "Pollution Potential Zone" surveys are carried out.

The project runs a results based reward scheme where an annual payment is made to each farmer based on their PPZ survey which ranges from €1,000 & €4,000. The farmer can also avail of a water protection improvement works grant which can be used to carry out like fencing watercourses, establishing arable grass margins, resurfacing clean yard areas, hedgerow establishment, riparian margins etc. To date, the EIP project has paid €130,000 in annual payments to farmers while funding of approx. €25,000 has being paid to farmers that have completed works.

No. of farmers	36
No. of visits/ engagement	379
Area signed up to EIP	955HA/1300HA
Km's fencing of watercourses	4.5km
Establishment of arable grass margins	1200m

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 January 2021	Recycling out (End January) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End January)2021 (t)
Glass bottles		308	377
Aluminium Cans		8	10
Total	108	316	38

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-jan 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-jan 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jan 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Jan 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- Jan2020	Recycling out Jan - Jan 2021	Recycling out Jan-Dec 2019	Recycling out Jan-Jan 2020
Total Recycling out	54.5	55.5	61	62	73.1	73.6	49.7	47.5
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	178.320	151.540	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Jan	2019	2020	2020	2021	2020	2021	2019	2020
	69	72	127	117	96	92	95	98

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

3. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	<i>To end January 2020</i>	<i>January 2021</i>	<i>To end January 2021</i>	% +/_
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	326	372	372	+14%
<i>Gorey Civic Amenity *</i>		<i>52</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy Civic Amenity *</i>		<i>110</i>		
<i>Wexford Civic Amenity Site*</i>		<i>158</i>		
<i>New Ross Civic Amenity Site*</i>		<i>52</i>		
Total Bring Site Inspections	308	805	805	+161%
<i>North (Gorey & Enniscorthy)</i>		<i>449</i>		
<i>South (Wexford, New Ross & Rosslare)</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>356</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>				
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	1338	1338	1338	0%
<i>North (Gorey & Enniscorthy)</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>398</i>		
<i>South (Wexford, New Ross & Rosslare)</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>940</i>		
Other Works	311	375	375	+26%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>36</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>178</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>92</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>69</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 seventeen Clean Soil and Stone sites in operation; eight 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 62 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

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.

7. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty

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

F. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2020 (to Dec 2020)
Fines Issued	213	14
Fines Paid in Full●	78	4
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	2
Successful Prosecutions**	20	0
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	21
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	Data unavailable

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

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

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

Cases due to be heard in January and February have been adjourned until March and April respectively at the Judge's behest due to the Level 5 restrictions and high incidence of Covid-19 at the moment.

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

G.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	Jan 1- 31 2021
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	526
Closed	3526	4563	3755	3647	338
Closure Rate	98%	99%	79%	73%	64%

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	490	36
Dogs reclaimed	111	11
Dogs re-homed/transferred	339	8
Dogs put to sleep	29	1
Dog Fines	4	1

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

To 31st 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.

Holmestown Household Recycling Centre: All school visits to Holmestown have been postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions. The tour outlines the energy saving technologies used, how landfills are managed, a birds of prey display and a tour of the recycling site.



School Workshops: Online workshops will resume once schools reopen. Themes covered will include biodiversity, marine environment, litter & waste and recycling.

Annual Environment Artwork Competition: It is hoped to run the competition in 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.

Greener Christmas Competition: Details of this on-line competition was circulated to all schools in December. Schools were asked to submit their best green Christmas Tip. The competition was open to both primary and secondary schools. 61 entries were received.

Trees for Wexford Campaign: The trees for Wexford Campaign received 150 applications. All groups will be notified of collection dates for trees in March (depending on Covid restrictions).

Community Clean Ups: Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. Registrations will be accepted from family group and individuals only according to current government guidelines.

Planting Grant: The 2020 Planting Grant Scheme was advertised in June and is now closed. 54 applications were received and all approved the maximum grant of €300.

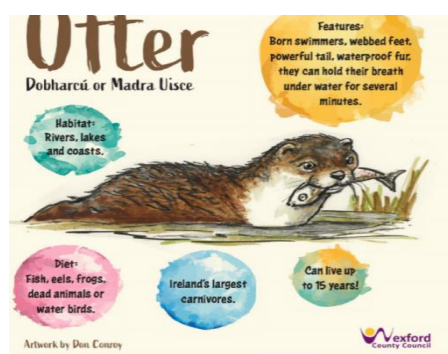
Christmas Tree Shredding: Wexford County Council arranged for the FREE shredding of Christmas trees at 7 locations throughout the County between the 1st to 9th January, 2021.

