



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**November 2021**

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Delegation from Georgia



Pat Wilson, Commissioner of the Georgia Economic Development Department, and his team visited Co Wexford on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. They were accompanied by Tradebridge partners from Savannah Economic Development Authority, Trip Tollison, President & CEO, Jessie Jenkins, Director of Research and Trade Development and Kendria Lee, Director of Economic Development in Georgia Southern University.

The state agency is responsible for creating jobs and investment opportunities in the state of Georgia through business recruitment and expansion, small business growth, international trade and tourism, as well as the arts, film and music industries.

During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with Wexford businesses who are actively looking at the American market for exports and were hosted by the Mayor of Wexford Borough Cllr. Garry Laffan.

#### **Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme**

The scheme was announced by Minister Humphries, Department of Rural and Community Development in August. Based on the number of towns/ villages with a population of 500-15,000 in the county.

167 applications were received by the deadline of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Following assessment of the applications in accordance with the terms of the scheme and a request to the DRCD for additional funding, €283,444 has been approved to 115 applicants by the DRCD as follows:

	<b>No of Applications received</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Requests received</b>
Enniscorthy	36	€72,625
Gorey	27	€66,536
Kilmore Quay	6	€11,987
New Ross	41	€111,925
Villages outside of nominated areas	5	<b>€20,371</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>€283,444</b>

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021**

Eight applications were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development in advance of the scheme deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in accordance with the scheme criteria. The DRCD has advised an updated provisional timeframe of mid-November for an announcement regarding successful applications.

### **Local Enterprise Office**

#### **Trading Online Voucher**

Applications for the TOV voucher remains strong with 144 approvals in 2021 to the value of €303,456 to date assisting SME's with a digital presence to expand their customer base.

### **National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) – 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.**



**Breege Cosgrave, Assistant HOE, Niamh Hogan, Holos, LEO Wexford Female Entrepreneur Ambassador, Liz Hore, HOE, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council**

This year's NWED, online event was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 a was launched in Wexford by cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy Cathaoirleach in Wexford. The vent was a great success this year and feedback has been very positive. NWED 2021 Watch Back is now available through the following link:

[Watch on Demand - Local Enterprise Office](#)

## Training/Mentoring

LEO Wexford is offering a comprehensive range of training for the Autumn/Winter and the following is a list of the scheduled training for November;

02/11/2021	Introduction to Search Engine Optimisation
03/11/2021	Trading Online Voucher Seminar
03/11/2021	Facebook for Business – Advanced
04/11/2021	Start Your Own Business
05/11/2021	QQI Training Delivery & Evaluation
09/11/2021	Food Starter Programme`
09/11/2021	LinkedIn for Business Clinic
12/11/2021	How to Get Paid On Time Clinic
12/11/2021	Tax & VAT for Start-Up Businesses
15/11/2021	Owner/Manager Programme
15/11/2021	Branding for Success
16/11/2021	Achieving Results Through a Happy Workforce
16/11/2021	Website Advice Clinic
17/11/2021	Canva for Social Media
18/11/2021	Social Media for Tourism Businesses
18/11/2021	Business Advice Clinic
22/11/2021	Podcasting for Business
24/11/2021	Working with a WordPress Website – Advanced
25/11/2021	Costing & Pricing Your Product or Service
25/11/2021	Women in Business Network
25/11/2021	Customer Service & Complaints Handling
30/11/2021	Sales Skills
07/12/2021	Win Win Negotiations

To date 1,286 participants have availed of training with a further 182 receiving one to one mentor support.

Following a recent tender for suitable business consultants for the LEO mentor panel, a total of 56 applications was received. A detailed tender assessment has taken place and successful candidates informed. The new panel will run for 3 years.

## Tourism

### Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses (OSAS)

The Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland and is administered by Wexford County Council. The scheme opened on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and closed on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021. A total of 244 applications have been received with a value of €604,129.28



Most recent stats below:

DATE 20 October 2021	15-Apr-2021 to 20-Oct-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
OUTDOOR SEATING & ACCESSORIES FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY BUSINESS SCHEME		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	158	€382,314.12
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	8	€26,790.49
APPLICATIONS PAID	69	€195,024.67
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	9	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	244	€604,129.28

## PLANNING

### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

No. of valid applications	1487
No. of invalid applications	111
Extension of Duration	39
Exempted Development Declaration	59

Numbers are those received from the 18<sup>th</sup>

September 2021 until 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

No. of valid applications	121
No. of invalid applications	5
Extension of Duration	1
Exempted Development Declaration	5

### Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	88
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	558
Average waiting time to meeting	30 days



## **Forward Planning**

### **Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027**

Further to the Special Planning Council meeting in September 2021, work is continuing on the environmental reports relating to some of the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan which must undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. When the assessments are completed and circulated to the members the proposed material alterations, and the assessments, will then be placed on public display for a four-week period during which written submissions and observations relating to the proposed material alterations or the assessments can be made to the Planning Authority.

## **Heritage**

Works are on-going at Fethard Castle which received grant funding under the Community Monuments Fund. The works are necessary to secure the future of the monument and build resilience against future climate-related deterioration.

Minister Malcolm Noonan visited the works at Fethard Castle, which are being part-funded by the Community Monuments Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Also in attendance were Minister James Browne, Paul Kehoe TD, Verona Murphy TD, Cathaoirleach Pat Barden, Cllr Michael Whelan, members of Wexford County Council, representatives from the National Monuments Service and the project team.





Works have commenced under the Community Monuments Fund at Mountgarrett Castle to secure the monument and conserve the remaining elements of the castle to build resilience against future climate related deterioration.

Funding of €175,000 was received under the Historic Towns Initiative for streetscape improvement works at Slaney Street, Enniscorthy. The works will see properties painted and historic sash windows repaired, as well as new sash windows being installed. Works have commenced and will be on-going for a number of months.

Funding was received under the National Biodiversity Action Plan for an invasive species survey in a selection of 10 historic graveyards in Co. Wexford. This is the first of this type of study to be undertaken in the county and the results will inform vegetation plans management plans for each of these sites. This work is on-going.

### **Bio-diversity/Heritage**

The first stage of the Changing Landscapes Pilot Project has been completed which has been funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Representatives of Council Owned Housing Estates attended meetings held in each of the Districts. Deborah Darcy, Ecologist gave a talk to the attendees on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to encourage changes to the way these estates are managed in terms of their open space.

One housing estate from each of the five districts has now been selected to participate in the second part of this pilot project. Deborah Darcy will be holding onsite meetings with residents of these five estates to give advice on the management of the estates and to oversee pollinator planting which has been purchased through the grant. The project will also see the continued roll out of Wex Bee Aware, Community Apple Orchards, again on Council owned lands and site are being selected with planting to commence in late November, early December.

### **Rewilding Wexford**

An update on this project will be reported for the December meeting.

## Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 as follows:

- 6 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 2 properties removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- 8 properties placed on the Derelict Site Register
- 1 property owner currently engaged with the County Council to carry out remedial works so that the properties will not be placed on Derelict Site Register.
- 1 Dangerous Place Notice issued
- 1 Dangerous Structure Notices issued.

### Building Control 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	50
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	14
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	1
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

### Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 are as follows: -

• Live Cases	426
• Cases Opened	287
• Cases Closed	153

The number of planning enforcement actions as at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 are as follows: -

• Warning Letters Issued	351
• Enforcement notices issued	39
• Legal proceedings instigated	12

### Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 are as follows:

▪ Properties advertised on websites	92
▪ No. of warning letters served	48
▪ Cases Closed	44

### Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 up to and including 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 totals **50**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	12	0	1	10	1
Gorey	12	0	4	8	0
New Ross	9	0	4	5	0
Wexford	12	0	3	9	0
Rosslare	5	0	1	4	0
<b>2021 Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>



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

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>121</b>

## **Access Related Items**

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

September the 24<sup>th</sup> saw the launch of the WCC Accessible Trails and Destination Parks storybook on our website. This a collaborative project was launched as part of Wexford County Councils annual Make Way Day event. Cathaoirleach Cllr Barbara Ann Murphy officiating over the official promotional launch on the day. The promotion of these continues via a social media campaign supported in-house and by the various networks of the collaborators on the project.

### **Annual Make Way Day Event**

Wexford County Council once again actively participated in the Disability Federations Irelands annual Make Way Day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Mr. PJ Cleere, DFI Development Manager participated in WCC team meeting event and commended WCC on our activities to date especially the collaborative initiative of the Walking Trails and Destination Parks. The Make Way Day Campaign was in the form of a short online survey for people to use to rate the accessibility of their local area.

### **Recite-me**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October the Access Section re-launched Recite Me, a assistive technology which is available on the Wexford County Council website.

Information leaflets and a demonstration video were produced in-house by the Access Section. These have been distributed all staff, Elected Members and a number of external organisations who represent people with disabilities.

Up to date a positive response has been received across the board for this service, from Elected Members, advocacy groups and indeed our own staff.

A training event led by Recite Me's Head of Marketing will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November for front line housing staff on how Recite Me can assist and the benefits it offers staff whose work involves working with a diverse range of customers.

### **Access and Walkability Audits for Enniscorthy**

The Access Section was involved in the recent walkability audits for Enniscorthy Town which is being led by the Age Friendly Programme. It is envisaged on-going collaboration will continue with Age Friendly and other stakeholders on this key initiative.

## Special Projects:

### 1.1 Min Ryan Park

Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. Works are on schedule and are expected to be complete in November 2021. Public lighting at these installations will follow.

### 1.2 Carrigfoyle Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark

This project is practically complete. Final snag works are ongoing including the sewer connection which is completed.

#### **Carrigfoyle Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:**

The pre-planning design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) were prepared by the WCC's Architect Department and a pre-planning application has been completed.

A detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design. This will inform the planning consent application.

A pre-qualification suitability assessment for the design team services is currently being assessed. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to design and prepare tender documents for the boat house and associated access road and wastewater pumping station.

A brief is also being prepared for consultancy services to develop the management and operational aspects of the project.

### 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.

### 1.4 Gorey Town Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Completion of the building works has been delayed and is now expected in November.

The new playground and adult gym equipment installation is now substantially complete.

