



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 13.11.23

CONTENTS:

	Page
Economic Development	3
Town Regeneration	6
Planning	7
Water Services	13
Roads & Transportation	17
Capital Housing	27
Capital Projects	33
Ukrainian Response Update	43
Corporate Activities	44
Housing	50
Community	54
Environment	62
Libraries/Arts/Archives	74
Fire Services	82
Finance	85

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic

Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

The development of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG) for all regions is underway. BIM has over the past number of months been assisting in building a FLAG Board for the South East region which will comprise representatives from PPN (Community, Environmental, PPN), State Agency or Public Body, Industry - Commercial Fishing / Aquaculture, Blue Economy, i.e. Marine leisure, Marine Tourism and/or Marine Sport, Education and others. Annette Rowsome, Senior Enterprise Development Officer is the newly appointed Board member representing Economic Development.

Grant Thornton has been contracted by BIM to assist the board in developing independent local development strategies for each region. They have begun collating current data from census, fisheries, aquaculture, Pobal and any other sources relevant to the development of such a strategy. A series of board and public consultation meetings with Grant Thornton have taken place. Grant Thornton is following up with a survey which will be circulated to stakeholders by the end of October to provide a further opportunity for people to offer their views and suggestions. They will then begin to draft the actions for the strategy.

Georgia Savannah University (GSU)

In early October, a seven person high level academic delegation including the Provost visited Wexford. The focus was on developing relationships and research opportunities with SETU as well as discussions with WCC Environment Department and the EPA regarding collaborative research opportunities. Work is progressing on the design and planning of the student accommodation with Stephen Carr Architects (SCA) who was formally appointed to the Adoration Convent Student Accommodation Project. The economic section continues to support GSU around the needs of their faculty members and students while in Wexford.

Tourism

Visit Wexford has just finalised it's Christmas Radio Campaign which will air week commencing the 13th November on Today FM with an associated competition and digital adverts.

Faillte Ireland's Local Experts Programme returns on the 29th March, 2024 with two workshops taking place in the Talbot Hotel, Wexford. The interactive workshops will cover what there is to see and do in County Wexford and how to promote same. It is free of charge and is open to participants from B&Bs, hotels, restaurants, pubs, taxi companies or volunteers on tourism initiatives in local communities.



A delegation comprising the management team from Failte Ireland are visiting Wexford on the 7th and 8th November staying in Clayton White's Hotel. This is the second group to visit the County in the last month. Visit Wexford and WCC are utilising this as a marketing opportunity to promote the county.

Local Enterprise Office

National Women's Enterprise Day 2023



On Thursday 19th October almost 100 female entrepreneurs, women in business and female-led businesses from across County Wexford gathered in Newbay House Hotel Wexford to celebrate **National Women's Enterprise Day 2023**. Key note speaker on the day was Wexford town native, **Theresa Grant OBE**, who previously worked with Wexford County Council and the Irish National Heritage Park as manager before moving to several management roles in England. Theresa's story of delivering high-value outcomes for communities and local governments across the UK and working on diverse projects such as the Sydney Olympics and the Commonwealth Games provided inspiration and compelling listening.



Pauline Dunne of Killowen Farm, who is this year's **Women's Enterprise Ambassador for County Wexford** also spoke at the event.



Pauline shared her story of growing a small family dairy farm to a major producer of both yogurt and cream cheese. She gave inspiration and encouragement to businesses of all sizes in the room. Also speaking on the day were Deborah Brock of Nua Fertility and MC Rosemary Lyons of Brightspark Consulting – both sharing their stories of success and challenges. Feedback from the day was very positive, with new members of the LEO Women In Business Network recruited, and a call for more networking events to be held.

As Chair of NWED 2023 national committee, Wexford County Council's Head of Enterprise & Economic Development, Breege Cosgrave, supported the national LEO communications team in the run up to and on the morning of the event when she was interviewed on Morning Ireland. With 14 events nationally (local and regional), NWED received extensive coverage for the event through a National Photocall in Dublin, Partnerships with Ireland AM, The Journal and Silicon Republic along with sponsorship of the Goss.ie Women of the year. Ireland AM also featured NWED on 4 occasions in the leadup to the event including a live broadcast from a Dublin NWED event on the day.

The National Ploughing Championships

In September, the LEO network hosted an Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships, showcasing over 30 LEO clients from around the country. Wexford's client representative was award winning business Holos Skincare from Enniscorthy. LEO staff were on hand to assist with enquiries from small businesses from around the country.

Blás na hEireann

On 29th and 30th September fourteen Wexford food producers, shortlisted from thousands of entries across the country competed for the Blás na hEireann Food Awards in Dingle. This year 11 Wexford food producers took home an array of gold, silver and bronze medals from these awards. Wexford LEO sponsored an "Eat Wexford" stand in the Food Village at Blás where finalists had the opportunity to display, sample and sell their produce meeting both domestic and international food buyers.