Local Waste Prevention Grant: The 2021 scheme will be announced in March / April. 11 applications were approved in 2020 the maximum grant of €500 under scheme. Projects funded included 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.

Leader Funding: Leader Funding has been approved for a community training programme entitled 'Understanding my Area's Biodiversity'. The objective of this training programme will be to inspire people to take action for biodiversity in their local area. It is about improving the public's knowledge of what biodiversity is and thus encourage them to consider increasing biodiversity in their local community areas like gardens, green spaces, and derelict areas and preserve existing biodiversity rich habitats.

Blue Flag Education Activities: A series of social media posts depicting some of our coastal fauna was circulated on social media as part of blue flag education programme. A series of 15 posts which included otter, Common Tern, shells, whales hoped to help us engage with the coast during lockdown.



Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: A series of images and messages have been put out on twitter to encourage all dog owners to pick up after their dog and dispose of the poop bag responsibly. The Green Dog Walker Campaign was promoted during January and received over 500 pledges in 4 days. Due to the huge volume of interest, unfortunately at present we are out of stock. Registrations will reopen once our stocks have been replenished.



LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to COVID

In line with Government guidelines on Covid-19, all libraries in the country remained closed to the public with online and book call services only. The Book Call service enabled those who More than 329 deliveries were made during February these were evenly split between the north and south of the county.

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

The Library Facebook pages were used extensively to promote online services, resources and information during the month of February and reached a large audience totalling 55,601.

Online events and services were promoted through our e-Newsletter. A further e-Newsletter was sent to school contacts with information most relevant to teachers and students.

Ireland Reads Campaign

Ireland Reads is a new national campaign to encourage as many people as possible to get reading. The campaign ran throughout February, leading up to 'Ireland Reads Day' on February 25th. Ireland Reads is about promoting the power of reading for enjoyment and wellbeing, combatting lockdown by encouraging everyone, young and old, to get back into the habit of reading and regularly setting aside time to sit and read a book, a poem, a comic, a newspaper, whatever works for them! We want everyone to experience the joys of reading - and to share their experience with family, friends and book clubs online.

Local Wexford online Ireland Reads online events included:

- Enniscorthy poet Patrick Kavanagh reading his work in an online conversation.
- Wexford author Carmel Harrington in conversation. This is part of a new initiative "Fully Booked". Fully Booked is a series of interviews where an author or personality answers 10 questions regarding their favourite book choices.
- Dedicated Ireland Reads live Story Time for young children.

- Library staff members in conversation for Fully Booked at Wexford Library discussed their favourite books. Ireland Reads was also promoted re The Squeeze in a Read videos of staff 'squeezing in a read' as they do everyday tasks.

Decades of Centenaries 2021

The funding available under the Decade of Centenaries grant has increased from €10,000 in 2020 to €50,000 this year. Suggested projects focus on: initiatives that support broad public engagement; engagement with children and young people; access to primary resources and digitised material to aid research and understanding.

A total of €15,000 is specifically allocated to artistic and creative community-led responses while there is also an emphasis on local projects. These local projects delivered in partnership with community groups and local history associations will be organised through the Municipal Districts.

Following consultation with the five Municipal Districts and the Arts Department, a suggested comprehensive programme was created. The grant application was endorsed by the Housing and Community SPC and submitted to the Commemoration Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media in early February.

Virtual launch of 'On Our Own Ground', Volumes 2 and 3

The virtual book launch of 'On Our Own Ground: County Wexford Parish by Parish' Volumes 2 and 3 took place on 28th January. Volume 2 was written by Dr Edward Culleton while Volume 3 was co-authored by Dr Culleton and Celestine Murphy (who also edited).

County Librarian, Eileen Morrissey introduced the speakers: Leas Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council Cllr. Garry Laffan, Chief Executive Tom Enright, author Dr Edward Culleton and Dr Patrick Prendergast, Provost of Trinity College Dublin. Dr Prendergast officially launched the book and spoke of his Wexford connections and his love for his home county.

