



## **Chief Executive's Report**

### **County Council Meeting 09.05.22**

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Local Enterprise Office

### Local Enterprise Village – National Ploughing Championships

The Local Enterprise Offices are organising the Local Enterprise Village as part of National Ploughing Championships 2022 which will take place in Ratheniska, Co. Laois from September 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The primary objective of the Local Enterprise Village is to showcase the quality of the type of companies the LEOs support and each LEO has been allocated one stand for a chosen client. LEO Wexford has invited suitable clients to submit an expression of interest and the successful client will be notified by 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## Digital Start

Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give Local Enterprise Office funded clients that digital edge - from optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

The objective of the pilot of Digital Start is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business. It will provide strategic intervention for businesses to work with third party consultants to:

- assist them identify where they are on their digital business journey,
- develop a digital adaptation plan based on their identified need,
- implement their digital adaptation plan.

Up to 4 days specialised consultancy is available to businesses within LEO client portfolio at a maximum value of €4,500 incl VAT per applicant business. Delivered by approved procured consultants.

As this is a pilot project, there is no national launch or marketing campaign at this stage.

## National Women's Enterprise Day 2022

The date for this year's National Women's Enterprise Day has been confirmed as Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Breege Cosgrave, Acting Head of Enterprise, LEO Wexford has been selected as Chairperson of the national organising committee.

A number of events will be run on a regional basis throughout the country and plans are currently being put in place to host the South East regional event in Co Wexford.

## Tourism

### BRITTANY FERRIES BOOSTS ROSSLARE -SPAIN ROUTE WITH NEW CRUISE-FERRY FROM NOVEMBER

At an event organised by Wexford County Council, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland in Johnstown Castle Estate, Museum & Gardens on 7<sup>th</sup> April, Brittany Ferries President Jean-Marc Roué announced the introduction of a more tourism-oriented ship "*Galicia*" on to their Rosslare - Bilbao route from November of this year. The huge cruise-ferry is one of the newest additions to the Brittany Ferries fleet having been launched in December 2020.



The Chief Executive of Brittany Ferries Christophe Matthieu who was also in attendance at the event in Johnstown Castle Estate, Museum & Gardens said that "the introduction of the "*Galicia*" was a further indication of the company's long-term commitment to Ireland".

Brittany Ferries has been central to the dramatic growth which has seen Rosslare Europort becoming Ireland's leading port for direct European services over the past two years.

Currently the Rosslare-Bilbao route is serviced by the "*Connemara*" a predominantly freight vessel with limited facilities for holidaymakers. This befitted the company strategy of establishing freight links from Ireland to Spain. Now the route has proved a success however, attention is turning to passenger traffic.



## PLANNING

### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 until the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

No. of valid applications	164
No. of invalid applications	17
Extension of Duration	3
Exempted Development Declaration	3

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

No. of valid applications	478
No. of invalid applications	58
Extension of Duration	16
Exempted Development Declaration	16

### Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

No. of open pre-planning requests	175
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	37
Average waiting time to meeting	34 days

### Built, Cultural & Natural Heritage

- Funding has been received for 9 projects in Co. Wexford under the Community Monuments Fund 2022. These include capital works projects at Fethard Castle, Mountgarrett Castle and Ishartmon Medieval Church. Toome Church and graveyard, St. Senan's Church and Graveyard, Barrystown Mine and Templetown Church Ruin received funding for conservation management plans and funding was received for new interpretive signage at Vinegar Hill carpark. The Community Monuments Fund is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the National Monuments Service.
- Funding has been received from the Irish Walled Towns Network of the Heritage Council for the conservation of a section of the New Ross medieval town wall at William Street.
- Funding has been received from the Heritage Council under the Heritage Stewardship Fund for a baseline survey of the hedgerows of Co. Wexford.
- Seven projects in Co. Wexford have received funding from the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Grants 2022. A full list of the successful awards can be found here: [Projects offered funding by the Heritage Council - Heritage Council](#)



## Forward Planning

### Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

Following an engaging public consultation on the Draft Development Plan and consideration of the 168 submissions and observations received, the Members resolved to amend the Draft Plan. These amendments were deemed to be material in nature.

The likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Proposed Material Alterations (PMA) have been assessed. It was determined that certain PMA required Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It was also determined that certain PMA required Appropriate Assessment (AA).

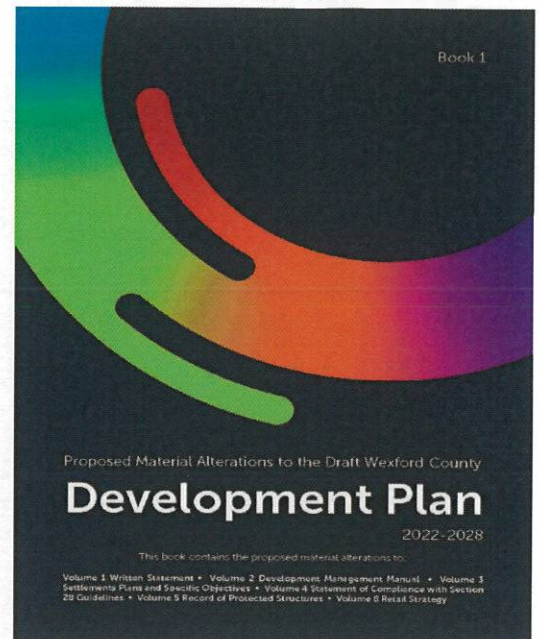
The Proposed Material Alterations (PMA), along with the Determinations, the SEA, and the AA, went on public display on Thursday, 7th April 2022 to Friday, 6th May 2022 inclusive. The PMA documents are available to view on the Council's Online Consultation Portal <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/> and in hard copy at the Planning Department, County Hall and in the public libraries.

At this stage in the plan preparation process, written submissions and observations can be made in relation to the PMA, the SEA, and the AA **only** and those submissions and observations must be received by **4.00pm on Friday, 6th May 2022**. Written submissions and observations can be submitted via the Online Consultation Portal, by email to [countydevelopmentplan@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:countydevelopmentplan@wexfordcoco.ie) or by post to the Planning Department.

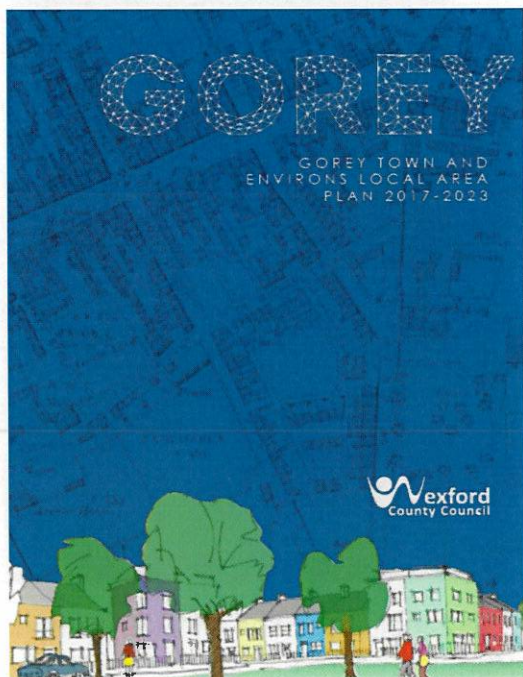
After this consultation period ends, the Chief Executive has 4 weeks to prepare a report on written submissions and observations received during this public consultation period and to submit the report to the Members for their consideration. The Members will have 6 weeks to consider the PMA to the Draft Plan and the Chief Executive's Report.

Following completion of their considerations, the Members shall, by resolution, make the Wexford County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 with or without the PMA. The Members may decide to accept a PMA subject to any modifications to the PMA that they consider appropriate, which may include the making of a further modification to the PMA. In this regard a further modification to a PMA—

- (a) May be made where it is minor in nature and therefore not likely to have significant effects on the environment or adversely affect the integrity of a European site.
- (b) Shall not be made where it relates to—
  - (i) an increase in the area of land zoned for any purpose, or
  - (ii) an addition to or deletion from the Record of Protected Structures.



The Plan will come into effect 6 weeks after the day the Members make the Plan, save for any part of the Plan that may become the subject of a Minister Direction pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).



### **Extension of Duration of the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023**

The Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) is due to expire in early June 2023. Wexford County Council may decide to make a new LAP, amend the existing LAP, or revoke the existing LAP before then. The first stage of making, amending, or revoking of any LAP is the issuing/publishing of notices under Section 20(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Section 19(1) (d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) allows for the Planning Authority, as they consider appropriate, by resolution to defer the issuing/publishing of those notices for a further period not exceeding five years. This has the effect of prolonging the duration of the Local Area Plan (LAP) beyond its original six-year lifetime.

The possible extension of the LAP's lifetime was discussed at the March monthly meeting of the Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District. The Members agreed to formally request, at the March monthly meeting of Wexford County Council, a report from the Chief Executive on the appropriateness of extending the lifetime of the LAP.

Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner also discussed the process and issues with the Members of the Gorey- Kilmuckridge Municipal District at their monthly meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

It is anticipated that the Chief Executive's Report will be placed on the Agenda of the May meeting of Wexford County Council for the Members consideration. The Members may then, as they consider appropriate, by resolution, defer the sending/issuing of the notices. The Members must give their reasons for the deferral, and a notice of the resolution will be published in the local newspapers.

### **Building Control (19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022)**

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	43
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	29
➤ Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion:	9
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 are as follows: -

• Live Cases	350
• Cases Opened	77
• Cases Closed	85

## Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting

The number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 are as follows: -

▪ Live Cases	32
▪ Cases Closed	18

## Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website - **Update not due until September 2022**
- **35** property inspections/visits conducted.
- **2** Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- **3** properties submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.

## Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022, totals **24**.

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	1	0	1	0	0
Gorey	3	0	2	1	0
New Ross	3	0	2	1	0
Wexford	8	0	4	4	0
Rosslare	9	0	7	2	0
<b>2022 Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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

## **Access Related Items**

### **Access Trails and Destination Parks**

The procurement and approval of works to further enhance the walkway in Carrigfoyle, is nearing completion. This trail identified as an accessible trail, is one which Vison Sports Ireland has scheduled for a June walk as part of their pilot walking programme for persons with a vision impairment.

## **2021-2023 Disability Participation and Awareness Funding Projects**

### **Innovative Community Engagement (I.C.E.)**

Activity for this project has moved to the next stage with the first of the scheduled on-site workshops with participating community groups and disability sector stakeholders getting under way. A schedule to complete the first initial workshop with all of the groups is in place and is expected to be completed by the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. Nine groups are moving into the next stage of this project, based on information and expertise supports to the group to ensure their project proposals are inclusive, with effective use of resources to provide improved access for all potential users. All Municipal Districts are represented by one or more groups in this project except for the Borough District of Wexford.