Blás na hEireann Winners 2023:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| • Furlong Family Butchers Ltd | Gorey | Gold |
| • Irish Country Meats | Enniscorthy | Gold, Silver & Bronze |
| • Killiane Castle Honey | Drinagh | Bronze |
| • Killowen Farm | Enniscorthy | Bronze (x2) |
| • Naturally Cordial Ltd | Enniscorthy | Silver & Bronze |
| • O'Neills Dry Cure Bacon Co | Enniscorthy | Silver & Bronze |
| • Ryans Bakery Wexford Ltd | Wexford | Silver & Bronze |
| • Scup Gelato | Kerlogue | Bronze |
| • Trudie's Kitchen Ltd. | New Ross | Silver |
| • Wexford Home Preserves | New Ross | Gold & Silver |
| • Zanna Cookhouse Ltd | Wexford | Silver & Bronze (x2) |

Sustainability

Making Sustainability Happen Seminar

On 16th November, LEO Wexford is holding a regional seminar and information event in Wexford County Council aimed at encouraging businesses to take the first or next step to improve their sustainability credentials. The MC, Eanna Ni Lamhna, an Irish biologist, environmental consultant, radio and television presenter with a profound passion for sustainability, will guide attendees through the event, featuring speakers Ankush Shirsath from Enterprise Ireland, Amanda Stewart, CEO of the High Performance Building Alliance and Green Cluster co-ordinator for the South East. Guest speakers Simon Lynch, Wicklow Wolf Brewery, Catherine Murphy Brady, Brady's Coffee and Michael Griffin, Griffin Group, will provide insights into the practical steps they have taken to incorporate sustainability into their very unique businesses.

Funding supports from a broad range of agencies will be outlined on the day, including the **Energy Efficiency Grant** launched in May by Minister Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Enterprise Trade & Employment. The grant which is administrated by LEO and provides grant aid of 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of €5,000. The LEO team and sustainability mentors will be available on the day to support companies to apply for same. There will also be a launch of the Green Cluster at the Business briefing with companies operating in the Green Economy.

LEO National Marketing Campaign Promoting Efficiency Supports

A national marketing and lead generation campaign was launched in September to increase awareness and highlight the range of efficiency and competitiveness supports available from Local Enterprise Offices. The Campaign “**All in a days work**” is due to run to the end of November initially. The campaign is running on national radio, national print advertisements including the Irish Times, Independent, Business Post, Examiner and Sunday Times. The campaign will also run on YouTube Pre-Roll and VOD, Display & Programmatic Advertising, promoted social posts on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. It has also been supported by a PR push by Enterprise Ireland’s PR agency to maximise media opportunities. Wexford LEO is currently following up on leads generated by the marketing campaign and converting this interest into participation onto the Lean, Digital Start and Green for Business Programmes.

National Winner for Wexford: SME Pharma Company of the Year



Biostór Ireland based in Kilrane Business Park, a client of LEO Wexford recently won the ‘SME Pharma Company of the Year’ at the Pharma industry awards in Cork. Biostór Ireland are Ireland leading EU-licensed cell bank/biobank that offer certified storage and worldwide distribution of biological materials for scientific research and clinical applications. They store life-saving products such as bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cells and lymphocytes for transportation. They also store highly controlled human biospecimens for clinical research and the advancement of cures. They employ the latest cloud-based sample management systems for the administration of international, multi-centre clinical trials, in addition to offering expert guidance in the standardization of sample donation, procurement, processing, testing, preservation, storage and cold-chain distribution.

TOWN REGENERATION

The Regeneration Unit was established on the 31st October 2023 and resides under the Economic Directorate within the Town Regeneration Office

The Unit consists of the Town Regeneration Officer, Vacant Homes Officer(Croi Conaithe) and an Assistant Staff Officer. Given the synergies between the roles of Vacant Homes Officer and Town Regeneration Officer it was decided to amalgamate both functions and create a Regeneration Unit within Wexford County Council. As we now have a more concentrated focus on Regeneration and vacancy activation through various Government programmes it was agreed to realign these roles into a new “Regeneration Unit”

This Unit will initially be focused on progressing Town Centre First objectives along with Vacant homes objectives with a strong focus on Regeneration within the County.

Both New Ross and Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plans are now complete and the New Ross pathfinder Town Plan has now been forwarded to the DRCD. Both Plans have been reviewed by the National Town Centre Office and positive feedback has been received on both. We are currently procuring designers to professionally design these Plans prior to local and National Launch.

The Town Centre First Teams are meeting Monthly in both Enniscorthy and New Ross developing ideas and contributing to the finalisation of Plans and discussing how best to progress the interventions outlined in their respective Plans.

Discussion is ongoing at National Level on future Town Centre First Plans for more Towns and Villages with details expected to emerge on this in the coming weeks.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 23rd of September 2023 until the 27th of October 2023.