### 1.5 South East Greenway

The rail lifting and site clearance contract has been completed and initial contracts have been awarded for the construction of the greenway from Raheen to the Red Bridge and for the New Ross and Ferrybank urban sections with works advancing. The tendering for the subsequent works packages are progressing on a contract by contract basis. The Greenway is due to be completed by Autumn 2023.

### 1.6 Trinity Wharf

Tenders for a works contract for the new access road to serve the site have been assessed. WCC is advancing the works licence agreements required from CIE for the construction of the access road and for the new level crossing with a view to signing a contract in Dec 2021.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. Pre-qualification submissions have been received and are being assessed.

### **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. On site the external walls and roof are now complete and the installation of utilities has commenced. Completion is expected in March 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> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. Construction of the first floor is currently underway on site and completion is expected in June 2022.





### 1.9 High Hill, New Ross

The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, currently derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. The works contract for the development of the Norman themed garden on the site was awarded to MJS Civil Engineering and works commenced on site in July 2021. The contract is expected to be substantially completed by Q2 2022.



### 1.10 Kilmore Quay Link Road

The works are now substantially complete and the link road was officially opened by Councillor Jim Moore on 15<sup>th</sup> of October.





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

The contract has been awarded for the advance supply of natural stone paving materials. Delivery is expected in December.

Tenders have been received for the main works contract and are being assessed. A January 2022 commencement is now planned due to the late arrival of paving materials.

### **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 VIII planning consent submission for the development of the public realm space on the site is being prepared and is expected to be submitted in Q4 2021.

### **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.

### **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.

The CPO process to acquire outstanding property in relation to this project has been approved. It is planned to serve notice to treat in the coming weeks followed by notice to enter. Design development can then commence with a view to making a Part 8 submission in Q1 2022.

### **1.15 Esmonde Street**

RPS consultants are progressing with the detailed design. Priority Geotech Ltd undertook site investigation works in September. This information will now feed into the design. RPS in conjunction with Irish Water are also investigating the potential requirement for a sewer upgrade on a section of the sewer on Esmonde Street. This work is on-going. Following the recent unsuccessful RRDF funding application for works, a budget of €1.5m has been committed by WCC to advance the project.

### **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. Tenders were advertised in November 2020. A works contractor will be appointed in Q4 2021. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

#### **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.

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

Gillespie LLP has won the contract for the provision of tourism, master-planning and detailed design of the Vikingar project and have commenced working on the project. Some ecological surveys were carried out over Winter 2020/21 and appointment of our environmental and infrastructural consultant is imminent.

Tenders for environmental services required to support the Hook tourism project have been assessed and an award of contract is planned for early October. Likewise, the appointment of design team for the tourism services will be completed in November. A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman Centre in New Ross has been completed and was presented to the Members of the New Ross Municipal District in June 2021. The tenders for tourism co-ordination and management services for the project have been assessed and the successful tenderer is due to be appointed in the coming weeks.

#### **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.

A tender brief for design services for preliminary design and planning consent applications required for Phase 1 of the project is currently being prepared and will be advertised in Q4 2021.

#### **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.

RPS is currently reviewing existing data and preparing specifications for the surveys and investigative works required to develop the preliminary design for the project.

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

#### **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.

It is planned to commence a route selection public consultation in Q4 2021.

#### **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 will commence formally on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

#### **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.

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

In May 2021, a draft masterplan of this project was presented to the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District followed by a public consultation in late June.

The final masterplan is to be completed in October and presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October meeting. A contract for the initial phase 1 works is expected to be awarded by December 2021 with works commencing in Q1 2022.

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

#### **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. Design is substantially complete and works contracts will be advertised in Nov. It is expected that that works will commence in Q1 2022.

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

WCC has received Stage 1 approval in principle for the development of facilities to support water sports activists at Whitegap in Curracloe, to include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers. WCC is currently working with Fáilte Ireland towards obtaining Stage 2 approval.

Given the early stage of the project, the timeline for delivery is uncertain. Preparation for the procurement of consultants is ongoing with appointment expected early in 2022.

## 2. Flood Defence Schemes

### 2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme awaits statutory confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) to proceed. The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by DPER and a public consultation process.

WCC issued supplementary environmental information to the OPW on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, which was submitted to DPER on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. A decision is expected in October/November 2021.

Pending the above confirmation, we will continue to progress the detailed design, shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works. Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species.

Shortlisting for contractors for the new River Slaney Road Bridge contract was retendered on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The closing date for the competition was the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Eleven tenders were received, and all candidates have met the pass / fail criteria. The qualitative assessment was completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

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

### 2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:

The project brief for design services for this 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 commenced in the coming months.

## REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

### 1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER TO 21ST OCTOBER 2021

Type	1 <sup>st</sup> October to 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Freedom of Information	8
Customer Complaint	8
Ombudsman Complaint	3
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	1



<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>
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## 2. Status of Cases – Closed, Open, Resolved and Exceeding SLA 1<sup>st</sup> October – 18<sup>th</sup> October Members Portal

No. of Representations by Section (Open/Closed)						
Section	Closed	Open	Total	%	Resolved	> SLA
Customer Service	0	2	2	2%	1	1
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	2	2	2%	0	1
Enterprise & Tourism	0	1	1	1%	1	0
Environment	1	2	3	2%	2	0
Finance	0	1	1	1%	0	0
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	1	1	1%	0	1
Housing	0	65	65	54%	7	40
Planning	0	9	9	7%	2	2
Roads	0	7	7	6%	3	2
Roads - Enniscorthy MD	0	11	11	9%	2	5
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD	4	7	11	9%	6	0
Roads - Wexford MD	0	5	5	4%	5	0
Wexford Municipal District	0	3	3	2%	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>

## 3. CRM / CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2021

Area		October	
Agricultural Burns			8
Environment Complaints			145*
Change of Circumstances			27
Housing Validation			63
Quick Calls			388 **
Road Faults Log			42
Emails			1494
	1. Incoming External Emails	320	
	2. Incoming Internal Emails	346	
	3. Emails sent by CSU	828	
<b>Total</b>			

\* 36 (25%) of these calls relate to Community Clean Ups

\*\* 182 of these calls are in respect of various Housing Services, 43% of which are for Housing Maintenance.

#### 4. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY AUGUST 2021

##### Tenders

No uploaded	0
No of tenders received	9

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

### HOUSING SSHA 2021

Wexford County Council is currently carrying out a review of the Social Housing Supports List (Housing List) and has written to existing approved applicants requesting that they update their details. Only **915** applicants will receive a SSHA 2021 form. Applicants who have applied, or been reassessed, since 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, will not receive a form. Also transfer applicants, including those in Private Rented accommodation receiving HAP (Housing Assistance Payment), will not receive a form.

Reminder texts and letters have been issued to applicants who have not returned their SSHA 2021 form week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. It is worth noting that for any/all household members with a disability or medical condition a separate HMD – Form 1 (*Disability and/or Medical Information form*) must be submitted. This can be requested from CSU by telephoning 053-919 6000.

### Housing Supply Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Roof works recommenced. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	More changes requested by Irish Water at final connection (IW). Pump Station complete. Will complete in Q4 2021
Ballycullane	2	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Due to complete Q1 2022
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Works commence on site 24 <sup>th</sup> May 21. Due to complete in Q2 2022
Creagh	18	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q1 2022. Appointing new consultants and we have increased numbers to 18 for better VFM and to incorporate more smaller units in line with requirements.
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved for €8.3. Awaiting Pre Planning 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 21. Part VIII to be submitted 2 weeks after Pre Planning.proceed to Stage 3
Rosbercon	28/41 (35)	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q4 2021. Seeking to procure a Knotweed specialist. Final consultant appointments will be complete within 3 weeks. Finalising the Framework for projects over €5 million.

Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 Q4 2021
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 4 approved (Phase 1 for 22 Units)	Stage 4 approved for €5.9m for Phase 1 (22 Units) Pre contract meeting 20 Oct 21. Contracts to be signed in Oct 21. Start date on site is 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021. Discussions re pump station to enable Phase 2 (22 units also) have progressed and our consultants are reviewing IW proposals now.
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Site cleared and surveys complete. Stage 3 Submission Q4
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Scheme designed. To be tendered through OGP which is now live again with Frameworks. WCC will tender for Integrated Design Team. Frameworks in Q4
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be lodged in October 2021
Francis St	2	Wexford	Stage 2	The revised proposal is to construct 2 no apartments on the site. Stage 1 approved on 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 21. Proceed to Stage 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>242</b>			

### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required. Shortfall of €42,300. Discussions have been taking place with DHPLG about additional funding. This will be confirmed by the department towards the end of next week.
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. Management Plan required. Cost Benefit analysis being conducted for this project.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed apartments on the site is now prepared and submitted for Pre Planning. Stage 1 to follow in October 21. We have submitted a revised plan for Pre Planning incorporating 3 apartments prior to seeking the funds.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>		



### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Site cleared, Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. We have reviewed design for better density, value for money and we have Pre Planning approval for 18 dwellings now. Stage 1 Q4 2021.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design for 2 years now.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>		

### Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW no capacity. Awaiting formal notification on our appeal to IW prior to submission of Stage 1.
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Substantial additional funding required. Funding approval received, granted with a shortfall of circa €172K. Wexford County Council are to revert to the Department with an option of constructing a new dwelling on the adjoining site in Q4
Adamstown	2	Wexford	IW confirmed that there is no capacity in Adamstown so this job is on hold. We have appealed this decision and we are hopeful we will be allowed 2 houses on this derelict site with a total population equivalent (PE) of 8
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	5	Gorey	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs. Awaiting confirmation of feasibility from IW to connect into treatment plant. Stage 1 approved 2 Sept 2. Pre Planning lodged. Appoint Consultants Q4 2021
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity with IW and land availability in Q2 2021. Awaiting a decision as to whether the site will be transferred back to Housing.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Derelict house on site to be demolished. Pre-Planning approved. Stage 1 can be lodged in November 2021. Awaiting confirmation of feasibility from IW.
Grogans Road	3	Wexford	Proposal for 3 Apartments. Pre planning approved. Stage 1 can be lodged in October 2021. Awaiting confirmation of feasibility from IW.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>		

