



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**May 2021**

## Economic Development & Planning:

### Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) €1 million funding for Business

The Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) aims to assist rateable commercial businesses with operating costs who do not qualify for other covid support schemes such as CRSS and Failte Ireland Business Continuity Grant.

The first phase of the scheme closed for applications on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Wexford County Council has been allocated €1,104,692 for the scheme. Phase two will have a closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

The following shows that 144 businesses in Co Wexford applied under phase 1 in total. The majority of the applications rejected (13) was due to the business not meeting the €50k turnover requirement or the business is already in receipt of Covid 19 financial supports such as the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme from Revenue. The first tranche of funding has now been received from the Department so eligible businesses will receive grant aid shortly.

DATE 22 April 2021	22-May-2020 to 22-Apr-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME COVID STATISTICS		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	61	€244,000.00
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	70	€280,000.00
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	13	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	144	€524,000.00

### WCC and Failte Ireland Outdoor Seating & Accessories Grant for Tourism & Hospitality Sector (OSAS)

Wexford as a County has a strong tourism sector which is a key contributor to jobs in the local economy. The Economic Department is promoting in partnership with Fáilte Ireland a new scheme to assist businesses who serve food on their premises to develop outdoor dining opportunities and expand their current offering.

- **OSAS will include all towns and villages in the County.** Wexford County Council sought clarification from Fáilte Ireland that given the importance of Tourism to Wexford, could we extend the eligibility criteria. Fáilte Ireland have clarified that under the terms and conditions of the scheme, the Local Authority has discretion to extend the eligibility criteria beyond town centres to include villages. The website has been amended and Wexford County Council will operate the scheme to include all towns and villages across the five Municipal Districts.
- **No fees for section 254 licenses in 2021** There is a requirement for a section 254 license for proposals in public spaces and the application form is linked to the grant. Wexford County Council will **waive the fees** required for section 254 licenses this year due to the impact of covid 19 and there will be no charge for outdoor tables and chairs for dining for business.
- Briefing meeting were held on the 16<sup>th</sup> April for the Municipal District Managers regarding the process and the MD's will make recommendations on the location of the equipment where a section 254 license required.
- Scheme details available at <http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/osas>

## Key criteria

- Scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food is sold for consumption on the premises.
- Application timeline for receipt of online forms is 12<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- Grant is €4,000 or 75% max ex VAT.
- Expenditure is eligible from 1<sup>st</sup> April last year 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- Tables, seating, umbrellas, heaters, screens/windbreaks, plant stands and wooden platforms are eligible.
- Business must operate from a commercially rateable premises.

### Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Grant Scheme (OSAS)

- Applicants can apply for a grant of up to €4,000 or 75% maximum of the ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased
- Applies to businesses who operate from a premises that is commercially rateable by a local authority
- Eligible expenditure includes tables, chairs, umbrellas, electric heaters, screens/windbreaks, plant stands and wooden platforms
- Expenditure must be incurred between the 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021

The closing date for applications for the Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant Scheme for local Tourism and Hospitality Businesses is 30th September 2021

For full details and to make an application, please see:  
<http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/osas>

Any queries should be sent to the Economic Business Support Unit at Wexford County Council by email: [osas@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:osas@wexfordcoco.ie)



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority

**Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council**

## LEO Wexford Supports 1,475 jobs in 2020

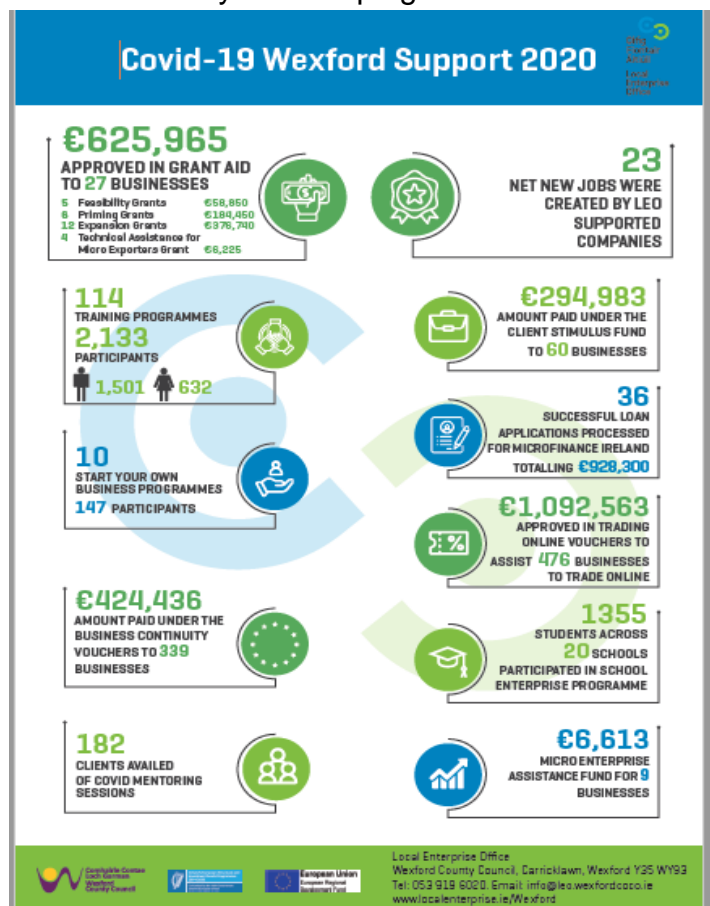
The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD, announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2020 which showed that over 7,500 companies employing over 35,000 people are now supported by the LEOs.

Local Enterprise Office supported companies created 5,585 new jobs in 2020. Despite the new jobs created, there was a net jobs loss of 1,494 across the LEO portfolio of client companies in what was a challenging year for small businesses. LEO Wexford buckled the national trend with **1,475 jobs supported** and a **net increase of 23 jobs** despite the challenge of Covid 19, which is a testament to the business community in Co. Wexford.

## LEO Highlights 2020

- Trading Online Vouchers to assist business to develop a digital and an e-commerce focus and open up markets. The LEO dealt with the equivalent of 15 years TOV's in 1 year in 2020 and over €1 million was allocated to 476 SME's compared to 33 last year at €66,000.
- Despite the covid year LEO Wexford supported 1,180 Full Time Jobs and 295 Part Time jobs. In the year of the pandemic and Brexit with the average decrease in net jobs nationally at 4%, LEO Wexford had a net increase of 23 jobs as our clients pivoted and increased competitiveness, embraced innovation and developed new export opportunities post Brexit.
- Just under €300,000 was allocated to LEO clients under a covid stimulus fund.
- €1 million was allocated under the Micro Finance Loan supporting access to finance with a 1% discount through LEO.
- With covid 19 the LEO team adapted all training courses online and provided training for over 2,000 business and 187 companies availed of specialist mentoring support.
- Grant aid increased with €626,000 allocated to SME's.

- LEO introduced the Wexford Welcomes You Safely campaign to support consumer confidence and with the rassist businessess with safety measures in response to the pandemic. With the reopening of the economy the campaign will be actioned in 2021 as soon as lockdown restrictions ease.



## Training;

As part of the Client Stimulus Fund which provided financial assistance to business, LEO Wexford grant aided clients will participate in a minimum of 3 days professional development to assist them in sustaining and growing their businesses thereby contributing to the recovery of the Irish economy. A tender to establish a training framework to deliver supports to our clients across the following areas; Lean, Green for Micro, Leadership Coaching, Innovation, Strategic Financial Capability Development and New Market Development. The tender deadline was the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and we received 40 submissions. The quality of the tender submissions was particularly high and we are in the final stages of reviewing will be in a position to appoint in the coming week.