### **New Ross Municipal District**

The Raheen Family Resource Centre is the only group which presented from the New Ross Municipal District for participation in this project. The group participated in its first workshop on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, the event proved extremely successful with members from St. Aidan Centre Gorey in attendance. A follow up workshop will be scheduled when the committee have reviewed their proposal based on the feedback and engagement from the first workshop.

### **Enniscorthy Municipal District**

The Enniscorthy Municipal District has two groups who have presented to participate in this project, Buncody Day Care Centre and Kiltealy C.D.A.

Buncody Day Care Centre completed its first workshop on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, the event proved extremely successful with members from St. Aidan Centre Gorey in attendance. A follow up workshop will be scheduled when the committee have reviewed their proposal based on the feedback and engagement from the first workshop.

### **Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**

Four Groups have presented to participate in this project from the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District: Monageer Parish Grotto Group, Gorey Rangers, Ballycanew Mens Shed and Ballycanew-Ballyoughter C.D.A

Monageer Parish Grotto Group participated in its first workshop on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, the event proved extremely successful with members from both Enniscorthy C.W.C.W and St. Aidan Centre Gorey



in attendance. A follow up workshop will be scheduled when the committee have reviewed their proposal based on the feedback and engagement from the first workshop. In the interim the Access Section, in conjunction with supports from the District, are facilitating the group to investigate better safety measures for pedestrians at entrances/exits from the grotto/garden.

Gorey Rangers were the second of the groups from the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District to have participated in their first workshop held on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> April, again with members from St. Aidan Centre, Gorey in attendance. A follow up workshop will be scheduled when the committee have reviewed their proposal based on the feedback and engagement from the days event.

### **The Advanced Digital Access Participation Project (ADAPP)**

The tendering process for this project developing access to public spaces through a digital experience, is expected be completed by end of May.

### **Access Capital Works**

#### **Sensory Garden – Mallin Street Library**

The final phase of access works to provide a level external garden/event space has now been completed.

# Water Services



**1. Irish Water Asset  
Delivery**

## Water Services Monthly Report

**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.

# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model.</li> <li>➤ A schedule of high priority works has now been identified and is to be considered for funding</li> <li>➤ The concept design report for the required works to Enniscorthy Network was received Q4 2021</li> <li>➤ A new gravity main for Mary street is required to alleviate flooding and will has been agreed to be designed in 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019 for the intake</li> <li>➤ A new raw water distribution main and full water treatment plant upgrade is now to be included in the works programme.</li> <li>➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023</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>➤ Model verification ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system</li> <li>➤ Tender evaluation January 2022, with start onsite Q2 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Newtown WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including improved raw water treatment, instrumentation and run to waste facility</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Onsite meeting held to confirm design, Glan Agua to complete detailed design for Workshop 4 by July 2022.</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 be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Creagh WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment</li> <li>➤ Project scope agreed and awaiting appointment for preliminary design</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Gorey RWSS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</li> </ul> </li> <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 mid 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>○ Section 1 works have been completed and the contractor has now taken control of the borehole sites for section 2 works as programmed</li> <li>○ Completion cert issued for new treatment plant, all water now being treated at new plant</li> <li>○ Borehole upgrade works to be completed Q2 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project is overall on programme with the majority pipelines now installed and permanent road reinstatement due in April.</li> <li>○ Mechanical &amp; Electrical installation on the treatment plant has now begun, and it is expected the plant will be operational in Q4 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sisk has been appointed as the main contractor to build the new waste water treatment plant in Kilmore Quay.</li> <li>○ The project commencement date was March 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 with a 16 month construction programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some road closures will be required, however there will not be any road or construction works around the harbour area from June to September to facilitate the tourist season.</li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<p><b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focusing on mains rehabilitation and will revert to Find &amp; Fix as required. We have external finding resources at present with fixes being completed by WCC operational staff.</li> <li>• <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1.1km of mains replacement on Rectory Road in Enniscorthy is now complete.</li> <li>• The mains replacement team is currently working on a 2.2km replacement in the Ballygarret/Cahore area which is being carried out under a road closure. Local diversions are in place. Works are expected to continue until May 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Irish Water has advised that this project is to be re started with design works in April 2022. Further delivery dates to be confirmed.</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital



### IW Minor Water Schemes

- **Disinfection Project**
  - Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.
  - Snagging on-going at various sites.
- **Treated Water storage programme**
  - 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.
  - Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; Tender to be issued May 2022 with start onsite early 2023

<b>IW Minor Wastewater Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The pump controls at Keellogues WWPS have been installed and commissioning ongoing.</li> <li>○ Pump and controls upgrades have begun at Taghmon and Piercestown WWPSs, with SCADA to follow.</li> <li>○ Pump and controls upgrades for a three further sites are being progressed through design currently.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding – SCADA Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SCADA will be upgraded at 9 No. WWPSs across the Wexford Town collection network beginning December 2021. Seven sites have now been completed, with the remainder underway expected to be completed during Q2 2022.</li> <li>○ Funding has now also been approved for SCADA upgrades at 3 No. WWTPs (Ballymoney, Blackwater and Ballaghkeen) to take place Q2 2022, with Blackwater underway currently.</li> <li>○ Funding has also been approved for a final batch of SCADA upgrades at five remaining wastewater sites, to take place Q4 2022 with procurement underway.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - WWTP Minor Improvement Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade works to improve resilience of the inlet PS at Ballymurn WWTP is currently underway.</li> <li>○ Upgrade of PS, valve chamber, kiosk, controls and hardstanding at Carne WWTP are practically complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Invest to Save</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with manufacture now complete, and installation now due in June 2022.</li> <li>○ All works are now complete at Blackwater WWTP to improve energy efficiency and process control necessary to deal with fluctuations in loading.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2022 has been adjusted to €1,777,800</li> <li>➤ The latest available report from Irish Water shows spend to end of March at €413,350.</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Connection works are ongoing county wide through April 2022</li> </ul>

<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS are now complete on site and M&amp;E works are completed. Foul flows are now being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP.</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 2022.</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 and 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kyle Close, Oulart-</b> Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in Q4 2022.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mountain View, Ballindaggin-</b> COF received from IW. Decision awaited from the Department regarding design proposal.</li> <li>➤ <b>Gleann na gCaor, Monagear-</b> Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>➤ <b>Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Coolballow estate-</b> Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS</li> </ul>

### 3. Rural Water



#### Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

- **Kilanerin GWS**
  - Hydrogeologist has been engaged and awaiting phase 1 of study into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.
  - Final Report has been received and reviewed.
  - Meeting is to take place with the Group Water Scheme and WCC to discuss the various options Recommended.

<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<p>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storage Tank - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants.</li> <li>○ A report has been provided and the Hydraulic Model is currently being assessed to ensure all agreed deliverables have been received to satisfaction.</li> <li>○ Reservoir Bypass -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.</li> <li>○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>○ Follow up with the Dept. March 2022, expert committee reviewing implications for changes in DBO contract.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<p>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned</li> <li>○ Stage 2 of the part XI process commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> March when the documents were submitted to Planning.</li> <li>○ Works currently in development are preparation of site investigation works and main contract tender packages.</li> <li>○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval.</li> <li>○ Meeting took place with WCC Rural Water and the Bing Committee to bring the committee up to date.</li> <li>○ Site visit took place during April to review the sites of the proposed pumping stations with the committee</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<p>➤ <b>MARWP 2022-2024</b></p> <p>Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme due after Qtr. 2</p>



<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A total of 10 new well grant applications were registered in April 2022.</li> <li>○ 22 Well Grants have been paid in March to date, totalling €48,047.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for April 2022 was 44.53MLD. This figure is up 0.4MLD on 2021 figures. Overall consumption is trending high.</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.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planned leak detection was focused mainly in Wexford, Bunclody and Camolin.</li> <li>○ Acoustic Logger deployment has commenced in Wygram and Rowe St areas. 104nr have been places and 12nr are alarming, requiring further investigation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shareridge are to commence on the Forth Road, Gorey works in May 2021</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find crews were concentrated in South Regional.</li> <li>○ 9nr repairs created savings of 15.0m3/hr. Savings &gt; 3m3/hr achieved in Wellingtonbridge, Fethard and Wygram.</li> <li>○ Contractor Find crews finalised initial investigations in Killag DMA and has returned to Bunclody for the final sweep of the area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>BYS Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Corish Park #1-#16 was decommissioned, 2m3/hr saving achieved. The rest of the estate is still pending funding approval.</li> <li>○ St Johns Villas BYS project in Enniscorthy is to start in May 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Pressure Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work ongoing in Wexford area</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>First Fix</b></li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Shareridge are conducting First Fix investigations and repairs around the county. An NDU with a domestic allowance can qualify for First Fix repair in 2022.</li></ul> |
|--|--|

# ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

## NATIONAL ROADS

### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Tender documents for a geotechnical investigation contract are currently being finalised and it is anticipated that fieldworks could commence in September after the main harvest seasons have ended. The Project Liaison Officer will engage with all impacted landowners before commencement.

The initial design development has commenced and will evolve through the year in tandem with the development of transport studies, ground investigation data, environmental assessments etc. The development of the design will generate increasing engagement with land and property owners.

### N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

Documentation for a planning application and Compulsory Purchase Order have been finalised for approval and it is anticipated that a Section 177AE planning application & CPO will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála at the end of May following approval to proceed.

Copies of the applications will be available to view and notices of the applications, arrangements and further details will be published in advance. Any submissions or observations may be made to An Bord Pleanála which may at its discretion hold an oral hearing into the proposed development.

The project continues to consult with directly impacted land and property owners in advance of the submission of the planning application. A project newsletter will also be published in advance of the planning application and will be circulated in local outlets and public buildings in Rosslare Harbour as well as the project website and social media to provide the public with further information on the planning process.

## **NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES**

### **2021 Pavement Schemes**

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

The tender for the construction contract was awarded on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Works commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The scheme was completed on 1<sup>st</sup>. April.

#### **HD28 Pavement Improvement Works N11 Oilgate Village**

The scheme was tendered in November.

We received approval from TII to award the on contract on the 10<sup>th</sup> March. Due to the traffic volumes on the N11 this scheme will need to be carried out at night.

Works should commence in the first half of May with a 3-week programme.

### **2022 Pavement Schemes**

#### **N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme**

**(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)**

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

Works are being carried out on the contract documents for the scheme with tender planned for May/June.

Pavement works should commence in July.

#### **N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 1**

**(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)**

The total scheme length is 3.7km. The allocation from TII for 2022 allows for the first 2 km at the southern end to be completed in 2022.

Work has commenced on the design of this scheme, with tender planned in June.

Pavement works should commence in August.