The audience were also shown images from the book which displayed many beautiful Wexford landmarks and landscapes. Over one hundred people from around the world logged on for the launch and many messages and well wishes to Dr Culleton were expressed over the online chat facility. This virtual book launch was a first for Wexford Library staff, who organised it over MS Teams and were supported by the IT Department.

Keep Well Campaign

Wexford Library Service has been allocated funding under the Keep Well Campaign – Switching Off and Being Creative. #KeepWell

Projects due for delivery in early 2021 include:

- **Keep Well Campaign Literacy and Art workshop series with Sarah Webb and Alan Nolan,** Consultation has commenced between the authors and artist Sarah Webb and Alan Nolan, teachers in St Patrick's school Enniscorthy and Our Lady of Fatima School Wexford and Wexford libraries. The aim of the programme is to support the children to stay connected and support their mental health through a series of online workshops incorporating storytelling, creative writing and art tutorials. Most importantly they will be delivered in a way that ensures maximum fun, interaction and engagement for the children, the teachers and SNA's supporting the work in class when restrictions allow.

- A programme to assist parents to stay connected through a baby sign-language course. **Keep Well Campaign Clever Little Handies**, Wexford Libraries launched a series of 4
- weekly workshops incorporating baby sign language, early literacy development and social support and resilience development for parents/carers and their babies. This programme will run until the end of March 2021.
- A Creative Photography project and exhibition to be launched in early March which asks people to submit a photo that makes people smile, captures their best lockdown #KeepWell experience, or simply a photo that evokes the essence of what #KeepWell means to them and the impact of COVID19 on their everyday life.
- Launch of the OMI Vista Mobii light projection units with an array of activities for Adults with Dementia.
- Launch of the Sensory collection of Toys Technology and Training for children with special needs.

Libraries Ireland is partnering with Grow it Yourself (GIY) to roll out the Grow It Forward campaign under the Government's Keep Well Programme. This campaign is a positive, action-orientated programme that uses the hook of food growing to empower people to a healthier, more sustainable and resilient life. Grow It Yourself will have packs for distribution through libraries along with a link with library resources for growing following the launch of the campaign in mid-March

Parenting 2021

The second online parenting talk of 2021 took place via Wexford Public Libraries YouTube channel on Thursday 25th February. Entitled Parenting Today 2021: Strategies and supports for Children with Additional Needs in Early Years', Presented by: Olive Buckeridge, Down Syndrome Ireland. Early Years Specialist Olive works with the Down Syndrome Ireland Members Support Team as their Early Years Specialist. This programme is an initiative of Wexford Library and CYPSC Wexford (Children and Young People's Services Committee)

Down Syndrome Ireland See and Learn, Research was carried out with local and national organisations into how Wexford County Council Public Library Service can support local families of young children with Down syndrome. Plans are in place to source kits for all library branches to support the See & Learn language and literacy development programme. The kits will be supported by an introduction and training video for parents and carers as part of Parenting Today 2021.

Wellness

A Home-schooling talk with psychologist Dr. Aoife Quinn took place on Friday, 19th February via Zoom.

Strategies and supports for Children with Additional Needs in Early Years: This talk for Parenting Today 2021 online series was streamed online on Thursday 25th February.

Right to Read Literacy and Reading development

Literacy Apps

Wexford Public Libraries rolled out its range of literacy support programme for families, schools and adults in February 2021. The licences for TTRS, Nessy and Reading Eggs, allow an additional 520 children or adults in County Wexford take these courses at home, in school or in the library to build their literacy skills, reading and typing competence. Students can access these courses from their PC or download the apps to their tablets or phones. Suitable for all ages, these are useful to those who experience reading and writing difficulties; adults needing help with literacy skills and people learning English as a second language.

Hello Heroes Programme was initially developed for children from Courtown Direct Provision Centre in association with Gorey Youth Needs and Gorey Library. The programme has now been opened to all primary DEIS schools in County Wexford. It aims to boost self-esteem, empower children and provide an appreciation and celebration of difference. The workshops build literacy skills through fun creative writing, group discussions, drawing and storytelling. Co-funded by Wexford County Council and the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Nation Creation Programme, This programme was made available to all DEIS schools in County Wexford from their local branch library. The workshop series helps children to build good friendships, re-socialise and settle back into school life. These workshops develop literacy skills, creativity, promote empathy and celebrate difference and acceptance. Themes such as migration and refugees are explored sensitively with the children. The programme is a series of 4 online workshops where children work together inventing new countries with laws, languages, flags and customs. Co-funded by Wexford County Council and Dormant Accounts Fund.