## Women in Business Network

The next LEO Wexford Women in Business Network is scheduled for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April and this month's guest speaker is LEO supported client Niamh Hogan, Holos Skincare. The network continues to go from strength to strength and is also supported by a closed Facebook Group which now has 120 female entrepreneur members.



Holos was inspired by Niamh's passion for healthy lifestyles and by her clients in the Holistic health clinic where she witnessed how essential oils helped to enrich their lives in subtle ways. After researching the benefits of essential oils and plant ingredients on the skin, she created Holos Skincare. Niamh has made the transition from LEO Wexford client to Enterprise Ireland and in March 2020 she launched an innovative range called Super Natural Activity that is 100% plant-based, made with scientifically proven plant actives, is pH balanced, vegan and cruelty-free as well as using sustainable packaging.

The Women in Business Network provides an excellent forum for peer to peer learning and inspirational speakers sharing their knowledge in business development.

## Visit Tourism



Paul Finegan has been appointed as the new Visit Wexford Tourism Chairman and is General Manager at The Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey since 2013.

Paul has worked in the hospitality industry for over 30 years, 20 of those in Wexford, and he will bring a wealth of knowledge of the tourism and hospitality industry to the role. The Economic Department will continue to work in partnership with Visit Wexford to deliver a range of supports including training to upskill in anticipation of reopening the sector for the summer subject to covid 19 guidance from government.



## BBC News feature's Visit Wexford April 2021

Wexford County Council and Visit Wexford's marketing campaign goes from strength to strength and gained prominence in April with the campaign to Visit Wexford featuring on the BBC news site.



The news story was about Ireland easing out of restrictions and the footage showed a Visit Wexford Advertisement which had been placed at a Luas station. The advertisement encouraged visitors to “Plan your Holiday at Visit Wexford.ie, The Sunny South East, Best for Sun, Best for Fun”. This image got great traction on all Visit Wexford Social Media channels. The article can be viewed at the following link. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-567175142>

## PLANNING

### COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

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

#### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

No. of valid applications	505
No. of invalid applications	57
Extension of Duration	21
Exempted Development Declaration	25

Numbers are those received from the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 until 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

No. of valid applications	150
No. of invalid applications	13
Extension of Duration	8
Exempted Development Declaration	10

## Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	75
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	192
Average waiting time to meeting	24 days

## Forward Planning

### Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

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

On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April the Members met to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions and observations received on the Draft Plan. The report contained a list of the names of the persons who made submissions and summarised the main issues raised in the submissions. The report also gave the response of the Chief Executive to the issues raised and his recommendations for proposed amendments to the draft plan. The Members will now consider the Chief Executive's Report, together with the Draft Plan, and decide whether the Draft 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.

## Heritage Grants

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

## Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report 1st January 2021 to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as follows:

The issuing of formal Notices will now resume. Notices requiring works to be carried out was put on temporary hold to enable owners adhere to Covid-19 public health restrictions.

- 66 property inspections/visits conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 to date.
- 2 properties placed on the Derelict Site Register.
- 1 Dangerous Structure Notices issued.
- 2 properties submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.
- 24 Derelict Site Levy Invoices issued
- 2 Vacant Site Levy Invoices issued.

### Building Control 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	55
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	4
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	12
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are as follows:

➤ Live Cases	318
➤ Cases Opened	107
➤ Cases Closed	81

### Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are as follows:

➤ Properties advertised on websites	73
➤ No. of warning letters served	4
➤ Cases Closed	2

### Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 up to and including 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 totals **15**

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	4	0	2	1	1
Gorey	3	3	0	0	0
New Ross	1	0	0	1	0
Wexford	4	0	1	3	0
Rosslare	3	0	1	2	0
<b>2021 Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

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

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>47</b>



## 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 now fully open to the Public. Final snag works will be undertaken when the current restrictions on working on site are lifted.

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

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

**South East Greenway:** 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 has re-commenced following Coivd 19 restrictions and works are expected to be completed by mid May.

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. Contracts for works will be awarded in May for Lot 1 and Lot 2 with site commencement expected in June and July respectively. Tendering for subsequent works packages is progressing. The works on the entire Greenway are due to be completed by Spring 2023.

**Trinity Wharf:** Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is expected by April / May 2021. Tenders for a works contract for the new access road to serve the development are currently being assessed and WCC is advancing the works licence agreements required from CIE for the

construction of the access road and the new level crossing with a view to commencing works in Q3 2021.

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

**New Ross Fire Station:** Approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to award the works contract for the New Ross Fire Station. A contract with the preferred tenderer will be signed and works commenced on-site once CoVid19 restriction allow.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension of and alterations to Wexford Arts Centre. The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works are expected to commence on site on May 4<sup>th</sup> (subject to lifting of Covid 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 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Church and Cemetery.

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

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

**Kilmore Quay Link Road:** Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works commenced on site in November 2020. 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, but this will depend on the duration of on-going restrictions.

**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 will commence when the current Covid19 restrictions are lifted. A Part VIII Planning application will be lodged in May 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 work for the pedestrian bridge was completed in early November. The preliminary design and bridge options report has been completed taking account of the results of the SI works and was issued to WCC for review this month.

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

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

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

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

**Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building:** The planning stage design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed. A Part VIII application has been submitted and the observation and submission period has now been completed. A stage 1 pre-qualification suitability assessment for the design team services was advertised in December and was returned on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 and is currently being assessed. A detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design. 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. A works contractor is expected to be appointed in March 2021 and will commence onsite in April 2021, subject to Covid 19 restrictions being eased. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

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

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

Tenders for the environment services required for the Hook project are currently being assessed and an award of contract is expected later this month. Appointment of design teams for the tourism and environmental services is planned for April 2021 subject to Covid restrictions and contract.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman centre in New Ross has been completed. A tender process for the supply of tourism co-ordination and management services to the project to include the Norman Centre and the Dunbrody Experience will be initiated in the coming weeks.

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

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

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

**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 and a recommendation for award of contract is expected in April, 2021.

**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. Malcahy Walsh & Partners was appointed in March to provide design services for the project.

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

**Enniscorthy Sports Hub:** O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. Modia Consulting were appointed in March to provide quantity surveying services. Works contracts are expected to be advertised in 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 that did not meet the pass/ fail criteria were notified. This decision was appealed by two candidates. WCC sought legal advice on the matter and it has been decided to re tender the competition. Tender documents are being updated at present.

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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process WCC has made a decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition. A further procurement process will be commenced in the coming months.

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



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

### **HOUSING**

#### **Housing Section and Covid 19**

The latest regulations made under Section 31A of the Health Act 1947 permitted housing construction works to recommence on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. We continue to liaise with all contractors to agree revised schedules of work for schemes and to support site re-opening as quickly as possible. Despite the challenges for the Housing Section during COVID pandemic, we continued to provide the following critical services:-

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

Private Residential Tenancy inspections were suspended during level 5 restrictions. We have recently commenced virtual inspections of properties on instruction from the Department. Virtual inspections will allow landlords/agents to complete the inspection survey and submit photographic backup. The tenant will also be able to submit photographs where there is a dispute in relation to compliance. It is important to note that all virtual inspections will be followed by physical final inspections.

HAP and Rents continue as normal. The Grants Section continues to process applications. However, in the absence of inspections, 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**

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Delays caused by leaking at parapets. Architect and Contractor have identified the problem area. Working through to a solution. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Back on site 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 following Covid restrictions. Due to complete Q2 2022.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Additional funding has been approved by DHPLG. Will complete in Q3 2021
Creagh East	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG in Q2 2021. Planning is in place. Review of costs at present.