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	15 units delivered. Remaining units to deliver Q1 2022
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	Approval received June 2021. Currently under construction. To deliver 2022
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	30 units delivered. Remainder to deliver Q4 2021
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>			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	All units delivered
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	All units delivered.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver on a phased basis from 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>408</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver 2022
Cluain Beag, Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2021 & Q1 2022
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	4 units complete. Remaining unit to deliver Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received June

			2021. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	Delivered
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	All units delivered
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Delivered
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Cluain Beag, Clonard	20	Wexford	To deliver from Q4 2021 & Q1 2022.
Ard an Bhile, Healy's Land, New Ross	43	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	Delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2021. Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022
Clonard Little	10	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received Oct 2021. Delivery expected Q1 2023 (includes 1 Part V)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229</b>		

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

## Amendments to Part V

Part 6 of the Affordable Housing Act 2021, which amends Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 has commenced, effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. The principal change is to increase the Part V requirement for new housing developments from 10% to 20%. At least half of which must be applied to social housing provision and up to half of which may be applied to affordable housing (in areas with an identified need). It is worth noting that:-

- Permissions already granted (prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept, 2021) are unaffected
- Applications on lands purchased between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 2015 and 31, July, 2021 will have a 10% requirement.
- Changes apply to all applications of 5 or more housing units regardless of zoning
- In areas with no identified affordable need, the full 20% can be applied to social housing

## Housing Maintenance

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

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021)	118	79	109	121	56	483
Repair Requests Year to Date	1,060	732	1,122	1,048	665	4,627
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021)	90	66	95	97	45	393
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	575	439	608	651	371	2,644

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

## Marshmeadows Halting Site, New Ross

External Caretaker in situ on the Halting Site, Four Seasons Promotions Limited, trading as ACS. Caretaker's report is being received weekly. The hedges to front of site on main road recently cut back and strimmed. No major problems reported. Occupancy is as follows:-

Of the 12 bays 6 are currently occupied (2 without permission) and 6 vacant (1 due to fire damage; 2 recently released).

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER Programme -

The Article 48 team processed 11 LEADER Grants in September & October. The value of these claims was **€271,750.43** which will support 3 enterprises and 8 community groups across County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
Clongeen Community Development Group	€ 28,500.00
Wexford Arts Centre	€ 2,928.73
High Meadows Community Hub	€ 50,220.09
Kilcannon Industries CLG	€ 37,814.48
Murrintown Community Development Group	€ 45,929.51
Killurin Rowing Club	€ 10,971.49
Ferns St Aidans GAA Club	€ 26,899.50
	<b>€ 203,263.80</b>

Approved for payment	Approved Payment
Knockingall Organisation Community Centre Ltd	€ 4,073.20
Kiltealy Hall Development Group	€ 4,267.50
Omni Pro Management Solutions Ltd	€ 48,400.00



Visit Wexford Tourism CLG	€ 11,745.93
	<b>€ 68,486.63</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 271,750.43</b>

### **Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

The Joint Policing Committee intend to host a 'Public Meeting' on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at St. Michaels Theatre, South Street, New Ross.

The function of the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of County Wexford.

The Joint Policing Committee welcomes the Public's views on items for discussion. It is proposed that the discussion would focus on the strategic goal as outlined in the Wexford Joint Policing Committee 6-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 as follows:

*Strategic Goal 1 – Crime Prevention & Community Safety - Development of community text alert throughout Co. Wexford*

Members of the public are invited to attend, to express their views and any person affected by the policing of County Wexford may put questions to the Joint Policing Committee on general policing matters affecting the policing of County Wexford.

The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 13th December 2021.

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

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 via MS Teams. Agenda items included SICAP, Funding Re-allocations, adoption of the 2020 LCDC Annual Report with the members of Wexford LCDC approving funding of €37,063.30 to community and voluntary groups under the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme.

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

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

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 via MS Teams, with the members approving funding of €422,667.45 for 9 projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme and the National Food Initiative Fund.

Following discussion between the members, a proposal for the allocation of the remainder of the LEADER budget for community projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme:

- There will be one targeted call accepting applications under any of the community actions.
- Call will open and promotion to begin - **Monday 8th November**, closing **Monday, November 22nd**.
- Closing date for full applications, end of February (provisionally set for February 28th 2022)
- As agreed at the LCDC meeting of 25th March 2021, maximum grant aid awarded will be capped at €75,000 and minimum grant aid will remain at €5,000.

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

### **Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26 and public consultations**

Work on the Age Friendly Strategy continues with the return of 583 surveys from older people throughout the county following an extensive period of public consultation. The results of these surveys have been collated and evaluated and the results will inform the content of the Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26. These results will be presented at the Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council meetings in November and are available on request from Ann Marie Laffan.

The next step will be one to one meeting with members of the Age Friendly Alliance committee followed by the production of a draft strategy which will be ready for November's Alliance meeting.

## Enniscorthy Age Friendly Town

Work has begun on the process to make Enniscorthy the county's first Age Friendly town. This involved:

- **Walkability audit of the town on 13<sup>th</sup> October.** This involved bringing together a group of individuals with different abilities and needs through the town, and documenting any issues encountered. Members of Wexford Older People's Council were among those participating as well as the Town Engineer and Technician, Senior Planner, Special Projects and WCC Access Officer and Age Friendly Programme Manager. The results will be examined by an Implementation Team and a plan put in place to carry out works.
- **Age Friendly Business Training** – training with Orlaith Carmody has been arranged for businesses in Enniscorthy on 4<sup>th</sup> November, hosted by Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce.



## Telehealth

This pilot telehealth trial with 50 patients in Wexford finished at the end of August and Waterford IT are working on the first draft of their evaluation report. The Telehealth Steering Group met on 14<sup>th</sup> October to review the findings and plan for the launch of Phase 2 which will take place in Wexford.

## Creative Ireland Funding - Creativity in Older Age 2021

- **Enniscorthy Activity Garden at St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy** – The creative enhancement of Enniscorthy Activity Garden on the grounds of St Johns Community Hospital is a placemaking initiative by Wexford County Council (Culture & Creativity Team and Age Friendly Programme) in partnership with the HSE and Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation. The proposal made by the creative collective of Esther Gerrard, Elements of Action/GreenEdge with Connect the dots and Robert Bourke Architects won the tender for a co-design engagement project in July 2021. Emerging themes include multi-functional & accessible spaces, the garden as a meeting place/focal point, natural and open forms of shelter/shade/enclosure and sensory plantings & materials. The preliminary report was produced on 28<sup>th</sup> September and the next step will be 1 or 2 sketch designs and scenarios to be developed for the next workshop.



- The second stage of the **Community Music programme** commenced in Enniscorthy on 30<sup>th</sup> September with clients of the Alzheimer's Society and their carers with musicians Emily Redmond and Anne Marie Stafford running the sessions. The pilot project which is an initiative of WCC Age Friendly and Arts Department and funded by Creative Ireland will run weekly over a period of 6 weeks.

## Positive Ageing Week

Positive Ageing Week (PAW) is an Age Action initiative to celebrate the contribution older people make to our families, workplaces, communities and society as a whole. In collaboration with Sports Active Wexford a number of activities for older people took place during Positive Ageing Week (week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> September).





## Libraries and Castlebridge Day Care Center IT training

Wexford Libraries in collaboration with Wexford Age Friendly secured funding from DRCD and Dormant Accounts for grant funding under the 'Programme for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities' to deliver IT training to older people who attend Castlebridge Day Care Centre. Demand for training has exceeded places available with arrangements being made to accommodate all those interested. Training will take place during October and November. Equipment will be provided to ensure that the older people can regularly practice and perfect their newly acquired skills.

## Colaiste Abhain – Intergenerational Technology Project

Work has commenced on a pilot intergenerational project with transition year students from Colaiste Abhain in Adamstown and older people using Acorn tablets.

## Wexford Festival Opera & Pop Up concerts in Nursing Homes & Day Care Centers

Wexford Festival Opera have arranged two events for older people as part of their 'pop up' opera events during this year's Opera Festival. The first event will take place at Knockeen Nursing Home on the 26th October at 2.30 pm with four singers and a pianist, the second event will be at Tagoat Day Care Centre on the 28th at 11.30am with four singers, one pianist and 11 children from Music generation for a performance titled "Little conductors".

## Inclusive Design Training

The HSE's National Dementia Office and Understand Together Campaign in collaboration with Wexford Age Friendly ran an 'Inclusive Design Training' for technical staff at Wexford County Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. WCC staff who attended included planners, district engineers, access officer, special projects engineer, housing technical staff and age friendly programme manager. This training raised awareness of the impact design has on a person with dementia's well-being and ability to access the built environment. Participants gained a good understanding of dementia inclusive design and will be able to apply this knowledge when conducting walkability audits, building inspections, or when applying for public realm funds.



## November Report (22<sup>nd</sup> September – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

**‘Not Around Us’** in Wexford commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

This collaborative initiative is an invitation from young people to consider your activity in spaces where there are children and young people, in order to provide smoke/vape free environments for our young people and to help de-normalise smoking and vaping for the next generation.

### Proud #NotAroundUs Partners



The initiative kicked off with the gathering of initiative partners at Ferrybank and release of a Comhairle na nÓg produced video. This was followed with a launch video and plans are in place to continue with a series of short videos, with the next phase focusing on early sign ups to the initiative.

Not Around Us videos to date can be viewed here

- Comhairle na nÓg - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvfSu0iX9J4>
- Launch - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CN1ZDJTMgQ>

More information on ‘Not Around Us’ in Wexford available here <https://bit.ly/NotAroundUs>

Healthy Wexford is a partner in the **Accessible Walking Trails & Destination Parks** initiative launched on 24<sup>th</sup> September. This collaborative initiative, developed based on consultations & activities following the 2020 [#MakeWayDay](#) launched on MakeWayDay 2021

The aim of the initiative was to inform of at least one walking trail and a destination park, which would be accessible for all in each of the five Municipal Districts of Wexford.

An online storyboard was created, through pictures and text, to provide a sample of what one can expect at each location. Downloadable pdfs are also available

More information is available here: <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/healthy-wexford/healthy-wexford-initiatives/accessible-walking-trails-and-destination-parks>



## #HereForYouSouthEast

Healthy Wexford continues to support the **#HereForYou South East Bereavement Support Campaign** in collaboration with HSE Regional Suicide Resource Office and the Children and Young People’s Services Committees of the South East.