### **2022 Safety Schemes**

#### **N25 Ballygillane Roundabout**

**(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,590,000)**

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

A Letter of Intent was issued to the preferred bidder in January.

A Letter of Acceptance will be issued on the receipt of approval from TII.

It is hoped to commence the scheme in May with a 3-month construction period.

## **2022 Additional Maintenance Allocations**

### **N30 Forestwood Pavement Repair €250,000**

Wexford County Council applied for and received additional maintenance funding from TII to carry out pavement repairs on the N30 at Forestwood. It is hoped to tender this scheme in early June.

### **Drainage and Verge Maintenance €110,000**

Wexford County Council applied for and received additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11, N25 and N30. These maintenance works will be ongoing during May and June.

### **Former National - R744 Millpark Road Enniscorthy €350,000**

This allocation was for the upgrade of former national roads. This will be used to carry out pavement repairs on Millpark road from Castle Hill to Arnolds Cross. This scheme will be tendered in June and completed during the Summer.

## **Winter Maintenance**

The 2021/2022 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. There have been 50 call outs up to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 15 February 2022. Wexford's allocation was €23,749,787 up €4,529,827 on 2021. This allocation included €4,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage.

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

The 2022 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 31 January 2022 at Bola Beg, Ballindaggan.

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

Ballinastraw Hill / Johnstown; (Enniscorthy District); Coolgreaney towards Ballyfad; Managan; (Both in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Beech Bends Slaught; Poulfur to Fethard; (Both in New Ross District); Edwardstown to Scurlogue; (Rosslare District); Sion to Crossabeg; (Wexford Borough District).

Roads completed (Clause 804 stone) in the last month were:



Newtown \ Askinamoe; (Enniscorthy District); Macoye Lower; Ballyduff to Camolin; Mullaun; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckrdge District); Corlican Killurin; (Wexford Borough District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The 2022 surface dressing programme will commence in June.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

€614,350 grant has been allocated to County Wexford for 2022. The roads to be completed in 2022 are being finalised. The application submitted was for 12 roads with a total estimated cost €1.155m (Grant portion €950,000) for 2022.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

€603,000 grant to repair 19 bridges. Work has commenced on Abbey Bridge in New Ross District.

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

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March 2021. An underwater inspection of the bridge structure was carried out in 2021 and no defects were found below the water.

A structural inspection of the bridge was completed in 2021. This will inform the detailed design. A Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was completed, and the planned works did not screen out.

A Natura Impact Statement was completed and was submitted to An Bord Pleanala in 2021 as part of the planning application. The planning submission is presently being assessed by An Bord Pleanala. Design options will be developed over the coming months. Works are expected to commence Q 2-3 of 2022.

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

€631,000 allocated for 13 projects throughout the county. Two additional projects have been transferred from 2021 to 2022 (Grange Beach cliff stabilisation works in New Ross District and Adhare Bridge works in Gorey-Kilmuckrdge District).

### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2021/2022 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 18 October 2021. There have been 42 call outs for pre-treatment this winter.

### **General Maintenance**

Drainage, patching and road surface repair works ongoing in all Districts with an emphasis on repairing drainage systems damaged during the Christmas day

## **ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES**

The NTA confirmed an allocation on 24 January 2022 of €4.44m to Wexford County Council for projects in 2022. This funding is largely to complete projects approved in 2021 which are presently in design or construction stage.

In 2021, Wexford County Council completed 32 projects. There are 17 projects presently under construction. The remaining 22 are at design stage.

Over 8km of new footpath was constructed in 2021 in the county's towns and more than 22 villages providing important linkages for communities. The total value of work (construction and design) completed in 2021 was €3,145,653.

A design incorporating segregated cycle lanes, footpath and junction improvements has been finalised for Newtown Road (Wexford Borough District) and is at pre planning stage.

Designs are being developed for cycleways at: Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue; Roxborough (Wexford Borough District); Oaklands to Kents Cross (New Ross District); Rosslare Harbour - Kilrane Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme (Rosslare District); R772 Clogh to county boundary Cycle Scheme (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD).

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

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

Design works are completed.

It is hoped to complete the upgrade of the remaining 300 to 400 lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by mid 2022.

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

- Ballygarrett Village – Contract awarded. Works commenced in April.
- Balintrad, Courtown – Contract awarded. Works commenced in April.

Further works are planned,

North Parade Gorey – infill lighting on ESB Network poles

Clonattin Road Gorey – infill lighting on ESB Network poles

Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch

Killinick Village

The Ballagh – Church to the school

The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove to regional road

Killenagh Village

Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road

Wexford Town – Mulgannon  
Rathgarogue Village  
Davistown Village

Other locations will follow further to consultations with Municipal District Engineers.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **1.1 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark**

Final snag works including the water and sewer connections to the site have been completed.

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

The proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site have completed pre-planning and the Part 8 consent application will be advertised in May.

The activity centre building was lodged for Part 8 planning in March by WCC's Architects Department and the period for public comment will close on 20/04/2022.

### **1.2 Min Ryan Park**

Sole Sports and Leisure has been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA is now complete and open to the public.

Recommencement of works on the Skate Park is now overdue. Works are expected to recommence in late May and will take up to eight weeks to complete. Public lighting at these installations will follow.

### **1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1**

Phase 1 – the development of three serviced sites is substantially complete and the construction of the first building is well under way. Robert Troy TD Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment visited the Park in March.

### **1.4 Gorey District Park**

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and the new playground and adult gym equipment is fully installed and in use. The final landscape planting is now virtually complete. Work on the building has recommenced and is due for completion in July 2022.

## **1.5 South East Greenway**

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 have been awarded to Glás Civil Engineering and works are nearing completion on-site. Lots 1 and 2 are the urban sections at Rosbercon & Ferrybank and Lot 3 extends from Raheen to Glenmore. Works on Lots 1 & 3 are scheduled for substantially completed by June 2022.

Landowner agreements on the accommodation works are progressing well and it is planned that Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) will be tendered for works in May 2022.

The detailed design of Lot 4 (New Ross to Mount Elliott) will be finalised by the end of May and we would expect to issue tender documents for works in June

The current expected date for the full completion of the Greenway is Q1 2024.



## **1.6 Trinity Wharf**

Due to significant inflation in the market since tenders were received, the original tender process for the access road undertaken in 2021 has been abandoned. A revised tender invitation issued in December 2021 and tenders have been received and have been assessed. Works are expected to commence in Q2 2022.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The pre-qualification process is completed, and the successful design firms have been issued with tender documents. Tender submissions were received on 31/03/2022. Appointment is expected in May.

## **1.7 New Ross Fire Station**

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station has been awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site on May 6<sup>th</sup> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions and will take 9 months to complete. The construction is approximately 85% complete, the main building with second fix M&E well underway. The drill tower has been erected and the installation of the utility services are almost complete.



Completion is expected in May 2022.



### 1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension

The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. The works are on-going and substantial completion is now expected in September 2022.

### 1.9 High Hill, New Ross

The Contract has been awarded to MJS Civil Engineering and works are progressing on-site. Groundworks, drainage and ducting works are now substantially completed within the main section of the park. The installation of the staircases and masonry work is complete. Pedestrian road crossings and surfacing works have yet to commence. Paving to the staircases and landing areas are underway. Some tree planting and bareroot planting is currently underway in the current planting season. Herbaceous planting is scheduled to coincide with paving works and Autumn bulb planting will continue after the paving works. Works are expected to be substantially completed by July 2022.



### **1.11 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme**

The contract has been awarded for the advance supply of natural stone paving materials. Delivery commenced in January 2022 and progressing.

Tenders for the main works contract have been assessed and a contract for works has been awarded to Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering Ltd.

Street works commenced on site the week of 21/03/2022 and are expected to be completed in July 2022.

### **1.12 New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks**

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site.

The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was completed in July 2021.

A Part 8 development consent application for the development of the public realm space on the site was confirmed at the Council's meeting in March 2022.

An application for capital funding under the RRDF scheme is in preparation for submission in April 2022.

### **1.13 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.

The site investigation (SI) work for the pedestrian bridge has been completed. The preliminary design and bridge options report has been completed taking account of the results of the SI works and is currently under review.

WCC is engaged with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to a further funding application to support regeneration in Enniscorthy. The planning Department is working in collaboration with Special projects to develop a strategic plan for Enniscorthy and is currently in the consultation process.

#### **1.14 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, which will see these buildings converted into a high-quality enterprise hub.

A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement. The CPO for the project has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and the acquisition of the outstanding property to facilitate the development is progressing. The CPO is proceeding, the Notice to Entry has been served and the site is now in our possession. The Preliminary design will follow with the Part 8 consent process planned to commence during the Summer.

#### **1.15 Esmonde Street**

RPS is progressing with the detailed design. Priority Geotech Ltd undertook site investigation works in September. Irish Water have now approved proceeding with the design of the sewer upgrade and CCTV and survey works has been completed. The detailed design is due to be completed by June 2022 and the award of a works contract by Q4 2022.

WCC will submit an application for category 1 funding under the current call for RRDF.

#### **1.16 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. This tender process was concluded in May 2021 without the award of a contract.

#### **1.17 Mechanics Institute**

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. The invitation to tender has been re-advertised with a tender closure date in May. It is expected that a works contract will be awarded in Q3 2022. Construction works are scheduled to take 6 months.

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

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

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on the preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála by the end of 2022.

The process of negotiation for tourism design services with the preferred tenderer from the 2017 Hook Heritage Ltd competition has closed without an award of contract following the withdrawal of the preferred tenderer in December. WCC has advertised for tourism coordinator services for the project and 2 tenders have been received and will be assessed. The tourism coordinator will assist with the procurement of interpretative design services and we would expect an appointment of interpretive designer by mid-2022. The environmental consultant has been appointed and is commencing initial studies and investigative works.

The contract for tourism co-ordination and management services for the New Ross Tourism project was awarded to Alan Sherwood & Associates in November 2021 and he is currently reviewing the outline interpretive design and developing a plan for procurement of detailed design services.

#### **1.19 Enniscorthy Tourism Project:**

This project provides for the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on Enniscorthy Castle that will have the capacity to significantly increase tourism visitor numbers to the town. The proposed project will link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross.

The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC in July 2021.

Tenders for preliminary design and planning consent services have been received for Phase 1 of the project and are currently being assessed.



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

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

Tender for the intrusive site investigation works and the environmental and marine surveys required to develop the preliminary design for the project have been received and are currently being assessed. The investigative works and surveys are expected to commence in early Q2 2022.

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

The Economic SPC of Wexford County Council and the Transportation SPC of Waterford City & County Council have written to the Minister for Transport seeking inclusion of the out-of-service Rosslare to Waterford railway line in the up-coming national rail review. The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has been paused, pending a decision from the DOT on the future of the rail corridor.