Wexford Street	28/3 2	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Site survey to finish this week (30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021) following delay due to Covid restrictions. Full Design Team appointed. Stage 2 (Part VIII) programmed for June. Variance in numbers is due to different possible site configurations.
Creagh West	8	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	Stage 2 in Q2 2021.
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Stage 4	Stage 4 Approved, funding shortfall source agreed. Contracts to be signed and proposed commencement date is May 10 <sup>th</sup> 2021.
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under Construction	Back on site 12 April 2021 following Covid restrictions. Due to complete Q4 2021.
Rosbercon	28/4 1	New Ross	Stage 2	Site survey to be completed. Design to be finalised Q2 2021. Variance in numbers is due to different possible site configurations.
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 2	New OT report, revise house for Special Needs. Costs adjusted and re-submit Stage 2 on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2021.
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender for phase 1 (22 Units) posted on eTenders April 2021.
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved. Part VIII to be lodged April 21. Proceed to Stage 3
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Design Team to be appointed in Q2. Delays due to inability to survey site.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Standard house reviewed as requested by DHPLG. Consultants to review costs then lodge Part VIII Q3 2021.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222</b>			Based on lowest estimate where site configuration not agreed.

#### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required. Shortfall of €42,300. Contractor lined up but no contract can be signed until funding is fully in place.
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Department funding not available – considering other options with other voids.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance approved.
Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design for demolition and re-build underway. Structural Engineer appointed..and detailed survey commenced. Asbestos surveyor to be appointed. Single Stage Application to be lodged with DHPLG in Q2 2021

Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	Commencing on site on 17 <sup>th</sup> May.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>		

#### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	14	Rosslare	Site cleared, Topographical Survey May 21. Tender out for Knotweed management company. Stage 1 Q2 2021. Reviewing house types prior to submission.
Daphney View	17	Enniscorthy	Access issues – Review and develop smaller site. Phase 1 is dependent on land purchase from adjoining land owner, Respond.
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once other Rosbercon project is progressed. This project will be removed from next month's report and included again if it is established the project is feasible.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works. Appoint Engineer to assess structure Q2 2021.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>		

#### Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	CPO complete. Demolition of old house in Q2 2021. Single stage Q2 2021.
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Substantial additional funding required. Tender for consultants underway.
Adamstown	20	Wexford	We are awaiting confirmation that there is capacity in treatment plant. We believe there is but IW to confirm.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	3	Gorey	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs bungalows.
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity Q2 2021.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>		

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	All units expected to deliver Q2 2021
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	16 units to deliver by end May 2021. Remainder to deliver Q3 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2022
<b>Tuath</b>			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	44 units delivered. 27 units to deliver by end June 2021. (14 further units (Part V) will deliver when further phases are built)
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	33 units delivered. 8 units to deliver by end April 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2021
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver Q2 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>298</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Commencement of further units delayed due to public health restrictions.
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	3 units complete. 2 units to deliver Q4 2021 and Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Not yet commenced due to public health restrictions. Delivery 2022
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	DHLGH approval received April 2021. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	At snagging stage. To deliver Q2 2021.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	15 units delivered. 4 units to deliver May 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Expected to deliver May 2021.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expected to deliver Q3 2021.
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022 – delay due to Public Health restrictions.
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	4 units to deliver Q2 2021 Construction commenced. To deliver Q3 2021 – delay due to Public Health restrictions.
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	DHLGH approval received April 2021. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	Expected to deliver Q2 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>206</b>		

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

## Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021)	122	78	126	116	81	523
Repair Requests Year to Date	411	285	424	379	273	1772
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021)	103	63	103	105	66	440
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	294	202	303	290	191	1280

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

## Homeless Support Services Unit (HSSU)

Wexford County Council's Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) is part of the south east region in terms of providing services and supports to vulnerable people. The region is the biggest in the country comprising of 5 councils, namely, Waterford (Lead Authority), Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary.

The south east region operates a regional **Homeless Prevention & Support Project**. The project prioritises homeless preventions by way of applying early interventions, mediation and prevention measures to those presenting seeking homeless services/emergency accommodation.

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

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

There were <b>211</b> calls to the HSSU from 1st January 2021 to 16th April 2021, the following were the breakdown of same:-	
102	Sought and received advice and information in relation to housing and homeless prevention
39	Supported into emergency, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment supported by the Placefinder service.
55	Were not eligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise their situation.
15	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER

There were 6 payments to the value of €54,715.34 proved by the Article 48 team and these are awaiting payment by the Dept. Of Rural and Community Development. There was 1 payment made to a grant applicant to the value of €5,256.04

9 April 2021, The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., announced the details of the allocation of the €70 million Transitional LEADER programme for the period 2021-2022.

Of the €70 million, €65 million is being allocated across the 29 LAGs, €3 million is being allocated to support Cooperation projects and innovation between LAGs and €2 million is being provided to support the development of the next LEADER Programme.

The distribution of the €65 million being made available to the Local Action Groups over 2021 & 2022 under the Transitional Programme is based, pro-rata, on the allocations received by each LAG at the



outset of the 2014-2020 programme. County Wexford has received a budget allocation of €2,012,756 for projects under this Programme which is now open to applications for funding for enterprise and community projects.

### Joint Policing Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 10th May 2021 via MS Teams.

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 20th May 2021 via MS Teams.

### Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

The next meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group is scheduled for the 20th May 2021 via MS Teams.

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2021 Workshops

In advance of the official announcement of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 & following an earlier Preliminary Call for Expression of Interests, the Community Section have recently hosted a series of online workshops with representatives of community groups to identify potential projects for the 2021 scheme.

### Liquor Bye-Laws

The updated Bye laws for the Regulation and control of intoxicating liquor within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council adopted by Wexford County Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, came into effect on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

### Age Friendly Strategy

Work is well underway on the Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2026 with public consultations due to take place during May at district level as follows:

Location	Dates		
Gorey	11 <sup>th</sup> May	Enniscorthy	12 <sup>th</sup> May
Wexford	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Rosslare	17 <sup>th</sup> May
New Ross	18 <sup>th</sup> May		

Older people and groups working with or representing older people are invited to take part in online public consultations to help inform us on the areas which affect their lives. We would like to know what can be done to bring about positive changes for older people in the county over the next 5 years specifically in the areas of : Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transport, Housing, Social Participation, Civic Participation & Employment, Communication & Information, Health Services and Safety & Security.

### May Report (20th March – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

Work continues for the **Community Resilience Fund – ‘Keep Well’** campaign activity. March saw delivery of specially commissioned ‘Happy to Chat’ benches for placement in our five towns. The ‘Happy to Chat Bench’ initiative started in Cardiff in 2019 and has since



spread across the world. The benches identify that someone is open to engagement and benches around the world carry the same sign: *'Happy to chat bench. Sit here if you don't mind someone stopping to say hello'*. The benches are effectively an invitation to engage with a stranger and it is hoped that they will help to reduce loneliness and isolation in our towns.

Each County Wexford bench is three metres in length to allow engagement in a socially distanced way. They include a 'Happy to Chat' sign and have distinctive Healthy

Ireland colouring to help them stand out. Their design is in line with Age Friendly guidelines and include a one arm design to allow for wheelchair access.

Level five restrictions impacted on bench placement in their final locations and did not allow for promotion of the benches for the chat activity. However, we look forward to a time when restrictions lift sufficiently to fit all the benches and allow for active promotion of the opportunity for engagement and stopping to chat.