No. of valid applications	142
No. of invalid applications	19
Extension of Duration	4
Exempted Development Declaration	8

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2023 until the 27th of October 2023

No. of valid applications	1,151
No. of invalid applications	151
Extension of Duration	26
Exempted Development Declaration	59

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 27th of October 2023

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2023	284
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2023	290
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 27/10/2023	125
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	55 days

Pre-Planning Event was approved by the Planning SPC for 29th November 2023 on The Street at County Hall.

Major Pre-Planning Data 2023

- Meetings Held 51 No.
- Proposed Commercial Development 60,447 sqm. approx.
- Total No. of proposed Housing Units 765 units approx.

Building Control (23rd September 2023 – 27th October 2023)

• Validated Commencement Notices:	59
• Number of Building Control Inspections:	32
• Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion:	17
• Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts	01

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 27th of October 2023 are as follows:

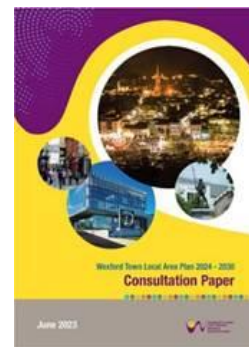
• Live Cases	362
• Cases Opened from 1 st January 2023	196
• Cases Closed from 1 st January 2023	164

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The report on the pre-draft consultation stage is currently being completed. The report will provide an overview of the public consultation undertaken, and a summary of the issues raised in the 73 submissions and observations that were received.

Work on the Infrastructural Assessment Report continues. This is a significant piece of work which requires a review of all lands in the plan area to determine if the lands are currently serviced or could be serviced during the plan period. The outputs of this assessment will be an important consideration in the spatial planning and approach to land use zoning in the Draft LAP.



The Social Infrastructure Audit is nearing completion. The audit, which is also a significant piece of work, will provide the evidence-base to identify where there is a current under provision of social infrastructure/spatial deficits. The outputs of the audit will be an important consideration in determining future social infrastructure requirements, and in the spatial planning of the town including the implementation of the 10-minute town concept.

The Local Transport Plan is progressing well with the Baseline and Context Reports almost complete. Work has commenced on the Options Report.

The Pre-draft Consultation Report, the Social Infrastructure Audit Report and the progress on the Local Transport Plan will be discussed with the Members of the Borough District of Wexford at a special meeting to be held on Monday, 20th November 2023.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also underway. The consultants have carried out their initial review and walk over of the town. They have also been informed of flooding events that occurred during recent weather events.

The tenders received for the Urban Design Strategy (including Master Planning) and the Rainwater Management Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy are currently being evaluated.

Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the Local Area Plan. The Planning Section is also working with the Active Travel Team on the evaluation of tenders for the Local transport Plan which will inform the plan.

Submissions

The Forward Planning Section prepared submissions in response to the public consultation on the Draft Sustainable and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning authorities and the South Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Designated Maritime Area Plan Proposal.



Wexford County Development Plan Monitoring

The implementation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, which was made by the Members of Wexford County Council on the 13 June 2022, is a key strategic focus for the Council. The Council is required to monitor the implementation of the plan for a number of reasons including to:

1. Monitor the effects of implementing the plan under the SEA Directive.
2. Monitor the implementation of the Core Strategy as required in the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities; and
3. Ensure that the objectives of the plan are met as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The Chief Executive must also submit a report to the Members on the achievement of the objectives of the plan two years after the plan is made.

The Forward Planning Team are in the process of setting up a system to monitor the various elements of the plan and have also commenced gathering monitoring data.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 23rd September 2023 to 27th October 2023 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website on 19th September 2023.
- 26 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 2 properties entered onto the Derelict Site Register - Section 8(7) Notice.
- 8 Section 8(2) Notices issued and posted on properties.
- 8 Section 11 Notices issued and posted on properties.
- 2 Section 22(1) Notices issued – Notice of site valuation for levies to be charged.
- 5 Dangerous Structure Notices issued – Section 3(1)
- 7 files closed (1 Dangerous Structure file and 6 Derelict Site files)
- 35 new Derelict Sites files opened.
- 2 new Dangerous structure files opened.

Built, Cultural & Natural Heritage

Community Monuments Fund

Wexford County Council received capital funding totalling €200,000.00 for works at Tellarought and Mountgarrett castles. Following a procurement process contractors were appointed and works have now been completed at Mountgarrett and are near completion at Tellarought. In addition the council is also assisting a community group with the processes for conservation works at Barrystown Mine through the Community Monuments Fund and these works are also nearing completion.



County Heritage Plan Scheme funding

Wexford County Council received funding from the Heritage Council for the following projects under the County Heritage Plan scheme: A phase 1 audit of the historic church and graveyard sites of Co. Wexford (€17,850.00), and a conservation management plan for St. Nicholas' of Clonmines (€12,915.00). The phase 1 audit of historic church and graveyard sites is complete and the conservation management plan for St. Nicholas's is nearing completion.