WCC is reviewing the 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.

### **1.23 Wexford Town 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.

The scoping and route options process has commenced and a presentation was given to the joint Wexford and Rosslare MDCs in late March on this project. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options will commence on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **1.23 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford**

A Part 8 submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site and for construction of a temporary surface level car park. The plan was presented to the Wexford MDC September meeting and the Part 8 process commenced formally on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Part 8 was confirmed at the march 28<sup>th</sup> full Council meeting.

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

Detailed design is programmed to be completed in July with an award of the initial works contract (demolition works) in October 2022. The main car park works contract is expected to commence in Q1 2023.

#### **1.24 Crescent Quay – Dredging**

An award of contract was made to RPS Consulting Engineers in June 2021 for design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications in respect of this project. RPS are currently specifying and procuring investigative works to inform the dredging strategy.

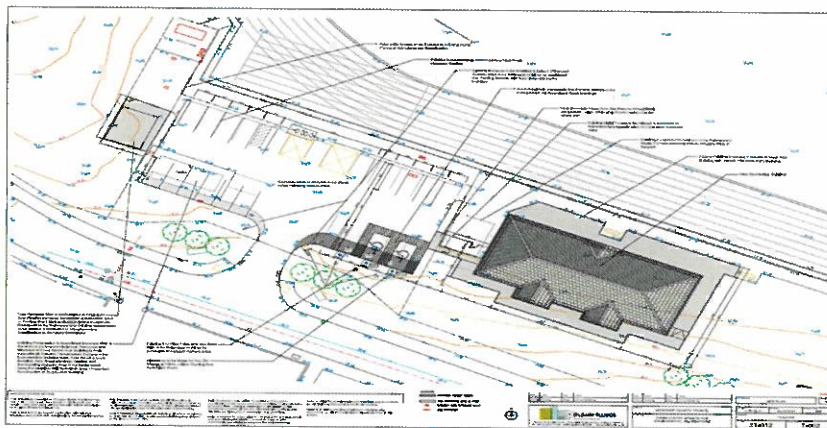
#### **1.25 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy**

The final masterplan has now been completed and presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October 2021 meeting. A contract for the initial phase 1 works was advertised in January 2022, these works include new footpath, pedestrian crossings, new entry signage and landscaping. The tender evaluation process is underway and it is expected Phase 1 works contract will be awarded in April 2022.

A further application for funding of the masterplan was made to the NTA's active travel programme in January 2022.

#### **1.26 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. The tender documents issued to the Department for Tourism, Culture, Art, the Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAG) have been approved and a tender advertisement for the works will issue in early May. It is expected that a works contract will be awarded in Q3 2022.



### **1.27 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility**

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

The tender for design services was advertised in Jan 2022, the tender evaluation process is now complete and an appointment of a consultant is imminent.

## **2. Flood Defence Schemes**

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

**Statutory Process** - The scheme confirmation documents required for ministerial consent were submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in March 2020. In April 2021, WCC issued supplementary environmental information to the OPW and DPER to support the approval process. The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (MDPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Details are available on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie). Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy to provide the community with much-needed protection from extreme flood events, both now and into the future.

**Next Steps** - WCC, OPW & lead consultant Mott McDonald (MMD) met on the 11<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the ministers decision and agree the next steps. The ecology baseline data is to be updated. The scheme alternatives are to be assessed, shortlisted and consulted on publicly, and the EIAR & NIS updated for the preferred option. MMD are to issue a programme of work.

A special meeting of the EMD was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March to update councillors on the ministers decision and the next steps for the scheme.

### **2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:**

The project brief for design services for Wexford Flood Relief Project was advertised on Etenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process will be advertised in Q1 2022.

# REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

## 1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	4
Customer Complaint	5
Ombudsman Complaint	0
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## 2. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

### Tenders

No uploaded	5
No of tenders received	4

## 3. CRM / CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT REPORT ON ACTIVITIES JANUARY TO APRIL 2022

Caes Logged CRM – January to April 2022	
Agricultural Burns	49
Environment Complaints	1,549
Change of Circumstances	125
General Queries	0
Housing Validation	392
Quick Calls	5,318
Ask A Question	90
Road Faults Log	226
<b>Email (Received - External)</b>	
Corporate	23
Community	5



Districts	94
Environment	230
Finance	43
Fire	3
GP	1
Homeless	20
Housing	145
Housing Maintenance	31
HR	22
LEO	1
Mortgages	2
Other	76
Planning	59
Roads	52
Sanitary & Water Services	12
Misc	1,571
<b>Email (Received - Internal)</b>	
Community	2
Corporate	6
Districts	36

## UKRAINE RESPONSE

In order to ensure that structures are in place continue to deliver the desired outcome as numbers of Ukrainians arriving to the country grow, The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government has asked each local authority to identify a lead Director of Service to have a local coordination role on a fulltime basis, supported by a small team of colleagues. Ms. Amanda Byrne a/Director of Services has been appointed to this role and a team will be put in place in coming weeks. The team will engage with all of the actors involved in service provision locally and coordinate the response across Wexford.

The team will also support the assignment and matching of the Red Cross accommodation pledges.

The Ukraine Community Response Forum met on the 26th of April. The group signed off on the Community Response Framework Document which outlines the lead and support agencies for each area including accommodation, education and local supports.

Latest information indicates that c.860 displaces Ukrainians are being accommodated in Wexford. This does not include people who travelled here to live with family members independently.

## HOUSING, COMMUNITY, LIBRARIES, ARTS, EMERGENCY SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

### HOUSING

#### Housing Supply

#### Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Houses Complete	Houses complete 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022. Keys handed over. Project complete ahead of target and on budget.
Ballycullane	2	New Ross	Houses Complete	Both Houses complete and keys handed over in March 22.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	3 Phase power was connected on 31 <sup>st</sup> March. Pump Station was commissioned on 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Awaiting IW testing and connections. Handover June 2022.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Some delays due to ground conditions, Completion in Q2 22.
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Finishing works proceeding. Expected completion Q2 2022. ESB connection scheduled 4 <sup>th</sup> May. Handover thereafter.
Rosetown, Rosslare (deliver units in 2 phases)	23 P1 12 P2	Rosslare	Phase 1 (23 houses) Under Construction	Phase 1 of 23 units due to complete in Q4 2022. Funding Stage 3 is being prepared by consultants for submission in Q2 2022 for Phase 2 of the project, 12 units.
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 4 approved (Phase 1 for 22 Units)	Phase 1 (22 Units) apartments, site boundaries and retaining walls underway and progressing well. Phase 2 to be negotiated with contractor in Q2 2022. Phase 2 and cost contribution for pump station to be agreed with DHPLG.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be lodged in Q2 2022
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 Q2 2022
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved for €8.3m. Part VIII approved in March meeting. Stage 3 will be submitted in Q2 2022

Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 3 funding approved 25 April 2022. Out for construction tender June 22.
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Consultants appointed for the enabling works i.e. Knotweed and Site Clearance. Enabling works to commence on site Q2 2022. Enabling works including tendering expected to take 6 months. Revised Stage 1 submitted 5 April 2022.
Francis St.	2	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 1 approved on 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 21. Pre Planning approved. Consultants appointed. Stage 2 in Q2 22
Killeens	45+	Wexford	Stage 1	Design Team selected through OGP Official appointment to be made in May 2022. PEP and Executive Order being prepared.
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q2 2022. Appointing new consultants and we have increased numbers to 22 for VFM, higher densities and to incorporate more smaller units in line with requirements and the housing need in the Gorey area. Proposing Design Build contract.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>			

### Pre-Development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Tenders received on Feb 22. Construction to commence in April 2022.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site.
Monamolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Diversion enabling works in design for services. IW have confirmed feasibility. Stage 2 will be submitted in Q3 2022.
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed and 1 no 1 bed apartments on the site has been submitted. ESB and EIR wires to be undergrounded as Phase1. Awaiting costs and programme for undergrounding ESB and Eir. Demolitions and Archaeology as step 2.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Derelict house on site to be demolished. Pre-Planning approved. Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 application and Part VIII Q3 2022. Irish Water have

			approved Feasibility. Enabling works (demolition and site clearance) to commence in Q2 22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>		

### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. We have reviewed design for better density, value for money and we have pre-planning complete. Stage 1
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – design for inner relief road required before we can proceed. No change. Roads in discussion with Schools and neighbouring developer regarding the Inner Relief Road. On Hold until road is resolved.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>		

### Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken	1	New Ross	Funding approval received, granted with a shortfall of circa €172K. Awaiting tenant agreement to this approach.
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW confirmed that there is capacity for the 2 houses in Adamstown so this job can now proceed to demolition of existing house. Consultant tender issued for demolition in April 2022. The 2 houses will have a with a total population equivalent (PE) of 8
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be Prepared. Q3 2022
Creagh	24	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Awaiting a decision as to whether the site will be transferred back to Housing.
Grogan's Road	4	Wexford	Pre planning approved. Stage 1 approved 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 21. Design has been revised to incorporate 4 apartments. New Pre Planning required. Then proceed to Stage 2 in Q3 2022 subject to confirmation of IW feasibility.



<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>		
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### Approved Housing Bodies

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	All units delivered
<b>Cluid</b>			
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2022.
Tobar Muire Place	17	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver late 2022 /early 2023.
<b>Tuath</b>			
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver on a phased basis from 2022.
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2022/Q1 2023

<b>Clanmil</b>			
Feacrach Cnoic, Enniscorthy	10	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>		

### Part V Acquisitions

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver 2022.
Cluain Beag, Clonard	6	Wexford	4 units delivered remainder to deliver Q2 2022.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022. (Issues with IW resulting in reduced number of units. Reduced

			number of units to be constructed. Currently engaged with developer.)
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	All units delivered
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023.
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q2 2022.
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022 (Issues with IW will result in reduced number of units. Reduced number of units to be constructed (expected to be <10 Currently engaged with developer.)
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver from Q2 2022.
Cluain Beag, Clonard	20	Wexford	All units delivered
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	Under Construction Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022.
Ard Uisce (Ph 3)	8	Wexford	Under Construction. Delivery expected Q2 2022.