The objective of the eight week campaign, which commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> September, is to profile and raise awareness of the bereavement supports and services that are available to people living in Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford.

The aims of the campaign are:

- To educate and inform the public about bereavement, including self-care, how to support loved ones and what services are available in the community
- To signpost people to the resources appropriate for their needs
- To make this information accessible to all



See Heathy Wexford social media for #HereForYouSouthEast posts.

Information on all organisations featured in the campaign, are also available on <http://www.wexfordcypsc.ie/resources>.

Healthy Ireland Round Three Funded Activity continues with most partners progressing with delayed activities. Many of the Community Mental Health Small Grants Funded activity completing in September with reporting and final grant funding in October. However, some of this activity is ongoing, due to continued COVID 19 delays.

Work also continues of progressing the Strategic Priority focus areas of the Healthy County Committee. The September meeting saw an update on all activities and set out plans for progression over the final quarter of 2021.

## **SICAP**

The SICAP sub-committee (on behalf of the LCDC) and the Programme Implementer (WLD) held a number of engagement meetings during Sept and Oct as part of a Mid Programme Review process to agree a set of SICAP priorities for the remainder of the programme. This process fed into discussions at the annual Engagement meeting with the Pobal Development Coordinator during October and will shape actions within the 2022 annual plan. The SICAP sub-committee recommendations on the Statement of Priorities, and the 2022 Annual Plan will be considered by the LCDC on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

## **Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021**

Wexford LCDC were allocated €37,063.30 under the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021, in September. Grants can be provided to social enterprises towards small scale capital projects. In line with Dormant Accounts Fund legislation, the Minister for Rural and Community Development must approve each project before funding is awarded. As such, the LCDC is required to make recommendations for funding to the Minister by the 29th October 2021. Applicants must comply with the definition of a social enterprise as published in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022. All projects must be delivered by the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## **Burial Grounds**

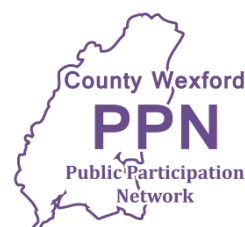
Plinth and walkway works commenced at Enniscorthy cemetery during October. Preliminary site investigation analysis has commenced on a proposed extension to Oylegate cemetery. Restoration works on the perimeter wall at the old burial ground at St. Senan's Hospital are expected to commence in Q4-2021.

## **IPB Pride of Place competition**

The two Wexford nominees to the 2021 Pride of Place Competition - Monageer Community Grotto and Park, and The Fr. Murphy Centre were visited, remotely, by the competition judges during September. The awards ceremony is provisionally scheduled to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022, in Killarney (subject to prevailing public health guidelines).

## **Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)**

- Following the recent request for nominations for the Wexford





PPN Secretariat, there were more nominees than seats available. Therefore, Wexford PPN are currently holding postal elections by way of a ballot for 3 positions on the Wexford PPN Secretariat (2 positions under the

Community and Voluntary Pillar and 1 position for the Enniscorthy Municipal District). The official count will take place Wexford County Council on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It is hoped that these positions will be in place for the special Secretariat meeting in November.

- The PPN Municipal District meetings were postponed in October to facilitate the upcoming elections and will be held as soon as these positions are filled.
- Following approval from the Department of Rural and Community Development Wexford PPN has extended the Re-Registration deadline for its members until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- Meetings of the PPN Secretariat are still being held on zoom at the moment but it is hoped to return to face to face meetings in the near future.
- An information bulletin for September and October was also e-mailed to all PPN members.
- A new PPN Resource Worker was appointed in September by Wexford County Council.

## sports active

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Workplace Activity Programme	Kinetic Fitness and MyFitt Gorey provided staff with free trial passes to their facilities. Staff soccer started on 13 <sup>th</sup> October. Total Participants: 40
Ramsgrange Group	Activator Pole Walking classes started on 1 <sup>st</sup> October in Ramsgrange for the Men's Shed & ICA. This is a 6-week programme. Total Participants: 17
Walk and Tone	Positive aging week took place on the 27 <sup>th</sup> September to 1 <sup>st</sup> of October. A Walk and Tone 4 Week Programme began in Min Ryan Park on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of October. On average there is between 10-14 participants each week.
Activator Poles	Purple Paddlers Dragon Boat Club This group are breast cancer survivors. A 4 Week Programme started on Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October. Total number of participants in the group is 15.  The New Ross Activator Programme finished on Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October. Average number of participants each week was 5.
Healthy Woodlands	Sports Active Wexford have facilitated a walking group in Tintern Abbey for Havenview service users. Havenview service users typically have a combination of intellectual disabilities and mental health difficulties. A total number of 5 participants and 2 staff members from the ward attend on a weekly basis.
Wheelchair Tennis	Wheelchair Tennis starts on Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October in



	Enniscorthy for children with a physical disability. This is a ten-week programme and a collaboration between Enjoy Tennis (Tennis Ireland), Sports Active Wexford and IWA-Sport.
EOPD Group	The Early Onset Parkinson's Disease group are now in week four of the six-week activator programme. Total Participants: 15
VI Tennis	VI Tennis has moved from Saturday evenings at 7pm to Friday lunchtimes from 12.30 -1.30pm. Total Participants: 6
Fit For All Week	Fit For All Week 2021 took place from 11 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> October. These is a week when Cara encourages leisure centres, gyms and exercise professionals to open up their facilities to individuals with a disability. Sarah Dunlea Yoga, Kinetic Fitness, The Apex Leisure Centre, MyFitt Gym and Eden Kennedy College all signed up to take part in the week. Kennedy College took part in Table Cricket & Cricket with Herbie from Cricket Leinster on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> . Total Participants: 66 Chair Yoga took place in Oylegate Community Centre on Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> . Total Participants: 5 Walking Rugby in St. Joseph's Community Centre on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> . Total Participants: 16 Walk in Min Ryan Park:
Slaintecare IEP	Two of the three candidates for the new IEP post have started on Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October. The new IEP's are currently undergoing the induction process for the next two weeks. It is predicted they will start their role in the HSE Mental Health Services at the beginning of November.
Walk for Wellness	In partnership with the Wexford Mental Health Association's 'Winter Wellbeing' Campaign. Sports Active Wexford has organised two outdoor walks called 'Walk for Wellness'. One will take place in Tintern Abbey on Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October and one will take place in Min Ryan Park on Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> October.
Family Fun Day	In partnership with CAMHS North and South Sector, Sports Active Wexford are facilitating a family fun day in Tintern Abbey on Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> October.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding Courses 11 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 174 participants. 4 Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed with a total of 55 participants.

# ENVIRONMENT

## A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Work has continued in line with the CCMA's guidance documents & work safely protocol. Office based staff are now working an alternate teams pattern to minimise attendance, ensuring that the office is covered while increasing physical distancing. All staff have the resources to work remotely while not physically in the office.

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

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

## B. COASTAL MATTERS

### Harbours -

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

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

Ports Past and Present: 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/>

### New Ross Port

- A new website for the Port of New Ross has been developed. [www.newrossport.ie](http://www.newrossport.ie)
- ISPS requirements for Marshmeadows Jetty ongoing.
- Seasonal swim and navigation buoys removed for the winter.

### Beaches –

Bathing water sampling at the beaches finished in September 2021. All results for the season can be accessed at [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)

A total of three bathing water quality incidents occurred during the season at Duncannon, Ballymoney and Morristcastle where levels of bacteria in the bathing water increased above threshold levels. These incidents were reported to the EPA and HSE, investigated and closed out by Wexford County Council.

### Coast -

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: tenders for consulting engineers are being assessed in October 2021, appointment to follow assessment.

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council appointed consulting engineers to carry out the design of a suitable coastal protection scheme and a beach access. WCC has commenced construction of emergency works to protect the first section of access road.

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.

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

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

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: Wexford County Council issued this study to tender recently, with return date of 2<sup>nd</sup> November. It involves assessing the erosion risk of 5 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk.

Grange, Fethard on Sea: tender documents being finalised on works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion. This work is funded under the Climate Change Adaptation programme by Roads Department.

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

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

Works have commenced on selecting areas and sites for Septic Tank Inspections in 2021. Inspections have commenced with 91 carried out so far with the owners permission. A full programme of inspection will begin in May now that 5km travel limit has been removed. All work will be external with no requirement to enter a dwelling.

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

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

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

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

## 2. Climate Action

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

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

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

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

Climate Action Raising Awareness Training programme has commenced. This training programme is designed to increase awareness amongst all Local Authority indoor staff of the challenge posed by climate change, the role and actions being taken by the Local Government Sector and the opportunities for individual Local Authority staff, both at a professional and personal level. To date the training has been offered to the Climate Action Team and Grades 5, 6, 7 and equivalents. The training is mandatory and will roll out to all indoor staff during 2021.

### Climate Action Training

<b>Number Offered Training</b>	<b>Training Successfully Completed</b>	<b>Training currently in Progress</b>
266	133	25

Further training specific to staff in the Climate Action steering Group will be rolled out in October and November 2021.

Climate Action Training targeted at elected members and senior staff including Chief Executive, Director of Services, Senior Executive officers and Senior planners/Engineers is scheduled for November 2021.

## 3. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD in 2020. A total of 102 farm inspections undertaken as a result of

pollution incidents or complaints, 50 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

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

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

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

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

#### 4. 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 been paid to farmers that have completed works.

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

## D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Landfills:

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

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

### 2. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites September 2021	Recycling out (End September) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End September)2021 (t)
Glass bottles	109	3210	3365
Aluminium Cans		81	90
Total		3291	3455

#### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-sep 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-sep 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sep 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sep 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- Sept 2020	Recycling out Jan - Sept 2021	Recycling out Jan -sep 2020	Recycling out Jan-sep 2021
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	475	<b>499</b>	566	<b>546</b>	754	<b>688</b>	442	450
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1886	<b>2083</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>
<b>Jan-Sep</b>	67	<b>74</b>	117	<b>118</b>	160	<b>135</b>	86	<b>90</b>

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

### 3. Rapid Response Crew

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



<b>Activity</b>	<i>To end Sept 2020</i>	<i>Sept 2021</i>	<i>To end Sept 2021</i>	<b>% +/–</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>2457</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2081</b>	<b>-15.3%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>54</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>57</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>45</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>45</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>11</i>		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>3891</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>6647</b>	<b>+70.8%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>188</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>182</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>276</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>103</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>18</i>		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>12042</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>12042</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>3956</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>3563</b>	<b>-9.9%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>53</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>129</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>84</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>67</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>54</i>		

*\*Including Towns*

#### **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 other plastics, these should be clean and dry and loose. For a full list of plastics that may be recycled please see [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie).