Historic Towns Initiative funding

Wexford County Council has received funding from the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the undertaking of a heritage-led regeneration plan for Enniscorthy totalling €40,000.00. Following the procurement process, a consultant has been appointed and this project is now at draft stage under review by the heritage section.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund

Wexford County Council received €25,000.00 in grant funding through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023 for the undertaking of a Phase 2 Wetland Survey following on from the Phase 1 survey in 2022. This project is now complete. Funding was also received to produce a Tree and hedgerow Strategy for Co. Wexford and following a procurement process consultants have been appointed and this process is on-going. A barn owl booklet is being produced by Birdwatch Ireland in conjunction with five other local authorities under this fund, and this will be available for distribution throughout the county in the coming weeks.

Irish Walled Towns Network

Wexford County Council received €80,000.00 in capital funding from the Irish Walled Towns Network for conservation works at Wexford Town Wall, in the Bride Street and Ropewalk car parks. These works have now been completed and the wall is fully conserved and accessible to members of the public.



Planning CSO Returns 2023

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

Month	Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	Apartments incl. Self- contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	One-off Houses
January	50	3	26
February	15	1	17
March	154	30	33
April	156	89	16

May	65	30	26
June	6	2	25
July	155	16	22
August	14	22	28
September	12	9	22
TOTAL	627	202	215

* Figures to 30 September 2023

- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use

Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 27th of October 2023 are as follows: -

- Live Cases **11 (2020 to 2023)**
- Cases Opened since 1st January 2023 **3**
- Cases Closed since 1st January 2023 **12**
- Inspections Carried out **4**

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2023 up to and including 27th of October 2023, totals **80**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	11	1	2	8	0
Gorey	23	0	4	18	1
New Ross	9	1	2	6	0
Wexford	20	0	3	16	1
Rosslare	17	1	0	15	1
2023 Totals	80	3	11	63	3

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	69
Major Pre-Planning (from 1st January 2023)	10


Water Services



1. Rural Water Programme

Water Services



1. Rural Water	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<p>➤ Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole. ○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution. ○ Communication has been received from the Dept. regarding reallocate funding to nitrate monitoring. ○ Group Scheme Committee is in discussions with Employer's Representative TJ O'Connor's and Contractor EPS regarding obtaining a detailed quotation for the proposed nitrate monitor installation at the WTP. ○ GWS received quotation, meeting to be arranged for November to discuss progression with EPS
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<p>➤ Blackstairs GWS</p> <p>➤ There has been little movement on the proposed works as the scheme lost their manager and had some issues at the plant, they have had an interim manager in place.</p> <p>➤ Acting Senior Engineer WCC facilitated on recent interview board, new manager to be appointed 1st December 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage Tank - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants. ○ A report has been provided and assessed. ○ Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution. ○ GWS have reviewed and discussed at committee and have confirmed they are agreeable to recommended option. ○ Currently engaging suppliers and contractors regarding obtaining a quotation for the installation of a bypass with prv. ○ Reservoir Bypass -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works. ○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information. ○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December. ○ The Dept. have approved request for increased funding. ○ The Group Scheme, Employer's Representative (TJ O'Connor's) and contractor (EPS) have all been informed of the Department's decision and are progressing with the proposed works.

	<p>➤ Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulk Meter Installation – Contractor David Walsh attended site to install bulk meter at Limbrick Junction, within Break Pressure Tank compound on 28th August 2023. Civil works completed satisfactorily on Wednesday 30th August. ○ David Walsh specialist operative attended site to install electrical components within the BM kiosk. ○ Works complete, WCC engineer recommended GWS to complete payment to Contractor.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<p>➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. ○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites. ○ Update given to Dept. on progress to date. ○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000. ○ Amendments were made to scope of SI and project re-tendered; submission closes 2nd June. ○ SI re-tender completed; 3 submissions received are currently being reviewed. ○ IGSL Ltd awarded contract ○ ROL submission progressing by IGSL and submission to the RMO imminent. ○ In tandem, Archaeological investigations have been carried out at both proposed pumping stations sites. ○ Archaeologist is satisfied all in order and that no further involvement by Archaeologists on the project is expected. Received no issues. ○ WCC have engaged with contractor requesting a detailed programme of works, among other items
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme. ○ WCC staff attended the NFGWS annual conference in September. Principal Officer from the Dept. assured us that an announcement would be made shortly.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<p>➤ Individual Well Grants</p> <p>➤ CLO attended workshop with members of the Dept in September. Dept were seeking input for the updates to measure 8 in the new round of MARWP.</p>

	<p>➤ We are hopeful following our input that grant amounts will be increased for water treatment and new supplies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 36 new well grant applications were registered in October 2023. ○ 14 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €26,049. ○ 60 inspections carried out in October. ○ Workflow prototype has been developed to final stage – due to staff shortages IT have not been able to finalise yet.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 ○ Submissions requested from all local authorities. ○ Deadline 15th September 2022 ○ Matrix was constructed for Priority funding. ○ Limited to two applications ○ Feasibility studies submitted to the Department for Ramsgrange and Glynn for review by expert panel. ○ Further information regarding the option for Glynn was requested from the Dept. which has been submitted. ○ No update from the Dept.
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6 applications received to date on revised grant, 3 paid, 2 approved, 1 awaiting further documents. ○ 1 application received in the month of October