### **INTERREG – Celtic Routes**

Phase 2 contracts have been sought for Brand Management; Public Relations and Press Management; Media and Marketing; Website Management; Asset Management; and Project Evaluation and Legacy. The March 2021 Newsletter was circulated very widely and well received. All assets will be available for use by the tourism trade and relevant stakeholders from our website by the middle of April 2021. This includes our County videos and our TV Advert video. Work has begun on the creation of Thematic Groups to steer and inform further collaborative ideas, Learning Journeys and investment.

**Keep Well Campaign** The following Keep Well projects have taken place in past month:

#### **Age Friendly Wellbeing Packs for older people**

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



#### **'Pebble' Fall Detector Devices**

10 fall detector devices that work in any location have been purchased as part of the Wexford Keep Well campaign. By April all devices were allocated and delivered to vulnerable older people at risk of falls.

**Burial Grounds** The updated Bye laws for the Regulation of all open burial ground within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council adopted by Wexford County Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, came into effect on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

**Garda Youth Awards** The 2021 Garda Youth Awards were launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Closing date for receipt of nomination is the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Virtual awards ceremony planned for June/July, 2021.

**SICAP** The SICAP sub committee met during April to review progress on the delivery of the programme in the context of challenges presented by the COVID19 restrictions. The Mid-year review will take place in June/July, 2021.

**Playgrounds** An application was submitted under the Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation to the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth during April.

Annual independent playground inspections completed and required works programme has commenced.

**Comhairle na nÓg** Wexford CNN collaborating with Healthy Ireland/Wexford anti-smoking campaign.

### Wexford Sports Active

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Online Exercise Classes	Live online exercise classes finished in April. There were 7 participants in HIIT and 9 participants in Yoga. There is now an option to sign up through our tutor Theresa Roche and receive four weekly circuit training classes for €10. The class recordings are emailed every Monday and participant can complete in their own time / as many times during the week.
Open Water Swim Lessons	Sports Active and Swim Ireland plan to run open water swim lessons throughout the summer in Courtown, Rosslare and Kilmore.
Swimmin Women	Swimmin Women is a series of swim programmes aimed at women from teenagers up. We will be starting with 45+ swim classes in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool in June as soon as it opens.
Swim for A Mile	Swim for A Mile lessons will start in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool as soon as it opens in June and run until the main Swim for A Mile event in late August.
Women's Cycling	Sports Active will be running a Women's cycling programme in Wexford every Friday evening during June and July.
Active Schools Week	Support will be provided through resources and equipment for
MoveMENT MoMENTS	This seven-week functional fitness programme for Men's Sheds in Co. Wexford and the residents of Havenview
Slaintecare	The IEP has begun the fourth block of exercise programmes. All programmes are still being delivered via online or telephone call. The IEP is linking clients with resources, event and links from SAW where possible.  The IEP is now preparing work for the final evaluation of the project with Waterford Institute of Technology.
Inclusive P.E Equipment	As part of the Active Schools Flag numerous schools have contacted us for Inclusive P.E resources and

	equipment. These schools are Horeswood N.S, Craanford N.S, Duncannon N.S, St.Iberius N.S and Tagoat N.S
Table Cricket	The Table Cricket sets were delivered to Horeswood N. S and St.Iberius N.S and we will be working with our partners in Cricket Leinster to arrange demonstrations/ blitzes in these schools once it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the schools can practice using the videos and booklets provided to them.
Volunteer Training Grant	Volunteer Training Grant is now available for clubs to support their volunteers in upskilling
Safeguarding	Safeguarding Courses 4 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 63 participants. 2 Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed with a total of 27 participants.
Working with Parents In Sport	In April Sports Active along with Bunclody Paddle Sports Club took part in a trial new workshop called Working with Parents In Sport. It is aimed that this will be a new Sport Ireland course to be rolled out around the country.
Sports Inclusion and Disability Awareness Online Workshop	The SIDO is delivering this Cara Centre training workshop in partnership with the SIDO in Wicklow Sports Partnership. Dates for the month of April; 6 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> . This is a 1.5-hour workshop designed to build awareness around people with disabilities participating in community sport and physical activity
Up and Coming Work Programme: Active Fellas	This is a free six-week men's health and fitness programme, aimed at those over the age of 40. The exercise class will be 30 minutes in length and will consist of a seated warm up, seated/standing exercise circuit, seated cool down and finished with seated yoga/relaxation. Participants will receive the recording via email each week and can complete in their own time / as many times as they like throughout the week. The programme is funded by Healthy Ireland and will commence on 5 <sup>th</sup> May.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Coastal Erosion

The Environment Dept. recently made a presentation to the SPC outlining in detail the impact of coastal erosion around the county's coastline along with current plans. In relation to Seaview erosion, a letter of approval has been received from the OPW to proceed to carry out the detailed design of the 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.

### Beach Byelaws

The current draft beach byelaws are on public display.

### New Ross Port

Traffic volumes in relation to ships entering New Ross Port are similar to previous recent years. The Pilot Boat Services Contract has been agreed up until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. Arrangements are in place to remove the telecommunications mast at the New Ross Port office

## A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

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

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

## B. COASTAL MATTERS

### Harbours -

18 minor projects on harbours and marinas were shortlisted by the Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) under their annual harbour development programme. The DAFM will provide a final list of approved projects in April 2021 following submission of further detailed information.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. A notice for foreshore application was published in local and national newspapers on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with submissions required before 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Part XI planning applications are being prepared.

Ports Past and Present: project ongoing with many events online. Rosslare Ports Fest was held between 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021; this online Fest hosted events and talks based around Rosslare

Europort. Project updates were recently presented to the Rosslare Municipal District and Visit Wexford.

Hydrographic tender process is now complete and surveys have been carried out at New Ross Port, Kilmore Quay and Courtown Harbour.

### **Beaches -**

Wexford County Council submitted applications for 9 green coast beach awards – Cahore Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun and Booley Bay. An Taisce will announce the awards in May 2021.

### **Coast -**

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – Wexford County Council made a submission to An Bord Pleanála following a request for further information. The submission contained changes to the design of the structure and therefore a notice must be published in the local paper to notify members of the public of the change. This will happen in the coming weeks.

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

### **1. Water Framework Directive:**

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

### **2. Water Sampling:**

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

### **3. Septic Tank Inspections:**

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

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

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

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

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



#### 4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

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

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

#### 5. Climate Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Climate Action Training

<b>Number Offered Training</b>	<b>Training Successfully Completed</b>	<b>Training currently in Progress</b>
134	52	24

## Decarbonisation Zone

Under Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019, each Local Authority is required to identify a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ). *The Department of Housing, LG & Heritage wrote to all LA's earlier this year, to outline the timeframe for the commencement of this action. WexCoCo is required to nominate a candidate DZ by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with a detailed plan for the DZ to be compiled by Q4 2021.*

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

An identification process was undertaken during March supported by 3CEA. 12 urban and rural areas were initially identified as potential DZ's, with the urban area of Enniscorthy emerging as the preferred candidate DZ after a range of DZ enabling factors were considered. The next step is to embark on detailed carbon & energy profiling of the area, confirmation of the boundary of the DZ and identification of the range of projects capable of delivering an average 7% reduction per annum up to 2030.