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

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2021 inspection plan has been finalised and 2020 return were submitted to the EPA. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,752 routine inspections by 25 Full Time Equivalent staff

member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

## 6. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty

This year's initiative commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> August at Holmestown Waste Management Facility. Members of the public will have opportunities over 4 consecutive weeks to bring old mattresses for recycling to Holmestown, New Ross, Gorey and Enniscorthy recycling centres between Tuesday and Friday. The Amnesty concluded on September 10<sup>th</sup> and a total of 2,808 mattresses were collected for recycling with the mot being collected at Holmestown followed by Enniscorthy.

## E. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	174
Fines Paid in Full●	78	29
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	56
Successful Prosecutions**	20	7
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	28
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€4,270

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

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

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

### Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2020	213	20	2256 (down 8%)

<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
<b>2009</b>	345	15	1,906

## F.GENERAL

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

**The total figures for complaints received are as follows:**

	<b>Jan – Dec 2017</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 2018</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2020</b>	<b>1 Jan to 30 Sept 2021</b>
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>4609</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>4371</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>3526</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>3775</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>3148</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>72%</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 31-8-21)</b>
Dogs collected	532	273
Dogs reclaimed	127	84
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	174
Dogs put to sleep	32	17
Dog Fines	5	7

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

To date in 2021 8 horses have been impounded. The figures impounded for 2020 was 30 and 33 for 2019. All of the horses for 2019-2021 have been rehomed or reclaimed.

## Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** Green Flag award ceremonies were held virtually during October. 14 schools renewed their green flag. Bridgetown College received their first green flag for Litter & Waste. Green school seminars will be held for all themes on November 11<sup>th</sup> with the travel seminar taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**School Workshops:** 5 secondary schools took part in fast Fashion online workshops during October for National Reuse Month. 200 students representing 8 secondary schools took part in the refill workshop which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Trees for Wexford Campaign:** The Trees for Wexford Campaign is now open for applications. Closing date for this year's scheme is 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Further details and application form can be found at: <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment/biodiversity-community-and-schools/community-and-schools/environment-grants/trees-for>. The 2020 scheme received 156 applications. 738 trees and 15,985 saplings were distributed.

**Community Clean Ups:** Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. 1186 community clean ups have been supported up to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**Local Waste Prevention Grant:** The 2021 scheme received 11 applications. Projects that are eligible but not limited to include prevention of single use items, upcycling, food waste prevention workshops. Maximum grant is €500.

**Community Engagement:** Community talks are ongoing with some virtual meetings taken place.

**Leader Funding:** 'Understanding my Area's Biodiversity' training funded by Leader is now complete. 47 participants completed the training during September and October. The objective of the training programme was to inspire people to take action for biodiversity in their local area.

**National Reuse Month:** National Reuse Month was officially launched by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Barbara Anne Murphy, on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Reuse Month is about inspiring people to make use of the items that may otherwise go to waste. Reuse is about valuing our stuff, by using and reusing it for as long and as often as possible. Local initiatives to celebrate Reuse Month included schools and sport club competitions, Conscious Cup Workshop, Upcycling furniture Demonstration and sustainable living workshop. Throughout October we invited everyone, whether a school, sports club, community group or business, to join us for Reuse Month. Initiatives this year focused on encouraging reuse and reduction of single use. All events listed on [www.wexfordcoco.ie](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie) and included:



**Green Picnic Campaign:** Green Picnic – this campaign ran over the Summer months in conjunction

with Waterford City and County Council. The Green Picnic Campaign simply asked people to ‘Think reusable not Single Use’ and to bring their litter home. The campaign emphasised that items can be brought from home and not everything needs to be single use. It aimed to promote positive and active participation in a campaign that focused on the theme of reuse and encouraged all to take responsibility for their actions and their waste.

The campaign focused across social media, radio and press. Included in the campaign were 2 competitions;

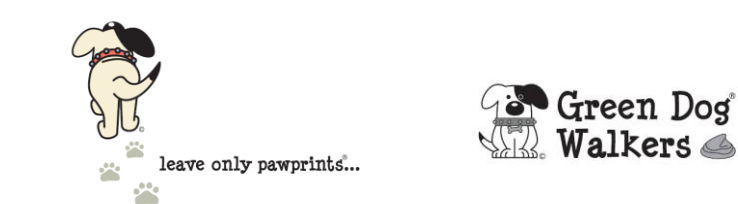
- a competition run by Refill Ireland to install a refill bottle water station in a business in each County.
- Competitions on social media and radio to win beautiful picnic hampers.
- A series of four online workshops



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



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



## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

<b>Libraries, Archives and Arts Chief Executive Report November 2021 LIBRARY SERVICE</b>
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### Response to COVID

During October restrictions were eased with the re-introduction of library study spaces and PC use being made available to the public. Libraries now offer a full range of their popular services to the public. There is no requirement to book a visit to the library, but study and computer spaces should be reserved in advance on the website or by phone. The numbers of visitors in each library browsing and using study and computer spaces is limited to facilitate social distancing. The wearing of masks is mandatory.

During October there was a mixture of in-person outdoor events and online events, these included Children's Book Festival events, literacy initiatives, as well as a health and wellbeing talks. All the outdoor events were held in our outdoor designated zones at New Ross Library Park & Wexford Library Sensory Garden.

### Book Call Delivery Service

The Book Call Service continued throughout October, this service enabled those who were elderly or vulnerable to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. There has been a total of 944 contacts to the service and 7,296 books and other library items delivered in 2021 to date.

2021	Total Contacts	Total items (approx.)
Jan	182	1456
Feb	235	1880
March	198	1584
April	196	1520
May	44	312
June	22	119
July	20	131
August	22	118
September	8	93
October	17	83
<b>Total year to date</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>7,296</b>

### E-Book Usage in County Wexford

The growth in usage of Wexford Library Service's e-book platform BorrowBox continues in 2021. There are now more than 8,000 registered users of this service in the County.

### Radon Testing Monitor Loans

Wexford Libraries, in collaboration with EPA, continue to promote the Digital Radon Monitor Loans Scheme @ your local library in 2021. Monitors are available to all library members through our 5 branch libraries. Currently there are 19 radon monitors available to borrow.



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

### **Climate Action**

Home Energy saving kits continue to be made available to library members to borrow from all 5 branch libraries in Wexford.

Energy Efficiency Week took place from October 4-10, the focus was on Clever Climate Actions that can save energy, reduce carbon emissions and help protect our wonderful world! Gorey Library showcased a display of books on Energy efficiency, Climate Change, Clean Air, Sustainable Buildings and Green Living.

### **Dormant Accounts Funding 2021**

#### **Library supports to marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities**

### **Hear our Stories**

This programme in collaboration with WLD and Kids Own is delivering a series of interactive art and storytelling workshops with Syrian children and families living in County Wexford. Trained facilitators meet with children and families over an 8-week period to discuss the role of storytelling in Irish & other cultures and to collate personal stories and artwork that articulates the Syrian lived experience of coming to Ireland and settling into County Wexford. The resulting work will form the basis of an exhibition and book providing a lasting record of the process and a valuable tool for promoting literacy and language acquisition in tandem with respect and validation for diversity.

### **Comic Book Creation**

The objective of this programme is to introduce the group of children from the Travelling community in Bunclody area to the world of visual storytelling. Comics are an accessible format, which help break down any inhibitions some children might have about traditional storytelling formats, such as text-only books. During this programme, the children will develop the ability to express themselves in words and images, as well as the ability to think visually.

### **Loch Garman le Chéile**

The Interactive Museum of Languages for Young Audiences (IMLYA) is a touring interactive exhibition for primary school children, providing an immersive creative experience. Branch libraries commenced work with their local DEIS schools offering the opportunity to experience the exhibition and avail of educational activities. IMLYA is designed to cross language barriers and involve children who speak languages other than English and Irish.

### **STEM**

New Ross Library worked with FDYS and Tek Central, participants were introduced to STEM through a series of events including electronic circuit theory and 3D printing. The programme culminated in a final session in October. The introduction the world of STEM in a fully accessible manner has meant that these young people may now consider STEM careers thus increasing their educational opportunities and economic potential.

### **Online in No Time**

This six-week programme involved Intensive digital literacy support and tuition to older people in Castlebridge day care centre. The sessions focused on the real-life digital literacy needs of older

people the sessions were be practical, targeted and delivered in partnership with the day care centre, Tek Central and the Age Friendly Coordinator with Wexford County Council.

### **Eduroam Everywhere Initiative**

New eduroam Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in all 5 branch libraries as part of the eduroam Everywhere initiative. eduroam stands for education roaming. It provides secure and easy-to-use Wi-Fi access in thousands of locations across more than 100 countries. Students whose college/university participate in eduroam can simply open their laptop or mobile device within an eduroam hotspot to have immediate internet connectivity. Eduroam in Ireland is pioneered by HEAnet, Ireland's National Education and Research Network. This new addition to our services will work towards improving the learning experience of students in County Wexford and reducing the digital divide.

### **Decade of Centenaries 2021**

#### **Wexford War of Independence & Civil War Walking Tours**

A series of "Wexford War of Independence & Civil War Walking Tours" were organised in conjunction with Historian-in-residence, Barry Lacey. During the walks, Barry explored both periods in Wexford and the events that occurred in each town during this time. They took place on the following dates: 16<sup>th</sup> October in Bunclody, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October in Enniscorthy (War of Independence focus and Civil War focus, respectively). Barry will also lead walks in other towns, as follows: 6<sup>th</sup> November in Wexford town, 13<sup>th</sup> November in Gorey, 20<sup>th</sup> November in New Ross. An event is also being organised for the Rosslare District in late November.