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Ground Investigation on-site works are expected to be completed next week.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- Archaeological Geophysical Surveys has started and are progressing well.
- Additional Topographical Surveys have started and are progressing well.
- The overall design of the development is substantially completed. Departures from standard applications has been submitted to TII for approval.
- The revision of site selection report of Service Areas is due to commence. It is a requirement that the Project demonstrates compliance with the revised TII Service Area Policy 2023, Climate Action Plan 2023 and other revised/newly published policies at Local, Regional, National and International level.
- Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports required by the TII's Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines is ongoing.
- Engagement with the ESB/EirGrid, Irish Rail, Gas Networks Ireland, Irish Water and other stakeholders is ongoing.
- Preparation of the Periodic Report in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding is ongoing.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

- An Bord Pleanála has approved Planning Application for the development of N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road. The decision was made on the 4th October 2023 and was received by Wexford County Council on 6th October 2023.
- Currently, the project is in the standstill period of 8 weeks from the date of when the decision was made.
- At the end of the standstill period, and if there are no objections to An Bord Pleanála's decision, the Project Team will be finalising the Phase 4 deliverables and processes and will be seeking TII's approval to progress to the Phase 5 of the Project.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2022 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme

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

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

Pavement works commenced in May and were substantially completed by 16 June. Line marking was completed by the 30 June.

2022 Safety Schemes

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,590,000)

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

Works commenced on 23 May 2022. The roundabout is substantially completed.

Works outstanding:

Landscaping works to be completed in October, subject to weather conditions.

N30 Ballymackesy – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €23,000)

Retexturing Works was tendered in June with works arranged for week ending 2nd November.

2023 Pavement Schemes

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 2 - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme has been tendered and is under review now. Construction is expected to commence in early 2024.

N25 Orristown to Ashfield Cross Pavement Scheme - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme is being designed at present with expected tender in November. and construction to commence in 2024.

HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly Pavement Scheme – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost is €1,000,000).

This has been tendered, the contractor has been appointed, construction expected in March 2024.

2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations

Wexford County Council has applied for additional maintenance funding from TII in 2023.

This includes a section on the N30 at Moneytucker, which has been tendered with construction expected to be completed in Quarter 4 2023.

Wexford County Council secured additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11 and N25.

Verge and hedge cutting is completed on sections of the N11 and N25. A section of the M11 at Scurlocksbush roundabout and the Frankfort junction were included and completed.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since 25 December 2021. A preliminary meeting was held with the consultant on site in January. Design report due in September.

Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

- R772 Tinnock to Gorey (1.4km)
- R723 Rosbercon (0.8km).

Funding of €500,000 was received for the R772 Tinnock scheme, amounting to 50% of the scheme. A consultant has been appointed to look at the possibility of including a cycle facility as part of the scheme.

This allocation will be assigned to Rosbercon R723 as a former National Road currently under design. This is currently out to tender.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 14 February 2023 to be €22,811,650. This allocation included €1,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage and €1,500,000 for the Deeps Bridge remediation works. The strengthening programme received an additional €822,816 allocation on 3 July 2023.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2023 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 25 January 2023 at Bucks Bridge, Ballindaggan.

Roads resurfaced in the last month were:

Raheenahoon; Coolgarrow; (Enniscorthy MD); Esmonde Street; Carrig Ballythomas; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Brocorrow; Nunnery Lane; Ballagh/ Templeshelin/Old Court (New Ross MD); Forth Mountain; Brownes Castle Taghmon; Cower Road Carne; Tullycanna to Racks Cross; Kisha; Bridgetown North; (Rosslare MD) Johns Gate; Rowe Street; (Wexford Borough MD).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in Enniscorthy District at Tomanoo, on the 12 June. The surface dressing programme is complete.

Community Involvement Schemes

€502,650 was allocated in 2023 for 7 roads.

6 Roads complete at present as follows: Madoran and Ballinure; (Both in Enniscorthy MD); Glen Lane; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Nook Lane; (New Ross MD); Rowestown Lane & Lannagh/Grange Lane; (Rosslare MD).

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Wexford County Council was allocated €610,000 to repair 17 bridges in 2023.

9 bridges are complete at; Tomgarrow Bridge & Carley's Bridge; (Both in Enniscorthy MD); Boley Upper Bridge; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Kings Bridge, Cullenstown; Newcastle Bridge; Ambrosetown Bridge; (Rosslare MD); Abbey Bridge & Barmoney Bridge (New Ross MD); Badgers Hill Bridge; (Wexford Borough MD).

Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. Both are submitted for Part 8 Planning and it is hoped work will commence early next year.

Wilton Bridge in Enniscorthy District - Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 30 June 2023. The bridge was repaired to its original form of masonry arches. Repair works are expected to be completed and the road opened 17 November.