Castlelands, Ferns	20	Enniscorthy	DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Under Construction. Expected to deliver Q3 2022
Haughton Place, New Ross	13	New Ross	DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Expected to deliver 2023 (includes 1 Part V)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>		

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

### Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1st – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2022)	91	72	89	86	49	387
Repair Requests Year to Date	439	323	528	548	261	2099
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2022)	74	63	67	73	41	318
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	302	224	337	386	175	1424

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

### Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

An integrated Homeless Service Centre (HSSU) was opened in Wexford in 2019 the Centre offers homeless supports, advice and services in one location, with an emphasis on homeless prevention and supports. This is a collaborative initiative by Wexford County Council working in partnership with the HSE

and Focus Ireland. Some of the main services being provided through the HSSU working in partnership with external state agencies and NGO's are:

<b>WCC Services</b>	<b>Focus Ireland Services</b>	<b>HSE Services</b>
Homeless Assessment	Tenancy Sustainment Services	Substance Misuse Outreach Services
Homeless Prevention and support services through early intervention	Housing First Project	Mental Health
HAP Place Finder Service	Advice & Information Service	Tusla Aftercare
Links to external agencies where appropriate		Tusla Domestic Violence Womens Refuge
Advice and information		

It is important to point out that the figures below represent the total number of calls to the 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>354</b> calls to the HSSU from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022, the following is the breakdown of same:-	
219	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
29	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
82	Ineligible at the time presentation for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise housing situation.
24	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER PROGRAMME

The Article 48 team processed 9 LEADER claims in April. The value of these claims was €406,755.40 which will support 5 enterprises and 4 community groups throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

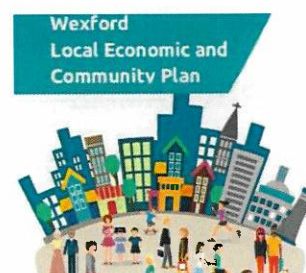
Approved for Payment	Approved Payment
1. Crossabeg Ballymurn Community Centre CLG	€65,156.76
2. Riverchapel Community Complex Ltd	€25,812.00
3. Purple & Gold	€13,500.00
4. Ryans Bakery Ltd	€126,557.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 231,026.30</b>
Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
1. Killanerin-Ballyfad Community Development Assoc.	€13,496.25
2. Kilmore Quay Community Development Assoc.	€4,375.41
3. Wheelock Fruits	€69,600.00
4. Greenhill Fruit Farms	€3,769.94
5. O'Regan Ironworks	€84,487.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 175,729.10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 406,755.40</b>

### Playgrounds

Funding of €16,541 has been awarded by the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth for the refurbishment of Courtown Playground under the Play and Recreation Capital Grant Funding Scheme 2022, which represents approximately 25% of total project cost. Match funding to be provided by way of own resources.

## Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

27th April 2022, the DRCD hosted a Training Webinar to assist local authority staff members from both Community and Economic Development Teams involved in the drafting of the new iteration of the LECP.



The webinar, 'LECP Economic Training Event' and included presentations including *Regional Economic Plans, Town Centre First and Digital Strategies, National Social Enterprise Policy, Regional Spatial and Economic Plans and Local Enterprise Offices.*

## LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) MEETING –

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 26th of May 2022.

Additional meeting dates have also been identified for June and July.



## LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) MEETING -

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee acting as the LAG is scheduled for the 26th of May 2022.



Additional meeting dates have also been identified for June and July.

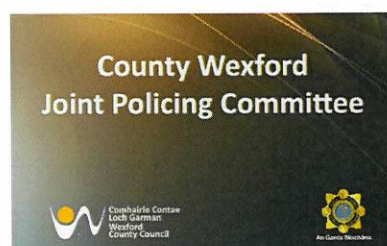
## JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING -

*County Wexford Joint Policing Committee*

The proposed June meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee has been agreed to be deferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.



Healthy  
**Wexford**



## Healthy Ireland Fund 2019-2021 - Round 3

The Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3 completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Detailed Financial and Progress reporting is required and is being prepared by Action Partners and compiled by the Healthy County Coordinator for final reporting to Pobal by 6<sup>th</sup> May.

### Healthy County Committee

Working groups continue to meet and progress activities and initiatives to deliver on the Healthy County Plan Strategic Priorities. The next Meeting of the Healthy County Committee is 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Some Recent Activity Updates:

**Community Growing Gathering** – Plans are underway to progress a gathering for those involved in or interested in Community Growing. The key aim is to allow those interested the opportunity to meet and network. The plan is to hold the event in May, with promotion through social media and community organisations.

**Pilot Period Poverty Project** – Wexford County Council has secured funding from Department of Health for a Pilot Period Poverty Project, to run to the end of December 2022. Plans are underway to develop this project in collaboration with the Healthy County Committee.

Following the expression of interest request for the **SunSmart Sunscreen Dispenser Pilot**, in collaboration with the National Cancer Programme (NCCP) Team, six community organisations were chosen NCCP team to participate across County Wexford.

The pilot will run for 12 weeks over the summer.



### Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26

Work on the Age Friendly Strategy is nearing completion with the final draft to be presented to the SPC and full Council meeting for final approval.

### Launch of Croke Park as first Age Friendly Stadium in the world and Age Friendly Ambassador

On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Croke Park Stadium was formally recognised by the World Health Organisation and Age Friendly Ireland as the first Age Friendly stadium in the world. This came after the GAA improved its accessibility, such as access routes, accessible seating and signage, and also committed to delivering staff training and discounted tickets for older fans.

Older people are also valued members of the stadium's workplace and volunteer workforce. Actions are also being implemented across the wider GAA community, including in Wexford to ensure that older people continue to feel included in the life of the community. Initiatives such as the GAA's Social Initiative,



its Health and Wellbeing work and the GAA volunteer response to Covid, demonstrate the association's commitment to being Age Friendly.

Wexford was represented at this event by Cathaoirleach Barbara-Anne Murphy, Mayor Garry Laffan, WCC Age Friendly Programme Manager Ann Marie Laffan, Wexford Older Peoples Council Chairperson Kevin Molloy and Wexford Age Friendly Ambassador Tony Dempsey.

Also at this event the Age Friendly Ambassador for each county was launched with Tony Dempsey taking up the role in Co. Wexford – with a presentation to Tony from Dr Thiago Herick De Sa from the World Health Organisation and Catherine McGuigan from Age Friendly Ireland. Tony will help to promote the work that Wexford County Council and their partner organisations in the state and voluntary sectors are doing to make Wexford a better place for older people to live.



## Enniscorthy Age Friendly Town

Work has now completed on the Age Friendly Enniscorthy Healthy Town grant application funded by Healthy Ireland. Enniscorthy had been chosen as the county's first Age Friendly town with a walkability audit carried out in 2021 by older people and wheelchair users and WCC staff including the District Engineer & Technician, Special Projects Engineer, Senior Planner, Access Officer and Age Friendly Programme Manager.

Participants identified works required to make the town more age friendly and easier for those with access or mobility issues to navigate. Some of these works have already been carried out with more planned and





Dementia Awareness Training took place in Enniscorthy on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for local businesses, healthcare professionals, those living with dementia and their carers as well as the general public. 2 training sessions which were fully booked, were organised by Wexford County Council's Age Friendly Programme and delivered by the Alzheimers Society of Ireland. The course which aims to raise awareness and understanding of dementia, explore the things we can all do to support a person with dementia and their families and to provide practical tips of how we can make our organisations and communities more dementia inclusive.



A collaboration project supported by Wexford County Council's Arts and Community Sections is currently underway with The National Opera House and St. Bridget's Day Care Centre in Wexford Town. Running from the 12 April to 30<sup>th</sup> May workshops will take place with older people looking at the songs that they



like and why, what memories they have around them and encouraging them to sing these songs. An event is planned to coincide with Bealtine in the National Opera House.

### **Colaiste Abbhain, Adamstown Intergenerational project**

The Age Friendly Programme Manager and Jason Carroll from Wexford Older People's Council met with transition year students from Colaiste Abbhain on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to discuss an ongoing intergenerational project with students and their grandparents using Acorn tablets funded by Wexford County Council.

### **Celtic Routes**

Filming for the Hero video has taken place in Wales and will commence in Ireland in the first week of May. Advertising at Rosslare Europort will commence in May and run for 14 weeks over the summer season. Thematic Group submissions will be added to a new Celtic Collections section on the website during May in time for the summer season. Match Funding has been secured to create a both a linear and digital TV series for S4C and TnaG. The eTender for photography has been released, and the contract for 360 drone photography has been signed. To date via our Social Media contract 71 million people have had an opportunity to view Celtic Routes output.

## Wexford Sports Active

Bike Week	Bike Week starts on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of May and runs until the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of May. Sports Active Wexford are planning a couple of Bike events during the week.
Marathon Kids	European Champion and World and Olympic Athlete David Gillick visited Ballygarrett NS and Craanford NS on the 5 <sup>th</sup> of April to celebrate Marathon Kids. Children from four Gorey Primary schools got to meet and run with David. Marathon Kids continues in 17 schools around Wexford through April and May with nearly 900 children.
Playground Leadership	The playground leader primary school leadership programme started in April and will be delivered in schools throughout April, May and June.
School Equipment	Equipment will provided to a number of schools during May on loan to help with the increase of physical activity in schools.
Workplace Activity Programme	The new block of Online Yoga started on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April and takes place every Wednesday for four weeks from 7pm-7.40pm. Those who sign up have the option of doing the class live or receiving the recording to do in their own time over the next 7 days. Participants: 11
Yoga Walking	A 4 Week Yoga walking programme commenced in Raven Woods on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm on April 6 <sup>th</sup> . Total participants: 5
Activator Pole Taster Session	An Activator Pole Taster Session was delivered in Knockeen Nursing Home on Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> of April to 18 participants.
Men's Shed Scooch	Scooch was demonstrated to the newly formed Ballycogley Men's Shed on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> of April and equipment was left on loan with them to continue playing. Total participants: 20 men

The Exercise Effect	The CAMHS IEP has given their formal resignation date. The recruitment process is underway for the new position. Currently awaiting Garda Vetting.
Healthy Woodlands	The healthy woodlands programme is continuing for Havenview Residents in Tintern Abbey on a weekly basis on Tuesdays from 11am to 12pm. Participants: 4.
CAMHS Rag Tree Equine Therapy	SAW has begun the delivery of the Health and Fitness module for Rag Tree Equine Therapy Centre on Friday afternoons.
Ukrainian Children Refugees	SAW delivered 5 activity sessions for Ukrainian Children in St. Mary's GAA club in collaboration with FAI. A buntus bag was also delivered to the centre for their own use. Total participants: 10
Safeguarding	6 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2022 with a total of 87 participants. 2 x Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2022 with a total of 18 participants
Coaching Girls in Sport	2 x Sport Ireland Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport workshop's completed. Total participants = 27 Next course is organised for the 24 <sup>th</sup> of May in the Horse and Hound Hotel, Ballinaboola.
Staff Training	One SAW member has started Postural Stability Instructor training with Later Life Learning. Three Staff members are undergoing their First Aid Refresher Course.



Former Olympian and European Champion visited 2 Wexford schools on 5<sup>th</sup> April, who are taking part in the Marathon Kids running challenge



Anna, our Community Sports Development Officer, leading some fun activities for Ukrainian children recently at St. Mary's GAA club in Tagoat in collaboration with the FAI.