## 6. 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.

## 7. 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

## 8. 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 March 2021, 217 planning applications have been referred to the Environment Section for comment. 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	Quarries	Infill Sites
2020	346	34	12	27	1	6	5	6	2
2019	337		4	30	0	3	2	1	0

## 9. 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

## D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Landfills:

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

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

### 2. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites March 2021	Recycling out (End March) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End March)2021 (t)
Glass bottles		878	1108
Aluminium Cans		21	30
Total	108	899	1138

## Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan-mar2020	Recycling out Jan - Mar 2021	Recycling out Jan - Mar 2020	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2021
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	134	<b>161</b>	165	<b>181</b>	203	<b>215</b>	124	139
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	508	<b>597</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>
<b>Jan-Mar</b>	53	<b>76</b>	120	<b>116</b>	98	<b>144</b>	78	<b>92</b>

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

### 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end March 2020	March 2021	To end March 2021	% +/-
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>+4.4%</b>
Gorey/Kilmuckridge *		65		
Enniscorthy *		110		
Wexford*		67		
New Ross*		73		
Rosslare		13		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>2233</b>	<b>+140%</b>
Gorey		180		
Enniscorthy		180		
Wexford / Rosslare		253		
New Ross		107		
Rosslare		16		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>4014</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>4014</b>	<b>0%</b>
Gorey /Enniscorthy *	North	398		
New Ross*/Wexford / Rosslare*	South	940		
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>+29%</b>
Gorey		62		
Enniscorthy		118		

Wexford		132		
New Ross		119		
Rosslare		61		

*\*Including Towns*

#### **4. Waste Facility Permits:**

We currently have fourteen Clean Soil and Stone sites in operation; seven construction and demolition sites, eight End of Life Vehicles and twelve Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council's website.

Altogether there are 57 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

#### **5. Enforcement:**

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2021 inspection plan has been 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.

### **E. LITTER MANAGEMENT**

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

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

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



LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	71
Fines Paid in Full●	78	32
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	17
Successful Prosecutions**	20	0
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	27
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. All Environment cases have been adjourned since November, 2020 by the Courts due to the Level 5 restrictions.

### Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

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

## F.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	1 Jan to 31 Mar 2021
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>4609</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>1873</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>3526</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>3764</b>	<b>3698</b>	<b>1302</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>69%</b>

### Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

<b>Control of dogs</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Dogs collected	532	69
Dogs reclaimed	127	19
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	46
Dogs put to sleep	32	3
Dog Fines	5	5

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

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

### Environment Education and Awareness:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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. This training can not take place due to current restrictions.

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



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



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

**Libraries, Archives and Arts**  
**Chief Executive Report**  
**May 2021**

**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 were elderly or cocooning to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. The book call requests were evenly split between the north and south of the county.

### **Book Call**

	<b>Total Contacts</b>	<b>Total items</b>
<b>Jan 2021</b>	182	1456 Approx.
<b>Feb 2021</b>	235	1880 Approx.
<b>March 2021</b>	198	1584 Approx.
<b>April 2021 (to date)</b>	144	1111 Approx.
<b>Total year to date</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>6031 approx</b>

Membership rules continued to be relaxed so that people could join the library online at [www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library](http://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 April.

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.

### **Decades of Centenaries 2021**

Following public consultation, a comprehensive draft Decade of Centenaries 2021 programme has been created. Projects focus on initiatives that support broad public engagement; engagement with children and young people and 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. There is also an emphasis on locally delivered projects. These local projects will be delivered in partnership with community groups, local history associations and Tidy Towns Groups and will be organised through the Municipal Districts. The draft programme 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. A national launch of the programme took place on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 by the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste & Minister Martin.

## **Historian in Residence**

Wexford County Council has invited applicants for Historian in Residence under the Decade of Centenaries programme, the closing date for applications was April 16<sup>th</sup>. The role of this residency is to support the Wexford County Council Decade of Centenaries programme. Examples of work under the scope of the project include research, outreach, communication, liaison with community groups and publications.

## **Burning of the Big Houses in County Wexford**

In this short video Dan Walsh looks at the history of the big houses during the War of Independence. He recalls the families who owned and worked on the properties and why some of the houses were left untouched during the 1920 – 1923 period. This video premiered on all library branches' Facebook pages on April 1, 2021. The video can be viewed on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

[www.youtube.com/wexfordpubliclibraries](http://www.youtube.com/wexfordpubliclibraries)

## **Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade Hedge School podcast**

Wexford Public Libraries launched this podcast on Wexford Public Libraries social media platforms on April 23rd. The podcast was produced by History Ireland Hedge School and it discusses historical events in Wexford from 1916 to 1923. The podcast was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative.

County Wexford has the distinction of being one of the few counties outside of Dublin that saw action during the 1916 Rising, however, it was also one of the few places where Wexford native John Redmond's Irish Parliamentary Party maintained a substantial level of support throughout the revolutionary period. To interrogate these apparent contradictions, you can listen to History Ireland editor, Tommy Graham, in discussion with Bernard Browne, Ida Milne, William Murphy and Kevin Whelan. The panellists are eminent historians and have all published books in relation to this period in history. Bernard, Ida and Kevin also originally hail from County Wexford.

**Digitisation of Local Newspapers** for the Revolutionary period: Wexford Library Service is providing wider access to digitised and microfilmed versions of local newspapers of this period. More and more content will become available on the Wexford County Archives website and for research in Wexford Town Library as the year progresses.

A booklet on the Revolutionary period in County Wexford that will be distributed to all schools in the county is currently being researched and prepared for publication.

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

A new age friendly digital assistance programme was introduced to Wexford Libraries in April. This national programme aims to support older people access online library resources, particularly while physical library services are suspended as part of government measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Wexford Libraries now provide an Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors in each of their 5 libraries. Staff are trained to assist older people to join their local library online, access online library resources, download their favourite books or listen to audio books. This is a peer to peer programme which is hoped that in time that participants may develop the confidence to become mentors themselves and show their peers how to do the same. Age Friendly Libraries Champion Yvonne Smith was interviewed on South East Radio to promote the programme.

## **Keep Well Campaign**

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

### **Keep Well Photo competition. Closing date 26th April.**

The closing date for the Keep Well photo competition has passed. Members of the public were invited to send in a photo of what is helping people #KeepWell during the pandemic. Entries are currently being adjudicated on. An exhibition of winning entries will be produced.

### **Grow It Forward (GIF)**

Grow It Yourself, in partnership with Healthy Ireland and public libraries distributed 50,000 free food growing kits nationally as part of a new 'Grow it Forward' initiative. Free seed packs could be claimed by contacting your local library. As part of the Government's Keep Well programme, the campaign was designed to help the nation eat well by inspiring and supporting people to grow some of their own food at home while connecting with friends and family to join them. More than 600 seed packs have been distributed to families in County Wexford to date. Librarian and Grow it

Forward champion, Lorraine Marrey was interviewed on South East Radio in order to promote the initiative.

### **Online Talks for Grow It Forward**

#### **Growing your own vegetables with Klaus Laitenberger Friday 23rd April.**

Klaus Laitenberger is the author of three vegetable gardening books. He was the Head Gardener at the Organic Centre in Co. Leitrim and restored the gardens of Lissadell House in Co. Sligo. Available on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

#### **Mindful Gardening with Fiann Ó Nualláin, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

Horticultural therapist and author of 'Seeds of Mindfulness', Fiann Ó Nualláin has spent the past two decades exploring the ways and means of therapeutic gardening for physical health, illness recovery, and mental wellbeing. The talk is available on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

## **Healthy Ireland**

### **Tackling Obesity with Professor Donal O'Shea.**

The first MS Teams Live talk to be produced and delivered by Wexford Public Library Service staff took place on April 14<sup>th</sup>. This talk was given by Professor Donal O'Shea, Consultant Endocrinologist St Columcille's and St Vincent's University Hospitals Professor of Medicine, University College Dublin. National Lead on Obesity with HSE. 30 people attended the online event.

### **Webinars**

A series of Healthy Ireland At Your Library online webinars were premiered on the library Facebook pages throughout April.