Wilton Bridge Repairs 21 September

Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March 2021.

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. All concrete repairs are complete. Steel painting is ongoing to the steel part of the bridge. There was a substantial increase in the number of concrete and steel repairs required. This led to the temporary road closure being extended from 31 August to 17 November. It is anticipated the works will be fully complete by the end of November 2023.



Deeps Bridge 1 November 2023

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council was allocated €682,000 for 15 projects in 2023.

8 projects are complete, and the remainder are in progress.

Local Improvement Schemes

€411,705 was allocated to County Wexford in Round 1, 2023. A second allocation of €619,230 was received 28 July bringing the total to €1,030,9354 for 2023.

All 21 lanes have been resurfaced.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Pathfinder Project

Newtown Road

The sod turning on the Newtown Road Cycle Scheme will take place on the 7th of November followed by construction commencing on site. The tender for this project was awarded to Glas contractors who will mobilise to be on site. The expected duration of the construction phase will be nine months. The project will result in the delivery of protected cycle paths and footpath upgrades on both sides of the road from the Maldron Hotel to the Racecourse on Newtown Road.

Following on from this first phase of the Newtown Road Cycle Scheme, the second phase will include the section from the Racecourse to the Hospital Junction with Newtown Road/Beechlawn/Clonard. This is currently on public display as a Section 38 and went live on the 27th of September. The closing date for submissions has now passed and the intention is to bring the proposals before the Elected Members in the November Council meeting.

The third phase will be the junction outside Wexford General hospital – the junction of the Newtown Road with Carriglawn/Beechlawns to town, terminating at Wygram. This section of the route went to Section 38 earlier this year and received the approval of the Elected members.

Roxborough Cycle Scheme

The proposed cycle lane upgrade in **Roxborough** has now moved onto Preliminary design following approval from the NTA to develop the preferred option as part of the options assessment process. Consultants DBFL are now working with the Active Travel team to prepare documents to proceed to Part 8 planning towards the end of 2023.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

Construction outside St. Mary's National School Rosslare is well advanced resulting in reduced car parking in front of school, improvements to walking infrastructure and safe crossings of the public road, all with the aim of encouraging more walking to school and less car dependence.

Contractors are currently on site and making good progress.

WX/21/0015 Safe Routes to School - Scoil Naomh Abbain, Adamstown National School – works are well underway and approximately 95% complete. Significant improvements have been made to footpaths, reduction of parking to the front of school and introduction of pedestrian crossings. Planting will take place in newly created green areas when the weather improves. Planting will assist in holding on to surface water run-off and releasing it slowly to the drainage network, thereby reducing flood risk in times of heavy rain.



Scoil Naomh. Abbáin, Adamstown – works outside front of school

St. Aidan's, Enniscorthy, Safe Routes To School scheme is also well under way with works the school to enhance the environment for pedestrians, thereby encouraging more walking to school. Many people live within walking distance of the school, and it is hoped that these safety measures will encourage less car dependence for short journeys and will lead to less congestion around the school zone.

Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy ABTA – The successful tenderer has been identified and communications are underway with the NTA prior to engaging the consultants to initiate the assessment.

Wexford Town ABTA is currently underway by Atkins Consulting Engineers and at Options Development stage. A meeting with the Planning Department of Wexford County Council was held in late October to examine proposals and findings in relation to the Options Development and Baseline reports. Since these reports will ultimately feed into the development of the Local Area Plan for Wexford.

Public eBike sharing scheme



Bolt eBike at County Hall

On the 6th of October the Cycling and Walking Officer in conjunction with Sports Active gave several demonstrations on using eBikes for Active Aging week. This course was particularly aimed at older adults who were returning to cycling after some time and for those who needed to gain confidence again to cycle on a public road. Demos were held in County Hall which allowed participants a safe place to cycle to familiarise themselves with the eBikes. This course was well received and well attended. It was delivered as a result of requests received from those who attended an ALL-Adult Literacy for Life programme in Wexford town library which focused on using the technology behind the bikes.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

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

Design works are completed.

A plan will be put in place to upgrade the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years.

Lighting stock should be fully LED by the end of 2024.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting will be installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund in 2023.

- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch. Lighting design completed with tenders under review.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – Lighting design complete and contractor appointed for works to commence in November.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove to regional road. Lighting design completed and contractor appointed for works to commence in November.
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road. 2 quotations received. Contractor appointed and works to commence in November.
- Wexford Town - Kennedy Park. 2 quotations received. A contractor has been appointed for these works and works to commence in October.

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

Work has commenced on 3 National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP) contracts across the country. This is leading to a delay in getting our Development Fund lighting contracts designed, tendered and completed.

Gorey Town Park


The public lighting to the walking track was completed in June.