Engineer's week ran from 27th of February. To celebrate the STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, Enniscorthy library recorded 2 stories for schools.

Wexford Libraries' Online Book and Writing Clubs

Wexford Libraries' Online Book club is a private Facebook group that hosts a book club discussion each month. The online book club has over 230 members from all over the county.

Story and Rhyme times continued online from all branch libraries throughout February, 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.

Books and Art Packs for Courtown Direct Provision Centre: Books and art packs were put together for 24 babies, children and young people ranging from 1 year to 18 years. The books were selected following consultation with the children and young people to ensure that their reading preferences were reflected in the books supplied. Objectives included supporting language and literacy development, encouraging creativity and promoting positive mental health.

Rosslare Direct Provision Centre

Following consultation with support personnel, a plan is being developed to support language development, literacy and creativity with a group of 14 children ranging from new born to 16 years. Online Resource Information: A leaflet outlining how to join Wexford Libraries, highlighting all online resources available from books, language courses, international newspaper, music, a wide variety

of online courses and information on how to access them has been created and distributed to all residents in Courtown and Rosslare direct provisions centres.

Comic creation Workshop for Drumgoold Traveller Youth Development Project

Wexford Libraries delivered access to a series of 4 pre-recorded comic art workshops for children and young people in partnership with Wexford Local Development.

BUSINESS

The Library has continued to promote Work Matters Business eResources online and physical stock, online classes and e-resources to businesses and to people who are seeking employment in the county. In the February the e-mail newsletter gave particular mention to business and employment eBooks and eAudiobooks on BorrowBox, and also business training courses on Universal Class.

Local Studies and Genealogy

There were 15 local studies enquiries during February and 13 genealogy enquiries.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

The Archive dealt with 32 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during February. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries where possible in an effort to facilitate researchers while the reading room remains closed under the current restrictions.

Outreach / Digitisation

Extant minute books of County Wexford's poor law unions continue to be digitised on a phased basis for remote research. Minutes for the period 1862-1881 were uploaded to the archives website during the month.

ARTS

Artlinks- Open call artists bursaries

Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford Arts Offices. Open call took place in February 2021. Closing date for applications is 15th March, 2021. Total fund for Wexford is €20,000. The Artlinks award in Wexford has average grants of €1,000 - €3,000. Another element of Artlinks, an additional Collaborative Award for artists from two or more Artlinks counties worth €10,000 will be announced in March, 2021.

Small Arts Festivals 2021 - Open Call

An open call for the Small Arts Festivals 2021 fund was announced with a closing date of Tuesday 9th March, 2021. This grant scheme aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals and experimental events throughout Wexford County. The focus is on festivals/events of high artistic quality that are innovative and have a strong emphasis on public engagement. Applicants have been asked when preparing their application, that it should be based on the best public-health advice and guidance available at the time they are making their application. Their proposal should be feasible or adaptable should social distance and/or other public-health measures impact on all or part of the application. The total award fund is €22,000 with an average of 12 festival/ events awarded per year with grants between €1,000 - €3,000.

“Tale-a-Phone Exchange” – Storytelling by phone for older people

As part of the Government’s Keep Well Campaign, the Arts Office and Wexford Age Friendly are offering older people in the county the opportunity to receive a phone call from renowned storyteller, Joe Brennan. The “Tale-a-Phone Exchange” to have a chat and then hear one of Joe’s wonderful traditional stories in the comfort of their own home and takes place every Wednesday from 3rd February running over 8 weeks until 31st March, 2021. This is a new approach to storytelling and the first time in Ireland for sharing traditional oral stories in this way. There is an extremely high level of interest in this initiative both locally and nationally and RTE, Radio 1, South east radio and numerous media outlets covered it.

Wexford Writers Scripting For Broadcast Academy (Phase 1)

The course is delivered by Bodecii Film and funded by Screen Skills Ireland, Screen Wexford, Creative Ireland and Wexford County Council Arts Office as part of their commitment to supporting filmmakers and film production in the region. An open call was placed for emerging writers in the Wexford region to take part in a Scripting for Broadcast Academy. Closing date was 15th February, 2021. A high level of interest was expressed in this Academy with 63 applications received. This unique professional development workshop series is specifically aimed at writers from, or located in, the Wexford region. This is Phase One of a Two Phase programme which will endeavour to represent a diverse range of new original voices and talent from all backgrounds, in Phase One, emerging Wexford writers will work in a collaborative writer’s room environment with established and experienced TV broadcast writers, TV Directors, and Producers throughout the process.