#### **Historian in Residence program**

Barry Lacey, "Historian in Residence" for Wexford County Council Libraries prepared an online version of his original Heritage week talk on "The Railways and County Wexford's Revolutionary period (1916-1923)", which is made available on library Facebook pages and on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

#### **Online presentation by Liz Gillis, historian and author**

Under the Decade of Centenaries 2021 plan, Wexford County Council commissioned Liz Gillis to prepare an online presentation on "Cumann na mBan in Co. Wexford and the effects of conflict on women and children in the County", this presentation is available on library Facebook pages and on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

#### **Booklet for schools on the War of Independence and the Civil War**

The written piece on the War of Independence and the Civil War has been completed. The booklet will be printed and distributed to primary and secondary schools in November 2021.

#### **"Wexford in the Revolutionary Decade" podcast**

This podcast has now had over 1.3K listens.

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

Presentations produced under Wexford Libraries Decade of Centenaries 2021 program have already received the following views on our YouTube channel:

"Flames along the Wexford coast" by Barry Lacey – 445 views

"Wexford's Civil War Dead" by Aaron O'Maonaigh – 201 views

"Sport and War in County Wexford" by Paul Rouse – 63 views

"The Burning of Wexford's Country Houses, 1919-1923" – 1.1K views

"The Road to Independence – film on the War of Independence in Wexford" – 585 views

### **Seán Sinnott Digitisation**

An autograph book owned by Seán Sinnott, one of the leading Irish Volunteers from Wexford town during 1916, was re-photographed and digitised by Wexford County Archive. Documenting his time in Spike Island internment camp in 1921, it includes the signatures of many of his interned comrades, including a number of men from County Wexford. To facilitate greater access to the content, the facing pages were digitally split and rotated. This new version of the volume will be made available on the Archive's website shortly.

## **IT Literacy – Age Friendly Libraries**

### **Digital Ambassadors Programme**

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Libraries Development Unit, and Age Friendly Ireland have partnered to establish the Library Digital Ambassador Programme. This programme aims to help older people to access online library resources. Wexford Libraries provide an Age Friendly Digital Ambassador in each of the 5 branch libraries. Staff are trained to assist older people to, join their local library online, access online library resources, download their favourite books or listen to audio books. This is a peer-to-peer programme which helps participants to develop the confidence to become mentors themselves.

## **Work Matters Business eResources online**

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

## **Healthy Ireland At Your Library.**

### **Online event -- 10 Tips for Healthy Eating – Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

Dietician Leona Courtney discussed weight management, diabetes and endocrinology, heart disease, IBS and coeliac disease.

### **Outdoor Event -- Activator Pole Programme**

New Ross Library provided a 4-week Activator Poles programme in partnership with Sports Active Wexford. The course began on Monday 20th September and will run until the 11th October. 7 attended each week.

## **Cultural Activities**

A full programme of online events including creative writing clubs and reading groups continued during the month of October with the addition of a new Thursday Book Club at Wexford Town Library.

The 'Fully Booked' interview series returned to Wexford Library in October with Librarian Imelda Carroll interviewing local author Derville Murphy. This event went live on Friday, October 1st and continues to be available through the Wexford Library Facebook page.

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

The Online Book Club is available to members of the public and is accessible from all five of Wexford libraries Facebook pages. There are currently 222 members.

### **Dystopian Book Club**

Wexford Library's Dystopian Book Club relaunched on October 30<sup>th</sup> with a discussion of Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale'.

## **Wexford Festival Opera**

### **'Karina Daly talks about The History of Wexford Festival Opera 1951-2021'**

This Q&A with Karina Daly author of The History of Wexford Festival Opera 1951-2021 took place during October.

### **Rebecca Warren performances**

On both Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Wexford Town Library premiered performances of local Pianist Rebecca Warren via Facebook and on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

### **Eithne Scallan on Séamus O'Dwyer**

On Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>, Wexford Town Library rebroadcast their podcast with Eithne Scallan, local historian, who documents the life of Séamus O'Dwyer, a founding figure of Wexford Festival Opera.

### **Exhibitions**

#### **'The Wexford Festival Opera: The Early Years'**

This exhibition, funded by Creative Ireland, displayed a range of photographs from the beginning of the Wexford Festival Opera and ran on display until October 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **'Caroline Ward at Wexford Library'**

This display of book art, in conjunction with the Wexford Festival Opera was on display from Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

### **ArtBank Art Exhibition**

Bunclody Library continued to host a mini-Art exhibition by ArtBank Bunclody with new paintings added on a regular basis.

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

### **Children's Book Festival**

Wexford County Council Library Service held Children's Book Festival in 2021 online, reaching out to children and teenagers from all over Wexford. These highly interactive, educational and entertaining events took place throughout the month of October. Workshops ranged from award winning authors and illustrators to internationally acclaimed storytellers who delivered workshops with something to suit all ages and abilities from 0-18 years. Children met 'Finn the Whale', 'Puffling the Puffin' and 'Wee Donkey' with international best-selling author Gerry Daly, 'The Very Dangerous Sisters of Indigo McCloud' and 'Mermaids, Vampires and Lighthouses' with local authors John Hearne and Caroline Busher. The online format of the schedule allowed libraries to facilitate participation from multiple classes of children at each session extending accessibility to schools all over the County.

### **Parenting Today 2021**

## **Feeding the Future: Breastfeeding Support in County Wexford**

Wexford Library Services and the HSE broadcast a video to support breastfeeding parents in County Wexford and to celebrate the HSE Mychild.ie National Breastfeeding Week. The video was made available on the Facebook pages of Wexford Libraries and on Wexford Libraries YouTube channel.

## **Right to Read Literacy and Numeracy**

Wexford Library Services has purchased a collection of picture books focusing on assisting children develop their social skills; anxieties, making friends, special needs, visiting the doctor, dentist, bereavement, welcoming new siblings, and transitioning to primary school are just some of the topics covered. A complete set has been supplied to all branch libraries and will be promoted to early learning centres in each district.

Libraries continue to roll out Nessler Read and Spell, Touch Type Read and Spell, Nessler dyslexia awareness and Reading Eggs licences to families and schools throughout the County. Feedback is very positive with parents and teachers noting an improvement in reading engagement.

## **Fire Safety Week 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Fire Safety Week ran from 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October, the main theme was “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives – Test Yours Weekly” or ‘Sábhálann aláirim deataigh atá ag obair i gceart saolta – déan tástáil orthu go rialta’.

Fire Fighters from Wexford County Council Fire Service were stationed in the foyer of the Gorey Library each day throughout the week, answering queries and distributing leaflets and information.

Fire Station Officers from Bunclody Fire Station attended Bunclody Library on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October to promote fire safety at home. Students from Our Lady of Lourdes NS visited the library on the day and picked up some useful fire safety tips from the fire personnel.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

The Archive dealt with 81 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during the month of October. The service has continued to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, to facilitate researchers during the extended period of closure. The Archive’s reading room re-opened to researchers on 26 October under curtailed access procedures.

An important collection was acquired by the Archive in late October – documents, letters and medals of Seamus Doyle, one of the Enniscorthy leaders in 1916 who was married to Cumann na mBan member, Gretta Comerford. It is hoped to identify the extent of the collection and to assess its historical importance by early November.

### **Digitisation**

The remaining five volumes of Grand Jury presentments covering the period 1892-98 were digitised during October and were subsequently made available on the Archive’s website [www.wexfordCountyarchive.com](http://www.wexfordCountyarchive.com). This collection provides an important insight into one of the earliest forms of local government in County Wexford and documents developments in

infrastructure and services across the County in terms of road and bridge construction, the erection and staffing of the County infirmary, County gaol, court and sessions houses. These volumes are a unique primary source materials for family history research.

As part of its annual preservation programme, the Archive embarked on the digitisation of completed Registers of Interments and of Registers of Purchasers of Grave Spaces to ensure that a surrogate copy of these vital records is captured and maintained.

### **Outreach**

To coincide with the 70th anniversary of Wexford Festival Opera, the Archive curated a small display of photographs, publicity materials and documents from the festival archive which was exhibited on the first floor of the opera house for the duration of the festival.

The Archive also liaised with the festival's Window Display Committee by loaning artefacts from the County archive collection to several businesses on Main Street who participated in the competition in line with this year's theme of 'Wexford in the 1950s'.

## **ARTS**

**Creative Communities Programme** – The Arts Department of Wexford County Council held an open call for Expressions of Interest from Artists, resident in County Wexford, regarding an Artist Panel for the *Creative Communities Programme*. This Programme provides 50% matched funding up to a maximum of €3,000 to enable meaningful collaboration between artists from our panel and

County Wexford based community groups, for arts projects of 1 intensive week to 5 months in duration. Closing date 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wexford Arts Festival 2021** supported by the Arts office and co-ordinated by Tom Mooney launched a broadsheet brochure for Wexford Arts Festival which runs from 9 – 31<sup>st</sup> October and coincides with Wexford Festival Opera. The brochure was available in all main venues and hotels. In addition, a **Wex-Art Map** was launched to coincide with the Festival which highlights the best of contemporary arts and crafts in Wexford promoting over 16 exhibitions involving over 50 artists. The map was also available in all main venues and hotels.

**Totem Yokes / Maria McKinney Exhibition** opened in County Hall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October this exhibition sees a new body of work, commissioned by Wexford County Council for the M11 Per Cent for Art Scheme (The M11Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Per Cent for Art Scheme is funded through Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and managed by Wexford County Council's Arts Office). McKinney shows a series of new sculptures inspired by agrarian practices and pastoral traditions of six farms currently operating in the Wexford countryside. The artist visited the farms and listened to how certain practices, histories and stories have led to particular modes of food production in these townlands.

### **Emergence Award 2022 -2023**

Wexford County Council Arts Department and Wexford Arts Centre in partnership with IT Carlow Wexford Campus School of Art and Design are pleased to announce **Emma Roche** as the recipient of the EMERGENCE Visual Art Award 2021. As a joint initiative between the three organisations, the award's aim is to support visual artists with the development and promotion of their practice. Presented biannually, the award has a monetary value of €15,000 and includes mentorship support over the award cycle to the value of €2,000 and a solo exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre in September 2023. In addition, the artist has the opportunity to engage with IT Carlow Wexford Campus School of Art & Design and avail of practical resources for a period.