Housing Supply


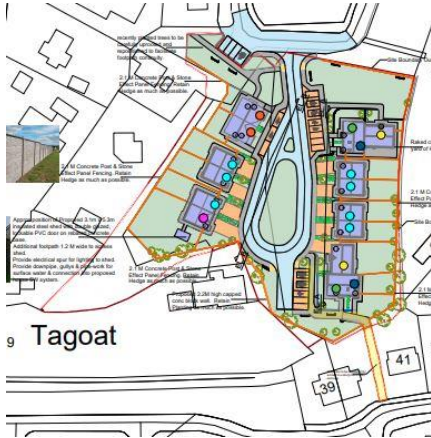
Capital Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings to complete in 2023	23
Dwellings to complete in 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025	75
Dwellings Funded to complete 2026	124
Dwellings to be funded in HFA	15
Dwellings in Design	179
Affordables	90


Dwellings Complete under Housing for All in 2022				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District		
Carleys Bridge	17	Enniscorthy		Dwellings complete in Feb 2022
Carley's Bridge, Enniscorthy 17 Dwellings				
Glentire, The Ballagh	7	Gorey		Dwellings complete July 22
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare		Dwellings complete December 22
Glascanny	1	Wexford		TAP Dwelling complete June 22
Total	48			

Dwellings Under Construction to complete 2023				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Status	Comment
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete in Q4 2023.
Whiterock Hill Phase 1				
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Complete	Complete June 23
Total	23			
Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024				
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. To Complete 2024.
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction commenced June 23. To Complete 2024
			Rosetown Phase 2, Rosslare	
Dwellings to complete in 2023				
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced April 23 To Complete 2024

Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow) To Complete 2024
Ballyhine, Wexford		 <p>3 Oct 2023 09:30:31 County Wexford</p>		
Total	54			
Dwellings to complete in 2025				
Wexford Street	30	Gorey	Under Construction	Commenced on site July 23
Francis Street	2	Wexford	SS Approved	Part VIII approved September 23. Tender November 2023
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete. Stage 3 and Tender in Q4 2023.
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Stage 2	Tenders Received 22 nd September. Stage 4 to DHLGH and expect to contract by end of 2023. DB contract.
Tagoat, Rosslare				

Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Combined 1 and 2	Design Build tenders due November 2023.
Total	75			
Funded Projects for delivery 2025 - 2026				
Rosbercon	50 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Invasive Species removal progressing to complete in 4 weeks. SI and Surveys programmed for Dec 23. To proceed as a DB contract
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Stage 3 and tender documentation for submission Q1 24 subject to Part VIII approval. With ABP re EIAR awaiting outcome Nov 23.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monomolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Submit Part VIII August 23.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding application Q4 23.
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII and funding application Q4 2023
TOTAL	124			


Dwellings yet to be funded in Housing for All Programme				
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Archaeology nearing completion. Other appointments will follow Archaeology report. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q4 2023
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Demolitions complete. Pre Planning complete. Funding application to DHLGH Q4 2023

Adamstown				
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. Part VIII lodged August 2023 SS Submission Q4 2023
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Lodge Part VIII Application Q4 2023
TOTAL	15			

Projects in Design

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment
Clonard	40	Wexford	A proposal has been submitted by a neighboring developer. Pre Preparing Q4 23. Part VIII Q1 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 35 social dwellings received. Assessment underway.
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys Q4 23
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief
The Lyre	75	Enniscorthy	Site Investigations and surveys in Q1 24
TOTAL	179		

Affordable Dwellings

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tenders received Sept 23. Tenders being assessed. Contract Q4 2023.
 <p>Ramsfort Park, Gorey</p>			
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 70 affordable units received Oct 23. Assessment underway.
TOTAL	90		

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Projects at Planning Stages

1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

The Planning Department in collaboration with Special Projects has developed a strategic plan for Enniscorthy town centre, which was adopted at the Enniscorthy MD meeting in December 2022.

Regeneration works to the Market Square, Enniscorthy Castle Quarter and Templeshannon will form part of the Call 4 URDF application expected in Q3 2023.

The Part 8 process for Market Square and town centre street enhancement was commenced on 4th October 2023, which was designed by Moloney O’Beirne Architects & Roughan & O’Donovan Consulting Engineers. Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project has now also commenced and it is intended to submit a Part 8 planning application for this in Q1 2024.

ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This masterplan will be completed in time for the forthcoming URDF application.

ILLUSTRATED VIEW 01

VIEW FROM CASTLE STREET INTO MARKET SQUARE SPACE



1.2 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:

Phase 1 – Forth Mountain Activity Park, Trails and Carpark is complete.

The activity centre building was lodged for Part VIII planning in March 2022. In response to a request from An Bord Pleanála for further information relating to the project was completed and submitted to the Board. The Part VIII planning application was withdrawn in October 2022. A process to procure a consulting team to prepare an EIAR and prepare a planning submission to ABP is now required.

The part VIII for the proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site was approved by WCC in February 2023. Tenders for works were received on May 31st and have been assessed. Contract award is subject to confirmation of funding.



1.3 Gorey District Park

The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public.