April 6<sup>th</sup>, support Tips for Parents of Young Children (8 Things I Want My Parent to Know!) with Peadar Maxwell, HSE. (799 views)

April 12<sup>th</sup>, Understanding emotions with Dr Daniel Flynn, HSE. (545 views)

April 13<sup>th</sup>, Understanding our states of mind with Dr Daniel Flynn, HSE. (361 views)

April 13<sup>th</sup>, Supporting Your Child's Emotional Health through Adolescence with Peadar Maxwell, HSE. (607 views)

April 14<sup>th</sup>, Daily mindfulness with Dr Daniel Flynn, HSE. (291 views)

April 15<sup>th</sup>, Relationship mindfulness with Dr Daniel Flynn, HSE. (304 views)

April 16<sup>th</sup>, Coping with distress with Dr Daniel Flynn, HSE. (235 views)

The webinars can be viewed on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

## **Radon Testing Monitor Loans**

Wexford Libraries in collaboration with EPA are expanding the unique Digital Radon Monitor Loans Scheme @ your local library in 2021. At present 20 monitors are on loan from New Ross library and 18 monitors have just been returned to Bunclody library for loans throughout the county and for use by Transition year students for STEM experiments and analysis at school. Participation in a four-year EU project to conduct citizen science analysis in a County Wexford community area with high incidence level is currently in planning. Several EU countries are taking part and the results will reflect findings from across Europe.

## **Work Matters**

Wexford Library Services continued to promote and support the Work Matters programme through the promotion of Work Matters online resources through our social media pages.

## **Parenting Today 2021 Online Series**

### **Supporting Someone with an Eating Disorder**

The talk for Parenting Today online series was presented by Harriet Parsons, Training and Development Manager with Bodywhys. Topics addressed included: What is an eating disorder? Is it all about food? How do I know if someone has an eating disorder? What are some dos and don'ts when trying to have a conversation and support? And Where do I go for help and treatment?

### **Epilepsy: My child and Epilepsy – A Parent's Journey**

This was presented by Miriam Gray, Community Resource Officer for Epilepsy Ireland and parent Kate O' Regan. They discussed how the family has navigated their journey with epilepsy from the

time of initial diagnosis to managing seizures / attending appointments / school and dealing with the challenges that this all entails. Miriam outlined the supports that are available from Epilepsy Ireland and Kate offered an outlook on managing Caoimhe's epilepsy into the future.

## **Adult Literature**

### **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

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

### **Literacy for Early Learning Centres**

Over 125 Early Learning Centres throughout County Wexford will receive their supply of Little Library Book Bags from their local library during the month of May. Each bag will contain six picture books, a series of reading supports, a set of social story cards, library membership card and join the library leaflet. Bags are available in the Irish language for Naoinraí. This initiative is funded by DCEDIY and DRCD and will be rolled out in County Wexford with the support of the Wexford County Childcare Committee.

### **Storytime & Rhyme-Time**

Irish Authors Patricia Forde, 'Fidget the Wonder Dog' and Dolores Keaveney, 'Dee the Bee story and craft' recorded sessions for Spring into Storytime. Both authors read their picture books for Wexford Libraries. Spring into Storytime is a national initiative and is part of the Right to Read programme of events to promote the many benefits of reading stories and enjoying books with young children.

Regular story times & rhyme times continued online from all branch libraries throughout April, 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

### **Tall Tales of Wexford**

Work commenced with gold IMRO award winning author Karen Tomkins. Karen is a broadcaster and audio producer on a series of audio stories for children. The children of Wexford will be invited to submit their suggestions to help to co-create a series of 4 Wexford themed tales that will be broadcast throughout the month of May.

### **Literacy Licences:**

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

### **Poetry Day Ireland 2021**

Poetry Day took place on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the theme this year was '**New Directions: Maps and Journeys**'. To celebrate this day, the members of Enniscorthy Library Junior Book Club wrote their own acrostic poems – each line starting with the letters of the words 'Maps and Journeys'. This information was sent to schools inviting them to join in – brainstorming words or phrases to create their poems. Acrostic poems don't need to rhyme, and each line can be as long or as short as the poet wants it to be.

### **Local Studies and Genealogy**

#### **"On Your Own Ground" on sale in local bookshops**

Volumes 2 & 3 of "On Your Own Ground: County Wexford parish by parish" by Dr Ned Culleton, is currently available to purchase from many Wexford bookshops. The cost is €30 per volume.

### **Queries**

There were 15 genealogy enquiries and 35 local studies enquiries in April.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

The Archive dealt with 52 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during April. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, to facilitate researchers while the Archive's 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 and are proving very popular for family history research. The second batch of minute books of New Ross workhouse covering the period 1849-55 were uploaded to the archive's website during the month.

The Archive is one of the participating institutions in the Beyond 2022 project spearheaded by Trinity College Dublin. A day of online events including podcasts, lectures and discussions on the Grand Jury records will take place on 25 May to commemorate the centenary of the burning of the Custom House in May 1921. To coincide with the forthcoming event, the Archive produced a finding aid for its extensive holdings of grand jury material for County Wexford which cover the period 1845-1900. This will be made available online shortly along with the earliest two volumes of grand jury presentments which were recently digitised. The remaining volumes will be digitised on a phased basis over the course of the year.



### Artlinks Artist Bursary

Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford art offices. The closing date for the Artist Bursary Award was the 15th of March, 2021. There was a high interest and 17 applications were awarded for Wexford being a total €25,000 fund for Wexford. The Artlinks award in Wexford has average grants of €1,000 - €3,000 max

### Artlinks Collaborative Award

An open call took place in March 2021 for a Collaborative Award where artists from two or more Artlinks counties must apply and collaborate on the creation of new artwork which they will showcase in both counties in 2021-22. This award is worth €10,000. Closing date for applications was 26th April 2021

### Small Arts Festivals 2021

The closing date was 9th March with 24 applications received in total. The selection panel met on 13th April 2021 and with a total award fund of €23,200. 11 festival/ events received awards for 2021 with grants between €1,000 - €3,000. This grant scheme aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals and experimental events throughout Wexford County.

### Summer 2021 online training supports for Artists

Clinic – **Per Cent for art funding applications with Maeve Mulrennan.** Funded through Creative Ireland and delivered by Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) the Arts office are arranging a zoom webinar for Wexford artists to attend on 4th May.

### Whatever exhibition/website

The Arts Department in association with Wexford Arts Centre are launching on 28<sup>th</sup> April a bi-annual Arts Ability initiative, **Whatever** which comprises an online exhibition, original artist book, documentary videos and peer workshops by, for and with artists and collaborators. Curated by guest Curator Jenny Haughton and Catherine Bowe, Wexford Arts Centre. The Arts Dept has commissioned a dedicated website for Arts Ability which will extend the life and legacy of this programme. The **Whatever** exhibition/website will feature on Southeast Radio's show "Wexford Together" presented by Alan Maguire on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The Curators, Artists and Arts Officer will be interviewed about the exhibition/website and will also include snippets of music and readings.

### Music Generation

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

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

New programmes commenced in April include:

**Yellow Bellows** a new singing group workshop for teenagers 12-18 years old free via Zoom commenced 17th April 2021.

**Barrow Song Lab** for 12–18-year-olds is a song writing online let by Justin Cullen, Dunbar and John Mullins in which the participants will be creative with lyric writing and new technologies, to able them to write their own songs.

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

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

As part of the Ancient Connections Wexford Wales programme and supported through Wexford’s Per Cent for Art Programme, Wexford based artist David Begley started 2-year artists in residency in the community of Ferns in August 2020. Work to date from January 2021 includes digging and preparing the Monks Garden, sowing various seeds with the students from St. Edna’s National School, giving a talk on the history of ploughing with students, excavation with the students and unearthing from millions of years ago to the present day included quartz, flint, coal, bones, coins, pottery shards etc. In addition, the artist has been working with local farmers in the research of a new film he will make as part of the residency exploring the ancient history and connections in farming practices across Wexford and Wales.