Spring 2021 online training supports for Artists

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

Digital Up skilling programme for Artists, festivals

Due to the extremely high levels of interest, the Arts Office is running a repeat of this free 7 week digital up skilling programme online via zoom for Wexford based artist’s creative, arts festivals etc. in February 2021 delivered by Wexford artist and folklorist Michael Fortune – Max 20 participants per programme on zoom.

Friday Fixes

Zoom workshops aimed at writers, facilitated by Cat Hogan, Irish Novelist and Screenwriter, with invited guest speakers in a broad selection of themes e.g. The Submission Process for Plays/ TV and Film, Bursary and Grant Applications and how to manage your finances as a freelancer, Standing Your Ground as a Professional Artist etc. are currently being delivered every Friday morning over 7 weeks and finishing in March, 2021.

Clinic – Working with Curators

Funded through Creative Ireland and delivered by Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) the Arts office ran a 1 hour webinar for all artists and 3 hour clinic for 8 Wexford artists on 17 February 2021 and was facilitated by Brendan Fox, Independent Curator, Artist and Writer, on the benefits for artists to have their work seen by curators.

Artist’s Mentoring Workshops – 2020/2021

Free mentoring programme. From 10 applications, 6 artists based in Wexford County have been selected for a series of free Mentoring Workshops to be delivered by Curator and Cultural Consultant Eamonn Maxwell over a four month period from Nov 2020 – Feb 2021. These mentoring workshops support artists in their practice and aim to address artists’ specific needs working in a professional environment.

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

Pembrokeshire County Council and Wexford County Council panel have shortlisted 5 artists' teams to develop Stage 2 proposals to create two new pieces of public art, one in Ferns and one in St David's as part of *Ancient Connections* with a total maximum budget of €175,000 to include all costs. A site visit with 4 of the shortlisted artists took place in December 2020 in Ferns Wexford, along with the Ancient Connection Coordinator, Arts Officer, Wexford Planner, and 2 local experts. The artworks must be linked either visually or conceptually and be made from sustainable materials. Deadline for Stage 2 Proposals has been extended to end February 2021.

David Begley – 'Ancient Connections' Community Residency Ferns

As part of the Ancient Connections Wexford Wales programme and supported through Wexford's Per Cent for Art Programme, Residency Artist, David Begley, is currently working on a 10 week workshop programme which includes the digging and preparation of a Monk's garden in St. Enda's Primary School, Ferns. David will deliver this programme to the school in spring 2021, restrictions allowing, exploring ancient herbal remedies and biodiversity. David has also made contact with local farmers in the Ferns area for research on his film which will be part of the residency exploring ancient history and connections in farming practices across Wexford and Wales.

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. All programme online currently and includes The High Street Opera Zoom with Elizabeth Drawl and mini maestros preschool online programme with Aileen Donoghue and Pete Mc Camley. A new online Ukulele programme has been launched in 15 schools countywide. In addition the Music Generation Instrument Bank has been significantly enhanced in 2021 with the purchase of 40 guitars, and hundreds of ukuleles as well as glockenspiels which will be used for the vocal programme to be developed over the next couple of months.

Art Ability/ Arts & Health programme with HSE centres.

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. It involves smaller groups, co-facilitation from nursing to ensure social distancing, facilitating outdoors and travelling between venues. New outdoor Music Groups have been created at various residential units and currently this programme is being extended across all art forms. The Steering Group Committee is currently planning an online virtual Exhibition of the Art Ability programme in April 2021 that takes place Wexford Arts Centre and throughout the centres behind closed doors that will be filmed and broadcast. An art ability website is currently being designed which will be launched in April 2021 and will house the online virtual exhibition.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties

No requests for First Aid course for Civil Duties has been received for February.

Weekly Training

Weekly training resumed on 25th January in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey. New Ross Unit to resume training shortly.

Training Courses

We have completed course in Manual Handling on 6th February in County Hall. Further Manual Handling courses will be completed on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February.