## ENVIRONMENT

### A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Indoor Staff members as of the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 will return to the office on a full time basis following an update issued on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April by Human Resources. Continued use of good infection prevention measures are to be implemented and a staggered break times to facilitate a return to the office.

### B. COASTAL MATTERS

#### Harbours -

Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) announced funding approval for projects under a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 23 projects with a total construction cost of €1.4m in Co. Wexford; works are now underway to progress these projects.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Part XI planning was submitted to Planning Department on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The public planning notice was in the local newspaper on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022. This scheme was included in the above DAFM approved projects.



Ports Past and Present: Rosslare Ports Fest is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June in Rosslare Harbour, event details in progress – updates available on website. There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists and our project partners in University College Cork and two Welsh universities. Regular updates and further information is available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

ISPS requirements for Marshmeadows Jetty ongoing, the adjoining site has been purchased by GreenBioFuels.

The regularization of the public lighting system on the Barrow has commenced.

High Court judgement re Arklow Shipping V Port of Drogheda has been published, an internal review of it's findings is being carried out.

It is proposed to operate the Pilot Boat Service for New Ross Port internally from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023, a business case for approval has been submitted.

The new Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is due to be set up mid-2022, it will be located at Trinity Wharf with an expected workforce building to 200 in the coming years.

New Pilot / AMO has been recruited, and training has commenced.

## **Beaches –**

Ballymoney – quotations received to look at the feasibility of improving accessibility on the path to the blue flag beach.

Green Coast Award Beaches – Wexford County Council applied to An Taisce for 10 green coast beaches. An Taisce will announce the awards end May 2022. Applicant beaches are: Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, Rosslare Harbour, St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, Booley Bay.

## **Coast -**

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers was appointed on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Steering meetings with WCC, OPW and the consultants are now underway and will be held on a monthly basis. The process of collecting and reviewing data for the project has commenced.

Seaview, Kilmore: emergency works to protect the access road were completed in Jan 2022. Additional coastal protection works were carried out at the end of the public road. Environmental surveys are complete. Bathymetric surveys about to commence. This information will provide information for the planning application, to be submitted later in 2022.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage. A public notice for the foreshore was in the local and national papers on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022; with comments / submissions to be received by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.



The cut at the lake was carried out by National Parks and Wildlife Service in March 2022. This will lower the water level to help nesting birds on the islands in the lake.

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

Morriscastle Dune Restoration: The project involves installation of fencing and maram grass planting to restore and manage the dune system at main beach entrance. WCC received €11,475 in funding for this project under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding. Fencing works are completed on site; maram grass planting by the local community is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

St Helen's Bay Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: Wexford County Council appointed consulting engineers to assess the erosion risk to assets including 23 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk.

Ballyhealy Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: in the process of appointing consulting engineers. This project involves assessing the erosion risk of 5 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk.

Grange, Fethard on Sea: works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion went to tender. Arrangements for funding and contract award are being finalised with Roads Department.

## **C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Work is on-going on the construction of a wheelchair accessible public toilet beside the current Ballinesker facility.

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

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

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

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

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

### 3. Septic Tank Inspections:

Works have been completed on inspections for 2021. 91 inspections were carried out in 2021. Work has commenced on selecting areas and sites for Septic Tank Inspections in 2022. Wexford have a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. 60 have been completed to date with 6 booked in for April 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on a number of sites in order to close the Advisory Notices

Progress is being made with open files. Letters were sent to owners requesting updates on works carried out, to enable the closing of files or offering extensions of time, as appropriate. 31 files have been closed for 2021 and 13 extension of time have been granted in 2022. There are currently 103 open files for the years 2016-2021.

Thirteen new applications have been received this year to date, ten of which are paid and three are currently under review

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2022
2019	156	48	108	22	0
2020	111	38	73	17	4
2021	91	24	67	42	11
2022	60 to date	11	49	42	7

There are currently 13 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 7 of these are for hearing and 3 are for mention. 3 have been adjourned to allow for the work to be completed.

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 have 9 open files with 2 on hold due to N11 route selection, 5 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange and 2 are in court. 2018 have 9 open files with good progress on 7 of these. 2 are in court. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above

### 4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 99 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and are currently under review.

Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences will be dispatched in June. Reminder invoices were issued in October 2021. Invoicing for outstanding bad debt was issued in March 2022 and accounts adjusted where applicable.

## 5. Air Quality:

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a number of locations in the county. Proceedings have been initiated against the owner of a Pig Farm in Kilugger, Killinick for persistent offences that contravene air pollution legislation. The case is adjourned until May 2022.

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

**Vehicle Refinishers:** At end of 2021, 52 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is the second largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

**Dry Cleaners:** At end of 2021, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

**Petrol Stations:** At end of 2021, 80 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

### No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2020	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued (to end of April 2022)
Vehicle Refinishers	21	19	4
Petrol Vapour Emissions	28	22	4
Solvents	2	3	4

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

Wexford County Council is co-chair of this group, along with Waterford County Council. The WG also has members from the EPA and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The WG produced two separate Guidance Documents for Local Authorities, including specific guidance on processing certifications for Petrol Stations under Stage 1b Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations

1997. Both documents were formally approved by the Niece Steering Committee in February 2022, and are now available to all Local Authorities on the Niece portal. Recommendations on Stage 1b & Stage 2 from this WG were also submitted by Niece to the Air Pollution Act WG for consideration, as part of their current review of the Air Pollution Act.

## **Low Smoke Fuel Areas**

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

## **6. Climate Action**

Both the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan 2021 put additional responsibilities on Local Authorities in terms of Climate Action and moving to a climate neutral economy by 2050.

Local Authorities are identified as having a pivotal role to play in the decarbonisation transition. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Local Authority to prepare their own Climate Action Plan. The plan must cover both mitigation and adaptation measures and must be updated once every five years.

Wexford County Council is also tasked with developing a decarbonisation zone which will become the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the proposed Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford.

In terms of Energy efficiency Wexford County Council achieved a 39.7% energy saving by end of 2020. The target was 33%.

The Climate Action Plan 2021 sets an even more ambitious target of 50% energy efficiency by 2030 and an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51%.

## **7. Noise and NAP 2019-2023**

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

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

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

### Action by Wexford County Council in 2020.

Three stations are active in Gorey, Enniscorthy & Wexford.

### Potential Quiet Areas have been identified as below

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

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

### 8. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 78 farm inspections undertaken as a result of pollution incidents or complaints, 45 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon on nine individuals.

A total of 120 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 2021 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 & Section 26 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	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0

## 9. Planning

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

The main issues with regards 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 2022, 407 planning applications have been referred to the Environment Section for comment. In 2021 Environment Section assessed 1077 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	Holiday Accommodation	Infill Sites
2021	332	102	23	12	36	10	8	4	1	9	1
2020	358	86	16	8	8	2	6	7	1	0	0

## 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	Energy	Infill Sites
2021	392	73	12	43	2	4	7	2	1	3
2020	346	34	12	27	1	6	5	6	0	2

### 10. Duncannon EIP Project

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

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

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

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

## E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Landfills:

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 2022	Recycling out (End March) 2021 (t)	Recycling out (End March)2022 (t)
Glass bottles	109	1008	956
Aluminium Cans		30	24
Total		1038	980

### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGOR Y	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recyclin g out Jan- Mar 2021 (t)	Recyclin g out Jan- Mar 2022 (t)	Recyclin g out Jan-Mar 2021 (t)	Recyclin g out Jan-Mar 2022(t)	Recyclin g out Jan- Mar202 1	Recyclin g out Jan - Mar 2022	Recyclin g out Jan - Mar 2021	Recyclin g out Jan-Mar 2022
Total Recycling out	161	153	181	168	215	216	144	133
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	597	576	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Mar	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	76	65	116	115	144	126	88	80

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. Environmental Clean-Up Crew

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

<b>Activity</b>	<i>To end March 2021</i>	<i>March 2022</i>	<i>To end March 2022</i>	<b>% +/_</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>-33%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>36</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>64</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>36</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>35</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>14</i>		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>+3%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>187</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>182</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>236</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>111</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>23</i>		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>398</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>940</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>+31%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>68</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>127</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>168</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>115</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>83</i>		

#### **4. New Recycling Items**

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

#### **5. Food Waste**

The Food Waste Regulations 2013 are in force in all towns with >500 population. They impose obligations on Waste Collectors and householders. Collectors must provide separate bins for collection of food waste and householders must segregate their waste by either using "brown bins" provided by their waste collection company; composting at home, bearing in mind that certain food wastes cannot be composted, or bringing it to an authorised facility. Householders in all towns and villages to whom the regulations apply were visited by Council staff as part of our ongoing information campaign. Food waste is now accepted at all four household recycling centres. The locations where the food waste regulations apply are outlined on map which shall be uploaded to the council's website shortly. Food waste inspections without notification are currently being carried out with householders and commercial businesses.

#### **6. Waste Facility Permits:**

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

Altogether there are 46 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County. There is also 4 applications being processed at present.

#### **7. Enforcement:**

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2022 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,698 routine inspections by 22 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 Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three year target and they are;

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

## F. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2021	TOTAL FOR 2022
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	199	91
Fines Paid in Full●	69	21
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	71	56
Successful Prosecutions**	15	9
Legal Proceedings In Progress	61	50
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€10,220	€4,195.00

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

**January 2022:** We have had one successful waste management case under section 18 of the Act with a €250 fine awarded and €550 in legal costs and one litter case whereby €250 fine was awarded with €250 in legal costs.

**February 2022:** We had five successful cases, one under the Litter Management Act with a fine of €350 euro and €250 in legal costs along with 4 successful cases under the Waste Presentation bye-laws 2018 where we were awarded a total of €400 in fines and €1400 in legal costs.

**March 2022:** Gorey District Court cases were not heard on the day due to courtroom timeframes and will be heard in April. There were no cases for hearing in Wexford District Court this month.

**April 2022:** Four cases this month are listed between Wexford District Court and Gorey District courts. Two were for listed for hearing and two were listed for mention. Seven cases have been withdrawn, due to defendants obtaining bins or completing necessary works following inspections by our Water Services team. Wexford County council had one case under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws and were awarded legal costs of €550 and a fine of €120. A defendant pleaded guilty to our case under the Litter Pollution Acts and was given until June to reimburse our Legal costs and pay the litter fine of €150.00.

#### **Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2022**

	<b>Fines Issued</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>2022</b>	41	24	983
<b>2021</b>	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
<b>2020</b>	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
<b>2019</b>	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
<b>2018</b>	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
<b>2017</b>	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
<b>2016</b>	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)

<b>2015</b>	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
<b>2014</b>	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
<b>2013</b>	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
<b>2012</b>	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
<b>2011</b>	209	17	1,329
<b>2010</b>	370	27	1,338

## F.GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. A 'Members' Portal' was also added in December 2020 to the DASH system.