### **Living Arts Project – Open Call Schools and Artists**

The Art Department in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre has issued an open call in April 2021 for the applications from primary schools and visual artists to participate in the Living Arts Programme commencing in late September 2021 and running until May 2022. Deadline for applications Thursday 6th May 2021. The programme is subsidised by the Arts Department and schools can apply for a 15 week or 8-week programme of visual art to be delivered by a lead and assistant artist managed by Wexford Art Centre. In addition, visual artists are invited to apply as lead artists or assistant artists. For further information visit [www.wexfordartscentre.ie](http://www.wexfordartscentre.ie)

### **Creative Community Programme 2021**

Online applications for community groups within Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) opened April 2021 and closing date was 19th April 2021. This grant scheme provides 50% matched funding, up to a maximum of €3,000 to enable meaningful collaboration between artists from our artist panel and all groups affiliated to Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) as well as communities of interest, that are interested in working on arts projects 1 intensive week engagement or workshops that take place over a period of time with one artist from our artist panel. A further strand is available which supports collaboration between two or more artist on the Creative Community Panel with a community group allowing them to apply for a maximum fund of €5,000 per project. Applications are being assessed by a panel at the end of April.

### **County Wexford Youth Film Project – Directing Actors for Film Workshop**

The CWYFP trains young people aged 13 – 20 in the art of filmmaking and provides them with an opportunity for creative expression through an accessible and exciting medium. From March 29th – April 2nd CWYFP presented an online “Directing Actors for Film” workshop hosted by Tony McCleane-Fay. This workshop was designed to teach how to get the most out of a performance and explore how to captivate your audience. This workshop was free to teenagers across County Wexford and was funded by The Arts Department, Wexford County Council and the Creative Community Programme

### **Screen Wexford**

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

### **Start your own business for the screen industry**

Screen Wexford in collaboration with LEO Wexford. This three-week course facilitated 16 participants and outlined the fundamentals of starting an industry-specific business in Wexford. Included in this was an industry panel comprised of Tara Studios co-founder Ivan Dunleavy, model maker and Odyssey Studios CEO Mark Maher, Wexford based Gary Walsh of Red Robot Films (credits include Older Than Ireland and The Clock) and film & TV producer Tina O'Reilly of South Wind Blows (Other Voices etc). A workshop series will follow in the coming months to include Self-distribution, Portfolio Building & more.

### **Wexford Writers Scripting for Broadcast Academy**

Wexford Film company Bodecii Films, with support from Screen Wexford and funded through Screen Skills Ireland, launched this programme in March 2021 to support new and diverse writing talent from 12 emerging Wexford writers. These writers are working in a collaborative writer's room with established Lead Writer/ and series producers to acquire the skills to become TV broadcast writers. Managed by Bodeccii Film and Wexford based Producer Fiona Kinsella (Jumper Productions) with national Industry experts including Directors, Producers, Screen Writers, Talent Agents and Editing Commissioners.

## **Creative Ireland**

### **Cruinniú na nÓg2021**

Is an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people. It is a national day of free creativity for children and young people on Saturday 12th June. Wexford County Council in partnership with Creative Ireland will host over 20 events for young people in County Wexford on the day both online and live – following COVID guidelines at this time. A full events list will be launched on May 4th on Cruinniú na nÓg (<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/>)

### **Creativity in older Age Scheme.**

Wexford County Council was successful in achieving funding of €39,600 to deliver creative projects in 2021 aimed at older people.

**Enniscorthy Activity Garden:** The Arts Office and Wexford Age Friendly Initiative in partnership with Wexford Mental Health have successfully secured €23,000 in Creative Ireland funding to create an activity garden on the grounds of St. John's Hospital in Enniscorthy. An architect and other creative practitioner will work with the HSE St John Hospital and local Enniscorthy Men's Shed in a co-design consultation process over the summer 2021 in enhancing this green space for fun, creativity and general well-being. The legacy of this project is a permanent creative space that is both relaxing and engaging for staff, service users and the general public.

**Music Therapy Programme** the Arts Office in partnership with Wexford Age Friendly have secured €5,000 from Creative Ireland funding for a 12-week music therapy programme with the patients in St. John's Hospital – Enniscorthy and clients, carers and family members of the Alzheimer's Society in county Wexford. These music sessions started in person with musician Emily Redmond in April 2021 in St John Hospital. Workshop will extend to family members, caregivers in the community in the coming months via this programme

**Wexford Stories** is a project that draws on the imagination of older people in Wexford through engaging them in the tradition of storytelling -a practice that connects people through places, culture, and history.

This Wexford Stories project will be delivered via radio, over four weeks with a weekly one-hour radio programme. This four-week series will focus on local storytellers telling Wexford Stories, giving listeners an insight into the local folklore around many landmarks in the County. Incorporating the sense of place within the stories provides an additional link for the listener, if they are familiar with the

area being discussed. The programme is being delivered with support from the Health Ireland Coordinator in Co. Wexford.

**Creative Ireland COVID Care Concerts** Twenty performances by Mobile Music Machine a classical string ensemble were delivered to residential care units in a special, socially distance appropriate "Covid Care Concert" recitals. The events were sponsored by Creative and delivered in a partnership with Wexford County Council, the Wexford Mental Health Association and the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival in conjunction with the HSE/South East Community Healthcare.

The response of service users, residents and staff has been truly remarkable and the Good Friday Concert in Havenview centre, Enniscorthy was featured on the RTE news tv and radio.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

**Civic Duties** No requests for First Aid course for Civil Duties have been received for March or April.

**Weekly Training** Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross. Each class is broken into small teams, some classes are broken into 2 training periods as classrooms are small. Weekly training is mostly completed out of doors involving search skills, communications and water responder.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

**Patient Transports – April** We have transported 9 persons to hospital or Doctor's appointments in April. Transports have been to Dublin, Waterford and Wexford.

We have also transported some two people to the Vaccination Centre in Enniscorthy.

**Vaccination Centre Enniscorthy** We are providing support to the vaccination centre in Enniscorthy since 6<sup>th</sup> April, we have just completed week 3, we have volunteers scheduled to help up to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We are currently providing 4 volunteers per day, two in the morning and 2 after lunch. 28 volunteers per week are covering the centre, helping with getting people from the car park into the vaccination que.

**Volunteer Vaccinations** 24 Volunteers have now received the first dose of the Vaccination. The vaccinations were arranged with Marianna Kealy, Emergency Management Officer, a further 8 volunteers have been vaccinated through their support to the vaccination centre in Enniscorthy.

**New Vehicles** We have received a 100% funding for the provision of a communications unit. We have bought a unit via MPM in Northern Ireland. The unit will be adapted to our needs and include radio communications, laptops, search management systems.

**New Recruits Interviews** We have 10 potential recruits who commenced their induction training on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April, they will continue their training on and be assigned to their units first week May.

**EMT – CPC** We held an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) CPC course on 17<sup>th</sup> April in County Hall. 25 EMT's and potential EMTs attended the upskilling.

# 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 new fire appliance has been allocated to Wexford.

**COVID-19** The fire service operational training continues to be is kept under constant review and will be updated as required.