Covid 19 – Response

Wexford Civil Defence has been tasked to provide support to the Community Forum helpline in County Hall, HSE and Department of Defence since week 23rd March 2020.

Patient Transports

February, we have provided to date 13 patient transports to include, Whitfield Clinic Waterford, Waterford Regional Hospital, St Vincent's Dublin.

We also transported a lady to the Northgate Medical Centre for her Covid19 Vaccination

Blood Banks – IBTS

We have provided support to the Blood Bank in Wexford 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th February and Gorey on 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th February.

Additional Funding

We have received additional funding of €6,000.00 , the funding will be spent on equipment needs identified as part of the Wexford Civil Defence Development Plan 2020 – 2022. Then equipment to be funded will be rechargeable lighting equipment and large search torches.

New Training Headquarters

We continue to look for a suitable training Headquarters for the Wexford Civil Defence. This is becoming a priority as the current lease will expire in two years on our current premises.

We have reviewed a building in Wexford Town which may with some modifications provide suitable accommodation for Wexford Civil Defence.

Missing Persons Search

We were contacted by An Garda Siochana to help with a missing persons search on the 8th February at 2151. 14 volunteers turned out to help complete a search for the missing person. We were stood down by AGS en-route to the search, the missing persons had been found. Condolences to his family and friends.

Severe Weather Response

Homeless - Rough Sleeper Accommodation.

We provided and setup 10 camp beds, sleeping bags and blankets in the accommodation centre in St Josephs.

We provided a further 10 sleeping bags on Saturday 13th February.

4x4 Ambulance Cover

We have received a request from Mr. Anthony Byrne, National Ambulance Service to make or 4x4 Ambulance available to NAS if required for patient transport during the cold spell.

6 Volunteers remained on standby overnight in county hall with a 4x4 ambulance, a jeep and a recovery jeep on Thursday 11th February from 2000 – 0600.

6 Volunteers remained on standby overnight in our HQ with a 4x4 ambulance, a jeep and a recovery jeep on Friday 12th February from 2000 – 0300.

Volunteer Vaccinations

We are working with Marianna Keally, Emergency Management Officer, HSE to compile a list of frontline volunteers who have helped transport people to hospital and Dr's Appointments. I have also included a number of volunteers who have helped in preparation of PPE, Meals on Wheels packs and packs for vulnerable people,.

Assistant Civil Defence Officer

The ACDO position was advertised on Tuesday 9th February, closing date for is Thursday 25th February.

FIRE SERVICE

The Fire Service Capital Programme 2021-2025

The New Ross fire station is ready to go to construction at a cost of €1.7m. The Gorey fire station Upgraded/ Refurbished is approved to proceed through 2021/2022 at a cost of €0.5m. One fire appliance has been allocated to Wexford in the next tranche of appliances.

COVID-19

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

Fire Operations

There were 72 incident responses in January as detailed below.

Call Statistics

Incident Type	Calls January 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	7 / 13 (20)	20	18
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 7 (7)	7	5
Road Traffic Accident	4	4	8
Industrial fire	2	2	0
Commercial fire	0	0	1
Assembly fire	0	0	0
Agricultural fire	1	1	0
Motor Vehicles	1	1	7
Forest/bog/grass etc.	1	1	2
Rubbish	5	5	3
Non-fire rescues	8	8	5
False alarms – good intent	13	13	28
Malicious false alarms	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	10	10	6
Total	72	72	83

Fire Safety

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

January 2021

Applications Received	Year to date	January
Fire Safety Certificates	6	6

Number of Inspections	Year to date	January
FSA Inspections	1	1



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

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works to follow in early 2021.
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Stage 2 completion Spring 2021.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<p>Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m³ reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under construction ○ Borehole works commencing September 2020

Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon It is expected to sign construction contracts in February 2021 with construction to begin in April. Construction and commissioning will have an 18 month programme. ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tender documents have been issued and tenders are due to be returned in March ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. We are currently finalising designs and construction programmes for mains rehabilitation schemes in both Rectory Road in Enniscorthy and the Coolballow Road. We expect to start works on the Coolballow Road in Spring 2021.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes

- **Disinfection Project**
 - Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.
 - Snagging on-going at various sites.
- **Treated Water storage programme**
 - 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.
- **Kilmallock Bridge**
 - To be submitted for planning by late 2020

IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Trinity Street WWPS Upgrades**
 - Contractor appointed for replacement of change-over switchgear and generator control panel with works expected to take place Q2 2021.
 - Generator exhausts and foul pumps manifold to be replaced Q2 2021.
- **King's Bay WWPS, Arthurstown Upgrades**
 - Contractor currently on site for Phase 1 of upgrade works including site fencing and new valve chamber.
- **Invest to Save – The Cove/New Haven, Rosslare**
 - Funding secured under the Invest to Save programme will be used to decommission New Haven WWPS and divert flows to The Cove. Works are well progressed on site, with flows now diverted and New Haven PS switched off. Further works will take place at The Cove in March 2021.
- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
 - Pumps have now been upgraded to smart pumps at Distillery Road and Carcur WWPSs, and Crosstown WWPS will take place in April 2021, to improve efficiency and reduce the frequency of blockages and sump cleaning.
 - Pumps will be upgraded to smart pumps at Ballygillane Big and Small WWPS in Q2 2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stimulus Funding – SCADA Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New SCADA telemetry will be added to four WWPS at New Ross Town and Bunclody. Works began on site during December and are on-going, with expected completion April 2021. ○ Upgrade of existing SCADA will take place at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford.
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Wexford monthly CM budget in Q1 will be 108k/month. The Q2 to Q4 monthly budget will be advised towards the end of Q1. ➤ €265k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021.
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 23 applications received for Water Connections ○ 13 applications received for Wastewater Connections ➤ Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 13 Water Connections sent for tapping ○ 13 Water Connections made
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Rising main works are now completed. ○ Civil works to the PS have started on site, and M&E works materials are currently being procured by the contractor. ➤ O'Rahilly View WWTP (TIC), Gusserane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q1 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions. ➤ Radharc na bhFánaithe WWTP (TIC), Killanne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works currently underway on site. ➤ Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Tender processes are now complete and contractors are appointed, and works expected to take place during Q2 and Q3 2021.
DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Close, Oulart- Connection application made • Mountain View, Ballindaggin- Connection enquiry made • Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made • Cois Cuan, Arthurstown

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Countywide consumption for January 2021 was on average 41.6MLD, this is an increase of 1.3MLD from Dec 2020. The main increase in night flows was seen following the period of cold weather in early January.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 43nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in Jan '21. ➤ Planned Leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Enniscorthy and Gorey in January 2021.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehab Submissions: Coolballow Road rehab is currently at design stage with Wexford Co Council. The Forth Road rehab design has been allocated to Coffey Northumberland. ➤ Find and Fix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find resources were concentrated in the South Regional during January 2021, due to an increase leakage in the WSZ. They will be returning to Enniscorthy WSZ in March 2021 to complete another full investigation of the area. ○ The additional contractor Find crew continued in Gorey North DMA during January. Funding for this crew to proceed in 2021 is yet to be approved by Irish Water. ○ Direct Labour Fix crew were in Enniscorthy and Gorey in January and are preparing to complete repairs in New Ross and South Regional.

Roads and Transportation

NATIONAL ROADS

N25 New Ross By-Pass

Some localised and minor outstanding works and snagging will be completed in the coming months in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the final close out of all project related matters.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The option selection process is now drawing towards a conclusion and will then be subject to an independent peer review process. It is anticipated that the peer review process may take at least four weeks to complete. Upon completion of this process, the preferred scheme option will be confirmed and announced. Details of the public information campaign for the preferred scheme option will be announced in advance and will be contingent on Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines in place at the time.

The project is giving careful consideration to a number of recent events and changes that have the potential to impact on future travel demand and thereby influence the option selection process. The relevant policy framework under which the project operates is subject to ongoing transformation with ever increasing focus on sustainability and climate action. The European Green Deal, the National Climate Action Plan, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027 are just some of the policy documents that have been published recently with an increased focus on securing a sustainable future. Ambitious targets for modal switch from private transport to public transport and active travel form a key policy platform for a transformation to a sustainable transport network and this has potentially significant impacts on future travel demand forecasts. The ending of the Brexit transition period has also had a significant and immediate impact on travel demand due to a significant increase in the volume of road freight using Rosslare Europort. Work commuting patterns have also changed very significantly during the past 12 months due to Covid-19 restrictions with the possibility of some sustained future changes to commuting patterns and travel demand.