**CREATION 21/22** - Wexford County Council Arts Department is pleased to announce **Beth McNinch** as the Wexford recipient for CREATION 21/22. This is a new initiative which offers artistic development opportunities through mentoring, coaching, residencies for performing artists and a bursary of €4,000 supported by seven local authority Arts Offices in collaboration with Carlow Arts Festival, Dublin Dance Festival, National Circus Festival, ISACS Network, United Fall Dance, Danseu Festival and led by The Performance Corporation. Supported by: The Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration scheme.

**The Eugene O'Neill International Festival – “One Theatre, One Countries”** is a recipient of the Small Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2021. This year's festival was a hybrid series of events combining live and streamed events which included Three 'One act O'Neill plays' performed by the New Ross Drama Workshop. These little performed plays offered an accessible avenue to explore O'Neill's works in short pieces.

#### **Ancient Connections**

Wexford County Council on behalf of the Ancient Connections project, advertised for a **creative events management company** to provide a complete turn-key Event Management Service, for 2 small to medium scale, free-to-the-public, outdoor/indoor events, for the project region and the communities of North Wexford specifically Ferns, as part of the Ancient Connections project events calendar for 2022-2023. Applications were via E-Tender, closing date was the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

An invite for expressions of interest in respect of **Holy Wells of North Wexford & North Pembrokeshire** was extended to artists, musicians, and creatives for

1. Music and sound commissions (total budget available €15,000)
2. Literature and visual arts commissions (total budget available €15,000)

All commissions are to explore the theme of Holy Wells in Wexford & Pembrokeshire. 4-6 commissions will be awarded (between €2,000-€10,000) depending on the nature of the project and extent of which it encompasses cross-border creatives. Closing date was the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Words Ireland National Mentoring Program** – Wexford writer **Michael Sheehan** has been selected as “mentee” and will benefit from a literature mentoring relationship. The mentoring process involves 4 x two-hour meetings between the selected ‘mentee’ and their chosen professional writer over a 6–8-month period. This program is supported by Wexford Arts Office.

**The Living Arts in Schools Project** The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Four selected primary schools have the opportunity to host an artist in residence for an 8- or 15-week residency during the school year.

Wexford County Council Arts Department in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre are currently planning with Schools for this project to resume in November 2021. Training for the 8 Wexford-based artists selected on the programming of the project has taken place.

**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.

**Primary School Programmes:** 18 primary schools to date have reaffirmed their work 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 with MG over the previous eighteen months, either through video, online or in person.

- Singing Programme = 9 Schools

- Instrumental Programme = 9 Schools

**Atlantic Arc** is a series of 4 masterclasses & performances for a total of 80 young traditional Irish music composers across 4 counties in association with Music Generation and Atlantic Arc. The theme of the masterclasses is Composition and Song writing in the Irish Tradition. Atlantic Arc will facilitate 2 days of masterclasses and on the third day the participants are invited to watch the Atlantic Arc's technical rehearsal, sound check and concert in National Opera House in November 2021.

## Music workshops

**Young Conductors Workshops-** are led by conductor/composer Andrew Synnott and musician educator Elizabeth Drwal. They consist of music and movement, rhythm, and awareness, focus and fun over a series of three workshops. This initiative by Rosetta Cucchi, Artistic Director of Wexford Festival Opera is the beginning of a wonderful partnership between Music Generation Wexford and the Wexford Festival Opera.

**Yellow Bellows Live Group Singing Workshop** – for teenagers explores singing, performance, dynamic songs and styles which include rock and pop. Led by Diarmuid Comerford & Anita Mahon every Saturday at the presentation Centre, Enniscorthy.

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

## Screen Wexford

**Remixing the Archive...online film workshop** – is a new training programme in the field of film archive held in October in collaboration with Make Film History and Screen Skills Ireland. The mentors helped the workshop participants to develop their filmmaking skills through working on a new archive-inspired piece, which will be presented at a special screening event late 2021.

**Screen Wexford Website** is currently being developed by Screen Wexford with website designers. It is planned to launch the website in December 2021

**Wexford Writers Scripting for Broadcast Academy:** Led by Bodeccii film and supported by Screen Wexford held an in person a Master Class, Panel Discussion and Guest Speaker in Georgia Southern University, Wexford town on 30th October.

## Creative Ireland

### Creative Communities Programme

The Arts Department of Wexford County Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from Artists, resident in County Wexford, regarding an Artist Panel for the *Creative Communities Programme*. This Programme provides 50% matched funding up to a maximum of €3,000 to enable meaningful collaboration between artists from our panel and County Wexford based community groups, for arts projects of 1 intensive week to 5 months in duration. Closing date 24<sup>th</sup> November.

### Design & Make in 3D

The second phase of this project happening during Halloween will see Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, TEKcentral and Wexford Library Service enabling young adults, aged 12-17 years to develop their creative and IT skills by taking part in a technology project, using STEM to design, make and create with Tinkercad. The young people will then present their work and learnings to their peers, youth workers, families, and a public audience in an online production for Wexford Science Festival in Science Week.

### Heritage Workshops with young people

Wexford County Council in partnership with Dig It Kids have delivered the final heritage workshop for young people in the Hook Lighthouse on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October. These series of in-person interactive workshops based on archaeology and history events were tailored to the local heritage of the area and were delivered to over 100 children.

### Enniscorthy Activity Garden

Wexford County Council in partnership with the HSE, Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation are currently holding onsite workshops with Architects at St John's Community Hospital, Enniscorthy and will finish November 2021.

### The Three Pillars Project

A final launch of a publication by the Three Pillars Project in partnership with LINK Resource Centre and Adult Mental Health Services took place in Enniscorthy in October. Creative Ireland supported the visual artist Clare Breen and dance artist Vivian Brodie Hayes to deliver a multi-disciplinary art project that took place mainly online during lockdown last year. One of the aims of the project was to empower participants to become confident in their own creative contribution through participation. While engaging with visual art, movement and dance the project aimed to improve participant's mental health, physical health and well-being.

## FIRE SERVICE

### Wexford Fire Service Report September 2021

#### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls September 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 1 (2)	85	93
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 3 (4)	49	40
Road Traffic Accident	10	67	65
Industrial fire	0	8	9
Commercial fire	0	1	5
Assembly fire	0	3	2
Agricultural fire	0	9	4
Motor Vehicles	2	26	39
Forest/bog/grass etc	4	68	85
Rubbish	6	46	69
Non-fire rescues	8	73	40
False alarms – good intent	23	162	212
Malicious false alarms	0	1	2
Miscellaneous	6	38	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>702</b>

#### Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	31	13	20	17	4	85
DOMESTIC FIRE	13	18	6	9	3	49
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	21	8	16	14	8	67
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	5	0	0	3	0	8
COMMERCIAL FIRE	1	0	0	0	0	1

ASSEMBLY FIRE	2	0	0	1	0	3
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	3	1	2	1	2	9
MOTOR VEHICLES	6	3	6	8	3	26
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	18	19	17	8	6	68
RUBBISH	10	12	11	6	7	46
NON-FIRE RESCUES	19	19	20	11	4	73
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	71	25	33	28	5	162
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	17	4	11	4	2	38
TOTALS	217	122	143	110	44	636

### Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in September 2021: 9

Number of Applications received to date: 90

Number of Applications to this period 2020: 79

# Water Services



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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## COVID -19

- Water Services is operating in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA and in accordance with Irish Water direction for works.

# 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 is due in November 21</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.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> <li>➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023</li> <li>➤ It is now expected that the rising main and plant upgrade to Vinegar hill will be included within the scope of this project and may all be done as one larger scale project. This may impact delivery timescales.</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>➤ Works are ongoing.</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>

<p><b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Gorey RWSS</b></p> <p>To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun.</li> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Commissioning of new Treatment plant and pipework modifications ongoing</li> <li>○ Borehole works ongoing during 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works commenced in April 2021 and it is programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement.</li> <li>○ Works are ongoing on all elements of the project within the three villages and on the treatment plant in Arthurstown. A number of road closures will be needed to facilitate pipeline construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tender assessment has now been completed and a preferred contractor has been selected.</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> <li>○ Irish Water Board approval was granted in July and a construction contract is likely to be signed this year for construction to begin early 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> <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> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Construction of the new main in Collballow started in May 2021 and we have just completed this project on programme.</li> <li>➤ Mains rehabilitation is starting 30<sup>th</sup> September on 1.1km of water main on Rectory Road Enniscorthy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.


## 2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Disinfection Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.</li> <li>○ Snagging on-going at various sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Treated Water storage programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.</li> <li>○ Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; final design ongoing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
IW Minor Wastewater Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pumps have now been upgraded to smart pumps at St.Brendan's WWPS, Rosslare Harbour.</li> <li>○ The pump controls at Keellogues WWPS will be upgraded during Q4 2021.</li> <li>○ Pump and controls upgrades will take place at Taghmon and Piercestown WWPSs beginning December 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade of existing SCADA at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy is in progress.</li> <li>○ SCADA will be upgraded at 9 No. WWPSs across the Wexford Town collection network beginning December 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>H&amp;S Improvement Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New valve chambers and access covers and controls to improve H&amp;S at Carne PS is ongoing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Invest to Save</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with design underway.</li> <li>○ Civil works are currently underway at Blackwater WWTP to improve energy efficiency and process control necessary to deal with fluctuations in loading.</li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2021 has been increased to €1.4million.</li> <li>➤ The year to date spend is €825,226</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>September 2021 Figures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Enquiries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 19 pre connection enquiries received for drinking water</li> <li>○ 14 pre connection enquiries received for waste water</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17 connection enquiries received for drinking water</li> <li>○ 4 connection enquiries received for waste water</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17 connections sent for tapping drinking water</li> <li>○ 38 new connections completed and WO closed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS are 90% complete on site, and M&amp;E works are 90% complete on site. Foul flows are not 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 Q4 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The new WWPS is now complete on site, with foul flows being pumped forward to the Irish Water WWTP. Decommissioning of the now redundant communal WWTP will take place in Q4 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kyle Close, Oulart</b>- Connection works have commenced on site</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> </ul>
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<b>3. Rural Water</b>	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<p>➤ <b>Kilanerin GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrogeologist 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.</li> <li>○ Awaiting Report. Draft copy has been circulated for comment.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<p>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Storage Tank</b> - consultant appointed to carry out the hydraulic model assessment has been finalised.</li> <li>○ Consultation has commenced with Consultants re: delivery of a hydraulic model and report.</li> <li>○ <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ WCC are reviewing information submitted. Once reviewed the report will be sent to the Department.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<p>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Waste water 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>○ An Bord Pleanála Submission, Ground Investigations and main contract tender preparation.</li> <li>○ Archaeologist Impact Statement has been completed and will be included as part of ABP Submission</li> <li>○ Curtailment of the public sewer resulting in the requirement to not submit to ABP is currently being investigated.</li> </ul>