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan-April 2022
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>4609</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>1521</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>3526</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>4077</b>	<b>4309</b>	<b>3755</b>	<b>872</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>57%</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 (to 31-12-21)</b>	<b>2022</b>
Dogs collected	532	429	110
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	24
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	75
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	9
Dog Fines	5	18	2

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

To date in 2022 six horses have been in-pounded and one rehomed.

### **Environment Education and Awareness:**

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

**Green Schools:** 3 schools, Colaiste Abbain, Selskar College and Catherine MCauley Jnr School submitted applications and have been assessed for their 1<sup>st</sup> green flag on the theme Litter & Waste. These schools if successful will be notified by An Táisce at end of April early May. 19 green school renewal applications and assessments were completed and submitted to An Táisce by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**School Workshops:** Biodiversity and Leave No Trace workshops are being organised in schools. In total 10 schools will participate in the Leave No Trace and 20 schools in Biodiversity. It has been extremely difficult to timetable all schools due to current pressures on schools. The Leave no Trace workshops explore the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and highlight the key impacts facing Irelands environment such as dog fouling and littering, and how these impacts can be minimised through the Leave No Trace programme.

Biodiversity workshops are for both primary and secondary and delivered in a manner to suit the school's Covid policy either in-person, online or fully outdoors. Projects range from Biodiversity Bootcamps to Pollinator Projects, Bird Blitzes to Treemendous Trees! Workshops can be tailored to the needs of each school.

### **Circular Fashion Workshop:**

Textile awareness including consumption and disposal will feature significantly in the 2022 national and regional work programme. The Regional Waste Management Office funded Circular Fashion Ireland, to deliver 1 workshop per County to a second level school. 60 transition year students from St Peters College participated in this workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup>

**National Tree Week:** National Tree Week took place from 20th March to 26th March 2022 and the theme was "More forests for a greener future". 500 native saplings were distributed to groups during National Tree Week 2022

**Community Clean Ups:** Registrations and support for community clean ups will continue in 2022. 1331 community cleans ups were supported in 2021.

**National Spring Clean:** An Táisce have opened registrations for National Spring Clean. Details of the Snap Into action competitions will be circulated to all participating groups and all primary schools. These competitions have a closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Community Engagement:** Community talks are ongoing with virtual meetings and outdoor meetings taking place. A talk on recycling and waste prevention was given to Ballyfad Community on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Waste prevention talk is scheduled for Wexford Library on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am

**Sustainable Gardening Course:** Two 5 week online courses took place on Tuesday mornings from 1<sup>st</sup> February until 1<sup>st</sup> March. 100 people registered to attend.

**Tidy Towns:** Litter management workshop took place for Tidy Towns groups on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A series of Tidy Towns online talks / presentations were arranged for April. Tidy Towns & Sustainability took place on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Tidy Towns & Biodiversity April 13<sup>th</sup> and Tidy towns Special Awards on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Marram Grass Planting Workshop:** A marram grass planting workshop in association with An Táisce Clean Coasts will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> in Morriscastle.

**Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN):** Funding was sought and approved for water refill dispenser at Blue Flag beaches. It is hoped that these will be installed before the bathing season commences.

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



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





## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

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May 2022

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### LIBRARY SERVICE

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#### Little Library Books Bags

As part of a national initiative, Wexford library offered a 'My Little Library Book Bag' free to every child starting school in 2022, to help them to prepare for this big step. This phase sees parents and their 4 and 5 year olds come in and collect a free bag of books and other items. Each My Little Library Book Bag contains: Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself; A story card on going to the library; A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school; Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder.

As a result of the initiative during April 106 children came to Wexford libraries to collect their bags and over 200 new members joined. The initiative will continue in May.

#### Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Wexford Library Service is reaching out to Ukrainian families newly arrived in Wexford to let them know of the free services that are on offer in Wexford Libraries. These services include:

- Free broadband, WiFi and computers in all Wexford Libraries.
- Access to printers, 3D printers and photocopiers in all our libraries.
- Tablets may be borrowed for use in all our libraries.
- Online English-language lessons from Beginner to Advanced level
- Borrow books, audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs, computer games and more free from our libraries. Ukrainian-language books for all age groups, from children to adult and Ukrainian/English and English/Ukrainian dictionaries, plus Ukrainian phrasebooks.
- Access items and apps for children and young people with additional needs from all our libraries .
- Ebooks that you can access anywhere, at any time, on any device, and all for free. [Borrowbox](#) – has a great range of digital books and digital audiobooks, including a small selection of Russian-language titles, mostly suited to teenagers and children. A selection of Ukrainian-language titles will be available shortly.

- [PressReader](#) – has 1,000s of newspapers and magazines including a selection of Ukrainian and Russian language publications.
- [Universal Class website](#) and use your library card number to register for a free account Access over 500 courses available with tutors who will oversee your learning.
- Events and activities and other resources
- Study spaces
- Parent, baby and toddler groups for rhymes and stories
- Book clubs for children and adults
- Meeting Spaces
- Work support. We offer an area to research, work and learn new skills in Wexford Town Library area with free onsite access to lots of databases with information on businesses, services and markets. You can find information on getting a job, setting up a business and much more.

**The Ukranian ambassador** visited Gorey Library on Monday April 25th. She was given an extensive tour of the facilities and in particular the range of resources and information available in Ukranian.

### **New National Library Computer System**

A new Library Management System, Spydus has been adopted by library services nationwide. Members can now better manage their library accounts online, browse a catalogue of 12 million items, and reserve items to borrow.

- Members can easily manage their reading lists and order items to borrow.
- The catalogue offers recommendations to readers as well as themed bookshelves and links to useful resources.
- Members can reserve eBooks and eAudiobooks as well as physical books in one searchable catalogue.
- Library membership can be renewed online for the first time.
- The new system has a new look and works great on mobile phones and tablets.

### **Footfall**

This month saw a vast increase in usage of Wexford Libraries, with over 16254 visitors in April as the in-person event programme for adults and children was re-established. An average of 542 per day. Issues continued to rise in line with increased footfall.

### **IT Literacy & APPs**

Wexford Libraries Age Friendly Digital Ambassador Programme continues to grow with training courses returning for older users. People had the opportunity to ask questions and practice with Tekcentral training providers. This aims to provide senior citizens with help accessing the internet, downloading library apps and accessing our online resources.

Elaine at Gorey Library will provide tutoring sessions over the phone and in person, for older people. Through these tutoring sessions, participants will be empowered to access the range of online library

services, particularly BorrowBox which is used to download books and audio books to a phone, tablet, or laptop/computer

## **Health and Wellbeing**

**Healthy Ireland at Your Library** On 7th April 2022, Mental Health Ireland invited the country to say 'Hello', and ask 'How, Are You?', and to really listen to the answer and with a display of relevant stock, bookmarks, leaflets and other merchandise.

## **Environment**

### **Earth Day Event**

To celebrate Earth Day 2022, Library staff provided a special children's events to offer an understanding on how to adapt and make change to help invest in the planet. The event included, planting, learning about recycling through stories, songs, quizzes along with lots of fun activities to highlight the importance of Earth Day.

## **Business**

Libraries continued to promote Work Matters Business eResources online in the April e-mail newsletter, giving particular mention to business and employment eBooks and eAudiobooks on BorrowBox, and also business training courses on Universal Class. Customers have also been advised that they can email Gorey Library in advance with their business queries for Mintel and Business.ie

## **Literacy and Children's Services**

### **Sensory Toys & Assistive Resources Collection (STAR)**

Wexford County Council Public Library Service is committed to providing quality information and resources to support parents, children, and young people. A collection of toys and assistive resources has been established to respond to the growing demand for intervention services for children and young people with extra needs. This service supports parents, health care professionals and teachers in working together to support the children in their care. The project is grant aided by The Department of Rural and Community Development through the DAF (Dormant Accounts Fund) programme.

### **Sensory Reader Pens**

A new addition to the STAR collection. C-Pens (Reader) were added to the STAR collection. The pen can read words along with full lines of text aloud with a natural speaking voice for independent reading. Suitable for people with dyslexia, reading difficulties or pronunciation, and people learning languages with vision problems. The devices have built-in dictionaries, offering users the option to access definitions of the words as they read and are available to borrow from local libraries.

## **Literacy, Numeracy, Writing and Typing: Nessy Reading & Spelling**

Wexford libraries offered a range of online programmes to assist and improve literacy, numeracy and writing skills for children 6 years and older. The programme benefits children in developing pre-literacy skills, and helps children build reading competence, and students who experience reading and writing difficulties. They also assist adults who may require help with literacy skills. The programme offers support to students learning English as a second language.

## **Reading Eggs**

Reading Eggs is an educationally sound and enjoyable learn to read programme that consists of online reading games and activities. This literacy support programme is free of charge and available to the public. The Library Service has a number of licences available all branches funded from Dormant Accounts Funding suitable for ages 2-13 years.

## **Heritage and Culture**

**The North Wexford Historical Society** AGM took place in Gorey Library. On Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup> NWHS hosted a lecture by Historian Pat Power on Charles Stewart Parnell entitled 'Parnell the Industrialist'. The talk focussed on how Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) of Avondale County Wicklow created industrial activity in the South Wicklow and North Wexford areas sustaining jobs and families.

As part of the National Opera House **Education and Community Programme of Evening Classes in Arts Appreciation**, musician Sile Daly (oboe/cor anglais/recorder/piano/vocals), gave a talk and performance about her journey towards becoming a professional oboist – from her early musical experiences to where she is now and how as a musician she has diversified in her career.

**Artist Amanda Doran** and traditional singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin hosted a May Bush Decorating & Traditional Song Workshop. Children and families attending had the opportunity to make their own decorations for the Gorey May Bush, while also exploring, engaging and connecting with the wider multicultural celebrations of welcoming in Summer in Co. Wexford and beyond, as part of The Gorey May Bush Féile 2022. .

## **The de Lacy's of Oulart in 1922**

Brian O'Cleirigh spoke about a family who were deeply involved in every aspect of the Revolutionary period. The de Lacy family were all involved in an extraordinary story extending from 1907 to 1922 and from Oulart to Dartmoor, New York and San Francisco

## **Local Studies**

During the month of April there were 28 local studies enquiries and 8 genealogy enquiries. There were 38 microfilms issued, along with 22 books and other hardcopy reference material issued.

**The Transfer of Power in County Wexford** with Barry Lacey, historian in Residence. This talk focused in on the context of the months following the ratification of the Anglo-Irish treaty in January 1922, the transfer of power and the lead up to the Irish civil war. This initiative is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Community strand of the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme.