This is a transformational time for transport planning and the project must respond to these changes in order to ensure the development of a transport project that meets the future needs of society in a sustainable and effective manner. As a result, the option selection process encapsulates a broad study potential transport solutions and is taking longer than was initially anticipated. A project newsletter will be published in early March which will describe in detail some of the complexities and challenges that have prolonged the option selection process and some of the additional studies that are being carried out.

The selection of the scheme option to be further developed will set the future course of the project and is a critically important decision to secure planning approval for the delivery of a safe, high-quality and sustainable transport network. It is also an important decision for current and future transport users and for local residents and communities that may be impacted by the decision. The project is committed to ensuring that a thorough, future-proofed and evidence-based decision-making process is completed in as prompt a manner as possible. This will ensure that the best transport option is identified and that local residents and communities that may be impacted positively or negatively by the decision are informed as soon as possible.

Rosslare Europort Access Road

The design and environmental assessment of the scheme continues to progress and surveys required to inform this process have also commenced in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions. The project is assessing the significant impact of Brexit on volumes of freight traffic using Rosslare Europort to ensure that the project design is future-proofed to meet future capacity demands. The project is also co-ordinating the road design with the design layout for the Rosslare Europort Master Plan. It is anticipated that a planning application will be prepared for submission towards the end of 2021.

National Road Pavement Schemes

2020 Pavement Schemes

N30 Mountelliot

Construction work commenced in October 2020.

Pavement works recommenced on 20 January and were completed on 12 February.

N11 Kileen to Newtown – Phase 2

Construction works commenced on 16 November 2020.

The drainage works and pavement binder layer have been completed.

The barrier replacement on the southbound carriageway will be completed by the end of February.

The HRA pavement surface course should be completed by the end of February subject to suitable weather conditions.

2021 Pavement Schemes

N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme

Drainage works commenced on 25 January 2021.

Pavement patch repair works commenced on 8 February.

This scheme should be substantially completed by the end of March.

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

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

This should be tendered by the beginning of March.

Tender documents for the construction contract are being reviewed at present and should be completed by the end of February.

The delay in the archaeology contract has delayed the tendering of the scheme.

The scheme should be tendered in early March.

Construction is likely to commence in the second quarter of 2021 subject to approval from TII to award the contract. The contract duration will be 8 to 10 weeks.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The Municipal Districts are currently finalising a schedule of roads to be strengthened in 2021. Strengthening work is not considered essential or critical transport infrastructure work under current Covid 19 guidelines, so all preparation work in relation to these schemes is currently suspended. Two projects that were deemed essential were resurfaced in macadam in the last month. These were Weafer Street, Enniscorthy (Enniscorthy District) and Glasganny approach road to Castlebridge (Wexford Borough District).

Surface Dressing Works

The Municipal Districts are currently finalising a schedule of roads to be surface dressed in 2021.

Active Travel Measures

Co. Wexford received €1,351,098 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August 2020 for 28 projects. The majority of these projects were substantially completed by 18 December 2020.

Wexford County Council submitted a proposed list of 2021 Active Travel projects to the National Transport Authority for consideration on 21 January 2021. These projects are currently being assessed by the National Transport Authority.

Climate Change Adaptation Measures

Co. Wexford received €460,000 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August 2020 for 16 projects. The majority of projects were substantially completed by 18 December 2020.

Winter Maintenance

The 2020/2021 Winter Maintenance season commenced on Monday 12 October 2020. There have been 69 planned treatments of salt on Priority 1 & 2 routes up to 16 February 2021. This is higher than average.

General Maintenance

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 10,500 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 2,200 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by the end of March 2021.

Design work is substantially completed.

Lantern deliveries from the UK have been affected by issues associated with Brexit. It is still hoped to have the majority of the lanterns installed by the end of March.

Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2020

Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2020 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts. This will include appropriate recording of the exceptional adjustments to record the government covid subventions and various business supports grants that occurred during 2020. The preparation of the annual accounts is on track to be completed by the submission deadline of the end of March.

Capital Programme 2021 – 2023

The Three Year Capital Programme has been circulated and is included on the agenda for consideration of members at the March meeting.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will meet again on 25th March and will be further developing their work programme for 2021.

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 will no doubt continue to impact on cash flow during 2021 but for the moment the government support funding received at the end of 2020 has eased pressure on cash flow in the early weeks of 2021.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**