**Fire Operations** There were 76 incident responses in March as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls March 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	14 / 8 (22)	62	63
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 5 (6)	16	14
Road Traffic Accident	2	10	20
Industrial fire	0	3	1
Commercial fire	0	1	3
Assembly fire	0	2	0
Agricultural fire	3	4	0
Motor Vehicles	2	3	20
Forest/bog/grass etc	10	15	10
Rubbish	5	10	14
Non-fire rescues	8	20	13
False alarms – good intent	17	49	69
Malicious false alarms	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	1	11	11
Total	76	206	239

### Fire Safety

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

#### March 2021

Applications Received	Year to date	March
Fire Safety Certificates	26	9

Number of Inspections	Year to date	March
FSA Inspections	9	7

# WATER SERVICES



*1. Irish Water Asset Delivery*

*2. Minor Capital*

*3. Rural Water Programme*

*4. Water Conservation*



## COVID -19

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



# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

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

<b>(UTAS)</b>	<p><b>programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tender documents have been issued and tenders are due to be returned in April</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> The direct labour crew are continuing with their work on the Find and Fix project as part of the overall leakage reduction programme. 2020 targets were successfully met with ambitious targets set for 2021.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> We are currently finalising designs and construction 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.</li> </ul>



## 2. Minor Capital



### IW Minor Water Schemes

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

### IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Trinity Street WWPS Upgrades**
  - Contractor appointed for replacement of change-over switchgear and generator control panel with design underway and works expected to take place Q3 2021.
  - Generator exhausts and foul pumps manifold to be replaced Q2 2021.
- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
  - Pumps will be upgraded to smart pumps at Ballygillane Big and Small WWPS in Q2 2021.
  - Funding has been secured for new smart pumps at The Cove WWPS, Rosslare.
- **Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades**
  - Upgrade of existing SCADA will take place at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford during April/May 2021.
- **H&S Improvement Works**
  - New valve chambers and access covers to improve H&S at Carne PS.

### IW Capital Maintenance

- The Wexford monthly Capital Maintenance budget in Q1 will be **€108k/month**. The Q2 to Q4 monthly budget will be advised towards the end of Q1.
- €450k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021, which month on month is over budget.

<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 8 applications received for Water Connections</li> <li>○ 3 applications received for Wastewater Connections</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 Water Connections sent for tapping</li> <li>○ 19 Water Connections made and closed on Maximo (connections were made in late 2020)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Rising main works are now completed.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS have started on site, and M&amp;E works materials are currently being procured by the contractor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Radharc na bhFánaithe WWTP (TIC), Killanne</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works are now completed on site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design and site surveys have been completed for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network.</li> <li>○ Tender processes are now complete and contractors are appointed, and works expected to take place during Q2 and Q3 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Close, Oulart- Connection application made</li> <li>• Mountain View, Ballindaggin- Connection enquiry made</li> <li>• Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made</li> <li>• Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</li> </ul>

### 3. Rural Water Programme



#### Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

##### ➤ Killaneran GWS

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

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

##### ➤ Blackstairs GWS

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

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

##### ➤ Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)

- A response has been sent by the Chairman of WCC /Director of Service to Minister
- The Bing Community have secured an increase to the number of participants – which is now at 74 which equates to 97% uptake

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

##### ➤ Battlestown CWC

- Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers

##### ➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC

- Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability

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

##### ➤ Individual Well Grants

- In Qtr. 1, 58 well grant claims have been recouped from the Dept. totalling €73,843. A total of 55 new well grant applications were received in Qtr. 1

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for March 2021 was on average 43.38MLD.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Leak repairs</b> Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 59nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in March 2021, including repairs on main, boxes, meters, hydrants and services.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</b> Planned leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Fardystown Drinigh, Duncormick, Ballycogley, Bree, Enniscorthy and Kilmyshall in March 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions:</b> No recent update. Coolballow rehab project Wexford design is approved and construction will commence May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, rehab project is in the final stages of design and will commence late Autumn 2021. The Fort Road Gorey, rehab project design has commenced.</li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Find resources were concentrated in the South Regional and Carrigbyrne during March 2021. They will be returning to Enniscorthy WSZ once these investigations completed.</li> <li>○ The additional contractor Find crew continued in Clough Rd DMA during March and commenced investigations in the Ballykale DMA.</li> <li>○ Direct Labour Fix crew completed 28 repairs in March 2021, with a saving in night flows of 9.5m<sup>3</sup>/hr. Repairs were completed in the South Regional, Gorey, Carrigbyrne and Enniscorthy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>First Fix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coffey Northumberland recommenced First Fix cold calling in Wexford on 19/04/2021. This was originally on hold due to Level 5 restrictions.</li> <li>○ The CRU has announced increased funding for free first fix scheme, now also including shared services and NDU with domestic allowance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

## **NATIONAL ROADS**

### **N25 New Ross By-Pass**

The final Stage 4 Road Safety Audits were completed in April. These audits provide an assessment of road safety in light of actual behaviour of road users during the early operation of a new road. Modification works to road markings on the N25 Wexford Road at Ballymacar were completed in April arising from recommendations of the audit process.

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

The project remains on schedule to confirm the preferred scheme option by week ending 18th of June. A project newsletter providing a progress update was distributed widely in March and published on the project website [www.oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie](http://www.oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie).

### **Rosslare Europort Access Road**

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

## **National Road Pavement Schemes**

### **2020 Pavement Schemes**

#### **N11 Kileen to Newtown – Phase 2**

Construction works commenced on 16 November 2020.  
The works were substantially completed by 16<sup>th</sup>. April.

### **2021 Pavement Schemes**

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

Works commenced on 25<sup>th</sup>. January 2021.  
This scheme should be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

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

TII Archaeologists are working on tender documents for the archaeology monitoring.  
This should be tendered in late March/early April.

Tender documents for the construction contract have been completed. The tender process has been delayed due to issues with adjacent landowner blocking access for the storm outfall pipe. It is hoped to tender the scheme before the end of April.

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

## **Pavement Schemes 2023 onwards**

Survey works commenced on the following locations which most likely will be pavement improvement schemes in 2023;

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

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

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

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

Tomfarney (In Enniscorthy District); Clonmore to Mountforest; Wingfield to County Bounds; Ballyhubbock and Ballinahorna (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Keellogues/Mullinree (Wexford Borough District).

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

Cherryorchard (In Enniscorthy District); Dunmain Cross to Garryduff; Ballycullane Railway to Ballytarsna; Neville Street; Kellys Cross to Hookless; Clonmines; Ramsgrange Village (All in New Ross District); Tachumsin to Ballymacane (In Rosslare District); Customs House Quay; Screen Village/Ballinra Rd; Glebe to Ballinra (All in Wexford Borough District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

It is expected the surface dressing programme will commence the 21 June.

### **Active Travel Measures**

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

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

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

### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2020/21 winter maintenance programme commenced Monday 12 October 2020. The priority 1 & 2 routes have been treated 82 times in 62 days up to 22 April. This compares to 49 treatments in 44 days to this time last year.

## General Maintenance

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

## PUBLIC LIGHTING

### LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 10,800 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

Design work is substantially completed.

Lantern deliveries from the UK have been affected by issues associated with Brexit.

It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 1,700 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by the end of June 2021.

## **Finance:**

### **Audit of Accounts 2020**

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Local Government Auditor has submitted formal notice of the commencement of the Audit of Wexford County Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

### **Audit Committee**

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

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2021. The Public Health emergency continues to impact on cash flow since the beginning of 2021 and this will be continuously monitored as the year progresses.

Cash Flow continues to be impacted by Covid restrictions and is being monitored closely as the year progresses. Government funding has been committed to a six month rates waiver for certain business categories in a more refined scheme than the 2020 Rates Waiver Scheme. Appeals have been received from approx. 60 ratepayers who didn't qualify for the 2021 Rates Waiver and these appeals are currently being considered.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**