### **Digitisation Day**

Following on from the successful digitisation day held in Wexford library in December 2021, a further digitisation day was held on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Members of the public were invited to bring photographs, postcards, letters, diaries, medals or other memorabilia in relation to this turbulent time in our history. Staff from Wexford Libraries recorded the story of whom they belonged to and why they are important. The objects were scanned or photographed. Historians and experts were on hand to discuss the significance of these treasures. An exhibition containing the stories that were told will be launched before the end of 2022.

A further digitisation day will be held in Gorey Library on 13<sup>th</sup> May from 11am to 4pm.

### **Community Projects Funding 2022 – call for applications**

Wexford County Council, in association with the Decade of Centenaries Programme of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media announced community funding available for local groups and local cultural and sporting institutions throughout County Wexford to play their part by developing a project to mark the centenary of historical events in their local area.

The funding will support local and community organisers to develop projects or events that commemorate the Decade of Centenaries: the War of Independence; the Civil War; labour unrest; social changes; cultural life in the 1920s, local responses to Dáil Éireann; the truce; partition; local connections with the wider world and new political representation at a local level. Closing date for receipt of applications was 29<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Diarmuid Ferriter Civil War Lecture**

"Faith, Reason and Betrayal: The Irish Civil War" with Professor Diarmaid Ferriter **will take place on Thursday June 2nd at 7:00 pm in Wexford Library**. Diarmaid Ferriter is an Irish historian, broadcaster and university professor. He has written eleven books on the subject of Irish history, and co-authored another. His most recent book is *Between Two Hells: The Irish Civil War*. It is an absorbing new history of the Irish Civil War that brings home both the devastation wrought by the conflict and its troubled and complex legacy. Booking is essential for this lecture and can be made at this link: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/3888040> or by contacting Wexford Library.



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## ARCHIVES

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### Collections management

In addition to 42 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 5 researchers visited the Archive during April. Research topics included: a history of Wexford General Hospital and its initial function as a workhouse (1840-1923); research through the Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich collection (part of the Nicky Furlong archive) for a forthcoming publication; research in the Clonroche dispensary minute books (1912-22) for a History Masters' thesis; family history research on the Lawlor surname – in particular focussing on the diary of seaman Richard Lawlor from Tacumshane, which documented his three-year voyage aboard the S.S. *Orbita* during the period June 1915 to October 1918.

### Acquisition

A historically important collection of family correspondence, property deeds and business records for the former J. Bolger & Co., Ferns was deposited in the Archive during the month (1800s-1960s).

### Outreach

In advance of delivering talks and workshops around the county, the Archivist commissioned the design and printing of three publicity banners highlighting the services offered by the county archive and featuring images from a diverse range of collections accessible there.

The Archivist participated as an exhibitor in the Seniors Spring Show in Clayton White's Hotel, Wexford on 27 April. A talk was delivered to 72 attendees on archival sources in Wexford County Archive that are relevant for family history research. The event was instrumental in garnering requests for similar talks to some of the active retirement associations around the county.

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## ARTS

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### Platform 31

Following on from its successful pilot in 2020-21, the Association of local authority Arts Officers (ALAAO) is again collaborating with the Arts Council to present Platform 3n – a nationwide support scheme for artists in all art forms which includes an €8,000 bursary and mentoring / national networking & peer supports for a year. After open call the Panel assessment took place in April. Two artists from Wexford have been shortlisted and a national panel will select and the Wexford artist. The 31 awarded artists from 31 local authorities will be announced in early May 2022.

**County Wexford Youth Film Project** train 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 April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup> CWYFP presented a free 4-day filmmaking workshop for teens at St Michael's Theatre, New Ross. This workshop was designed to teach scriptwriting, acting, directing and camera operations and was funded by The Arts Department, Wexford County Council.

**County Hall Exhibition: Making and Momentum: In Conversation with Eileen Gray** runs in The Street, Wexford County Council, until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022. This internationally touring exhibition curated by award winning Wexford artist and designer, Richard Malone opened in County Hall on 1 April with over 100 people attending. The exhibition features the work by ceramicist Sara Flynn,

sculptor and Venice Biennale contributor Niamh O'Malley, artist Laura Gannon, artisanal rug-makers Ceadogán, abstract painter and Gray prodigy Mainie Jellett, County Down weavers Mourne Textiles and Malone himself and his grandmother Nellie Malone.

There is great public interest in this exhibition locally, nationally and internationally. Vogue magazine did a feature in its April edition along with 3 other design magazines. Two public tours of exhibition with Richard Malone took place 5 April and were booked out with over 50 people. Ongoing public tours of exhibition for adults and schools and led by a team of artists is taking place throughout April and early May. To coincide with this exhibition four short films exploring various aspects of Making and Design, commissioned by Richard Malone, were launched online and circulated via social media. These education/ outreach videos were funded through the Wexford County Council's Creative Ireland programme and are an education outreach tool to accompany this exhibition. To view videos please visit <https://www.wexfordartscentre.ie/making-and-momentum-in-conversation-with-eileen-gray/>

### **The Art Ability Programme – Assistant Artist Open Call**

Wexford County Council (WCC) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) invited applications from artists residing in County Wexford and working visual arts, music and creative writing for a new initiative within the Art Ability Programme, an assistant artist, the primary aim of which is to provide an opportunity for artists to develop their skills and experience in arts and health and participatory arts practice through hands on experience working with the lead artists in a professional arts and health care environment. In addition, mentoring and training will be provided to the assistant artist. Eight applications were received, and they are currently being prepared for review and selection.

**Spring 2022 online training supports for Artists** continued in April with the *Friday Fix 2022* an online training initiative for artists. This month's session "**Writing about your work**" with **Laura Fitzgerald & Eamonn Maxwell** explored how artists might write about their work for artist statements, application forms and websites. It was aimed at all artists, across all disciplines, and was light-hearted and informal, with lots of useful tips!

### **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.

**Ongoing Primary School Programmes:** 26 primary schools are working with Music Generation Wexford and have committed to developing their programme within the school over this academic year. Most of these schools maintained their works over the previous eighteen months, either through video, online or in person.

**April : Trad Jam with Goitse** – Goitse with Music Generation Wexford invited young intermediate/advanced Irish traditional musicians to participate in a trad jam with the popular and multi-award-winning quintet. This trad jam will be in person and will involve ideas, active participation, and creativity with the young people. It is an opportunity for young musicians to get together, play, share tunes, socially interact, and perform with professional musicians. Closing date was Thursday, 28 April.

**Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 3 (LLPPS) – February - June 2022**  
Wexford County Council Arts Department is overseeing the implementation of the LLPS scheme funded through the Department of 'Arts, Culture Tourism' via all local authorities nationwide to support the live music and events industry and performance work. Each of the Five Municipal districts have been allocated €25,000 for LLPPS 3 and are developing their programme of activities,

concert with local events promoters and in consultation with the Arts Department taking place March – end June 2022.

**North Wexford Traditional Singing Feile** was held on 8-10 April. This festival was a recipient of the Small Arts Festival and Experimental Events Grant Scheme 2021. Their event consisted of online traditional singing sessions with special guests in addition to workshops.

**Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Awards** Wexford Musician, Beth McNinch and Dancer, Vivian Brodie Hayes were selected the 2022 Tyrone Guthrie awards residencies following an open call. These annual Residency awards enables two artists in all art forms who are resident in County Wexford to spend two weeks at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artist workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a two-week period, plus the use of a studio stipend of €300 towards expenses.

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## CREATIVE IRELAND

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**Creative Community Programme** – Following an open call in Spring 2022, the selection panel met end April to review applications. This very popular scheme is open to community groups that are members of Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) as well as communities of interest that are planning art projects/ workshops that take place over a period of time with an artist from the Creative Community Artists Panel. The maximum award is €3,000.

A further strand up to €5000 is available to community projects which supports collaboration between two or more artists and is funded through Wexford's Creative Ireland Programme. The total fund for 2022 is €45,000 and 15 community groups were awarded funding, who will work with 15 artists from the panel in a variety of artforms and will be based across the 5 municipal districts for 2022.

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg the national day for creativity for young people takes place this year on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>. Extensive consultation with children and young people took place in Co Wexford to ascertain what activities they would like to do as part of Cruinniú. An open call was then held for arts and creative practitioners to take part in this year's programme. Based on the consultation and the open call an exciting programme is being developed in partnership with local venues and providers in all Municipal Districts.

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## CIVIL DEFENCE

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### Civic Duties

#### We completed 4 civic duties

- 1 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Walk for Charlie Mount Leinster
- 2 10<sup>th</sup> April, Wexford Athletics Road Race Enniscorthy
- 3 18<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Parade Enniscorthy
- 4 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Hike to the Hook, New Ross

## **Weekly Training**

Weekly training is continuing in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.

## **Patient / Public Transports**

We have completed 2 patient transports to medical appointments to hospitals for mostly elderly people to attend appointments, to Waterford Regional Hospital.

Transport a Romanian family from Maldron hotel to B&B Accommodation in Courtown on behalf of the Housing Department.

## **Ukrainian Refugee Supports**

We have provided the following services in support of Ukrainian refugees accommodated in St Marys Rest centre

- Welfare, provide on breakfast, dinner, and evening meal on 7 days, provision of breakfast supplies, crockery, milk, and bread.
- Setup a 75-bed accommodation area with 40 x beds, 35 x camp beds, provision of sleeping bags, pillows, and blankets.
- Resetting reset centre to accommodate further refugees as required.
- Laundry of sleeping bags, blankets, sheets, and pillowcases.
- Provision of First aid kit and AED.
- Transport of refugees to Rosslare for Shopping, transport 25 persons to Hookless village, transport 3 ladies to accommodation in Maldron Hotel and finally to a house in Wexford Town.
- Transport of a family grandmother, mother, and daughter to wheelchair accessible accommodation in Limerick.

## **New Training Headquarters**

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

## **EMT Course**

We currently have 11 potential EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) current sitting the MCQ (Multiple choice questions). The class will their OSCE exam in May 2022.

## **EFR Course**

We also, have 8 volunteers completing their Emergency First Responder course, they will complete their MCQ (Multiple Choice Questions) exam on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The final skills exam will be conducted in May 2022.

## **Instructor Courses**

We had 3 volunteers attend a CFR (Community First Responder) Instructor course in the Civil Defence College on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

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### **Finance:**

#### **Audit of Accounts 2021**

Following the completion of the 2021 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts (AFS) it is expected that the Local Government Audit Service will commence the formal audit of the accounts shortly.

#### **Audit Committee**

The next meeting is schedule for the 15<sup>th</sup> June and will include consideration of the 2021 Annual Financial Statement and financial performance for 2021.

#### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2022.

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