<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Battlestown CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers. Group was written to again in August 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability. Group was written to again in August 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A total of 195 new well grant applications were received to 29<sup>th</sup> September for 2021.</li> <li>○ 211 Well Grants have been paid up to the end of August, totalling €373,619</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for September was 44.92MLD, down 0.6MLD since August 2021. This figure is up 2.3MLD on 2020 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> Planned leak detection was focused on Wexford, New Ross and Enniscorthy areas. Subsequent repairs were undertaken countywide.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, commenced Oct 2021.</li> <li>○ The Forth Road Gorey, rehab project design has been completed, awaiting construction funding.</li> <li>○ Rehab submissions for 2022 are now due. Wexford CC is to compile a priority list to put forward for funding. Pearce Road BYS is already approved for 2022 funding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find resources were concentrated in New Ross.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The contractor Find crew continued with Kilmuckridge South DMA investigations in September and moved onto Wygram DMA in Wexford Town on 08/10/2021.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>BYS Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pearce Road in Enniscorthy has been approved for 2021 funding.</li> <li>○ Coffey Northumberland have yet to complete Bellfield Road decommissioning works in Enniscorthy.</li> <li>○ Backyard main replacement works are requested as priority at Maudlintown Wexford for 2022 funding.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Pressure Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding is received for PRV replacements at Rowe St, Bride St, Colestown, Ballinra and Askamore. Advanced control for 6nr PRV and additional Telemetry capabilities was also funded. Works are ongoing to be completed in 2021.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>First Fix</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shareridge have taken over as Irish Water's First Fix contractor and will be commencing cold calling New Ross and Enniscorthy in October 2021.</li> </ul>
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# **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

## **NATIONAL ROADS**

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

In accordance with governance rules for major capital projects all relevant Phase 2 (Option Selection) deliverable reports have been submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for final audit and formal approval. The audit process is now complete and formal approval is understood to be imminent.

Pending formal approval to progress the project to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation), preparations have commenced for a potential planning submission in 2023 and extensive environmental surveys have commenced. Transport surveys are scheduled to be complete in November with further transport surveys, environmental surveys and geotechnical investigations are currently scheduled for Spring 2022. These surveys will inform the development of the design and environmental assessment of the scheme.

### **N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road**

The planning submission for the scheme is currently being prepared for anticipated submission to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 of 2021 or early 2022. The scheme design is closely integrated with the Rosslare Europort Masterplan Phase 1 development and the OPW development of a new customs terminal at Rosslare Europort which are currently being prepared for tender processes. A thorough cross-project review is currently being undertaken to ensure full compatibility between the designs of the three separate development projects. The planning application will be finalised upon completion of this process.

## **National Road Pavement Schemes**

### **2021 Pavement Schemes**

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

The tender for the archaeology monitoring project was awarded on the 16<sup>th</sup>. August.

The tender for the construction contract was awarded on the 11<sup>th</sup>. August. Works are due to commence on 26<sup>th</sup>. October and are due to be completed by mid February 2022.

#### **Capital Maintenance Pavement repair N30 Tominearly**

This minor repair scheme was tendered in Mid August. The works were completed by the 8<sup>th</sup>. of October.

#### **Capital Maintenance Pavement repair N25 Whitford Roundabout**

This minor repair scheme was tendered in Mid August. The contract was awarded in early September and works were completed by 18<sup>th</sup>. October.

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

The extent of the works was agreed with TII on 19<sup>th</sup>. August. Tender documents are being progressed at present. TII have now indicated that funding will not be made available until next year. It is still hoped to tender the scheme before the end of 2021.

#### **HD28 Pavement Improvement Works junction of N25 at Larkins Cross.**

Minor pavement repairs at the junction with the N25 and R738.

TII have now indicated that funding will not be made available until next year. It is still hoped to tender the scheme before the end of 2021.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

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

73km of a total of 74km has been resurfaced to date.

Roads completed (clause 804) in the last month were:  
Kilnahue Lane (Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The surface dressing programme (Machinery Yard) commenced 28 June in the Enniscorthy District and finished 12 October Enniscorthy District.

The Surface dressing programme of 122km is fully complete.

Roads completed in the last month were:  
Cooladine; (Enniscorthy District); Camlin to Slaght; Five Roads to Tellarought; (Both in New Ross District).

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

Eight roads have been resurfaced from a total of nine.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Wexford County Council was allocated €349,878 on 17 June from the Department of Rural and Community Development to resurface all twelve lanes on the priority list.  
On 29 July Wexford County Council was allocated an additional € 303,908 to resurface ten more lanes. This brings the total grant allocation to €653,786 for 2021.

All 22 lanes have been resurfaced of total length 9km

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

11 bridges have been repaired out of a total of 16 throughout the county.

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

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



A structural inspection of the bridge has been completed. 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 is in progress and will be submitted to An Board Pleanála as part of the planning application in early this month. It is intended to develop the design options over the coming months. Works are expected to commence quarter 2/3 of 2022.

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

Wexford County Council received €650,830 for 13 projects on 4 June. This funding was received from the Department of Transport following submission of an application on 31 March.

Works are nearing completion on 11 of these projects.

### **Active Travel Measures**

Wexford County Council was allocated €3,603,000 for 50 Active Travel projects in the County on the 29 March. An additional €2,310,008 was allocated on the 26 July for 21 extra projects. This brings the total Active Travel allocation for 2021 to €6,188,563 including increased amounts to 4 of the 71 projects in total.

13 projects are complete. Works are in progress on most of the remaining projects.

A design incorporating segregated cycle lanes, footpath and junction improvements has been finalised for Newtown Road; (Wexford Borough District).

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

### **Additional Outdoor Infrastructure**

€673,000 was allocated to Wexford County Council under the Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund (2021) for 11 projects throughout the county on 26 May. This funding was received from the National Transport Authority following submission of an application on 31 March.

6 projects are complete, and works are in progress on the remaining 5.

### **General Maintenance**

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

# **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

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

Design work are completed.

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

## **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

- Craywell Road New Ross. Works completed. Awaiting ESB Connection
- Marshallstown Village. Contract awarded
- Railway Square Enniscorthy. Contract awarded
- Milehouse Road Enniscorthy, lighting infill.
- Ballygarrett Village

Municipal districts have been asked to forward priority proposals for 2022.

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

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

- Kilann Village. Installation complete. Awaiting ESB connection
- Campile Village. Installation completed. Awaiting ESB connection
- Duncannon Village. Installation completed. Awaiting ESB connection
- Fethard Village. Installation completed. Awaiting ESB connection

## Finance:

### **COVID -19**

A revised Rates waiver scheme has been notified under Circular Fin 20/2021. The circular confirms that “A waiver of commercial rates will apply to specified businesses in the final quarter of 2021. This 3 month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate, standalone waiver scheme” and this more targeted scheme will be applied to specific eligible categories confirmed as:

#### **Eligible Categories**

The broad categories of businesses the credit in lieu of rates applies to are as follows:

- Hospitality, including restaurants and cafes;
- Leisure
- Miscellaneous entertainment;
- Certain tourism related categories; and
- Airports

This would appear to represent approx. 50% of those that would have received the waiver up to the end of September.

Confirmation is still awaited of what, if any, financial support funding the council might receive in respect of ongoing expenditure as we continue to deal with the Covid situation or indeed lost income as a direct result of the pandemic.

### **Budget 2022**

Preparatory work continues to progress on Budget 2022. The delivery of an adequate budget to maintain services for 2022 will be challenging, particularly now that government support is winding down. The Draft Budgetary Plans for the Municipal Districts (GMA) are scheduled for discussion and decision by Municipal district members during November. In the meantime the detailed work on budget 2022 is progressing and the CPG/Cross party group were updated on the budget strategy for 2022 at the meeting scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> November. The agreed schedule of meetings is set out below.

While it is expected that Budget 2021 will be a difficult process in light of the ongoing impact of the COVID public health emergency every effort is now being made to work with the various service sections of the council to ensure, in as far as possible, that a budget can be delivered that will allow services to be maintained within the constraints presented by the financial difficulties facing the council and the county.

Work is progressing on the preparation of Budget 2022. At the September meeting of the council the following dates were agreed in respect of the Budget 2022 process

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Budget Strategy Meeting (Cross Party) | - Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 11.30am   |
| - Draft Budgetary Meetings (GMA)        | - November MD meetings (with the exception of Gorey and Rosslare MDs as the November meetings of these MDs is outside the prescribed period for these meetings) |
| - Statutory Budget Meeting              | - Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10.00am  |

The prescribed periods as set out in Circular Fin 16/2021 are as follows:

- 2022 Budget Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Draft Budgetary Plan – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

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

2021. Following approval by the council to for the extension of the overdraft facility at the same level for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 a formal application has been submitted to the DHLGH seeking ministerial sanction for the borrowing.

### **Audit**

- Audit of Accounts 2020 – The Audit of Wexford County Council’s 2020 Accounts is now complete and the Local Government Auditor’s statutory audit report together with a Post audit copy of the AFS has been circulated to all members and is listed as an item for consideration by members at the November meeting.
- Audit Committee - The Audit Committee met the Local Government Auditor, Ms Cora Bluett at their meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021. A report on the committee’s assessment of the Annual Accounts and Audit Report will now be prepared by the Committee for submission to the members in line with Section 60 of the Local Government reform Act 2014.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**