The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a contract awarded. The Changing Places unit will be on site for the first week of December & completion is expected before the end of December.



1.4 John Street Building Regeneration Project, New Ross

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement and the CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are appointed and undertook a preplanning meeting for the building in February, with the Concept Design Report being presented to the New Ross MDC at the May meeting. Preliminary design is ongoing with Part 8 expected to commence in December, subject to the outcome of a screening for appropriate assessment and Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment.

1.5 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.

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2024.

Hook Lighthouse

The tender competition for interpretative design services for the Hook Lighthouse was advertised in February with closing date for tenders on 30/03/23. Tandem Design have been identified as the successful tenderer and have been formally appointed.

The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be issued in Q1 2024 as part of the framework created for architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the preliminary design will be completed in 2024 and submitted to ABP in Q2 2025.

New Ross Tourism Project

Tenders for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience have been received and a contract awarded to EPIC Design, based in Dublin who have completed the detailed design for the development. The procurement for works will take place shortly. Installation and fit out works on this project are planned to be completed by Q2 2024.

Tenders for the Interpretive and exhibition design of the Norman Visitor Centre have been completed and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Preliminary Design on this will begin in the coming weeks.

A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment now complete. Tenders will be invited from shortlisted candidates in November for the Norman Centre project, with award of contract anticipated in January 2024.

1.6 Esmonde Street, Gorey

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans, with works expected to commence on-site in January 2024. €2m of own funds is committed to the Esmonde Street project. The scope and phasing of this project is currently under review.

1.7 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project was paused, pending the publication of the All-Ireland Rail Review. The draft report issued in July 2023 appears to promote reopening of the train line in future.

The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced as part of the Wexford Town to Rosslare greenway project.

1.8 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Co 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 ongoing. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022. It is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q1 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is likely to happen in early 2025.

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works that have been carried out over the past two years by Irish Rail. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q1 2024, with an expected Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.



Route Options with Viewing Points for bird surveys.

1.9 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

In May 2021, outline proposals for the Old Dublin Road were presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District. This was followed by a public consultation process in late June on the draft plan. The masterplan was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC's October meeting. The initial phase 1 works commenced in July/August 2022 and are now substantially completed.

An application for further funding has been prepared and submitted to the NTA, in conjunction with the Roads & Transportation Section, for the active travel elements of the masterplan. No funding was forthcoming for 2023.

1.10 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

Priority Geotechnical Ltd. is appointed to carry out the marine and land-based surveys and boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the May 2022 and the site investigation work is complete.

Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited. An application to the Marine Foreshore Dept., was submitted in December 2022, for permission to carry out benthic grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted.

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in Q1 2024.

1.11 Crescent Quay – Dredging

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete and results have been assessed. Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

1.12 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. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. Further ‘top-up’ funding has now been being sought under the LSSIF scheme and it is intended to retender the project in December 2023.

1.13 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

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

Following the tender process for design services in Jan 2022, Neville Conroy Architects was appointed. Surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023. It is planned to tender for works in November 2023 with works to commence in early 2024.

1.14 Ferndale Gymnasium, Wexford:

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tender period ended on 4th September. Tender assessment is ongoing.

Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site, following confirmation of €100,000 in grant funding through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023.

1.15 Adoration Convent Wexford

Part VIII is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. A design team appointment has been approved by GSU and preliminary design and associated survey works are underway. It is intended to tender out these works out in Q1 2024 with works to commence in Q2 2024.



2. Projects Under Construction

2.1 South East Greenway

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glás Civil Engineering and works are now complete.

Fencing, public lights ducting and temporary car parks works for the greenway section from New Ross to Glenmore, i.e. Phase 1, are complete.

Phase 1 of the South East Greenway - New Ross to Glenmore was officially opened on the 25th of July 2023.

The process to procure replacement technical advisors for the completion of the Southeast Greenway project has commenced. The first consultancy contract for a technical advisor to act in the role of Employer's representative for the works contract lot 5A has been awarded to Roughan and O'Donovan.

The second appointment will be for a technical advisor for all remaining components of the Southeast greenway project. Lot 4 – Mount Elliot will be their first priority to complete and issue for tender. It is planned to issue this service contract for tender in November.

The works contract tender for Lot 5a – Ferrybank to Curraghmore (5.5KM) was advertised in March. Tenders have been received and assessed and the contract has been awarded to Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. The works will commence on site in nearly November.



2.2 Trinity Wharf

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2nd March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Works are ongoing on site with completion expected in Q4 2023.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The preferred tenderer is identified, and the standstill period has expired. The formal appointment of the design services consultant is imminent.



2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park – Oil Tanks Site

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 complete in July 2021.

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023.



2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

The works contract for essential maintenance works at the Mechanics Institute has been awarded to Roger Doyle Contractors and works commenced on site in January 2023.



Completion is expected in December.

2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford

A Part VIII submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site, including the construction of a temporary surface level car park. The Part VIII was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting. A further Part 8 submission has been made for erection of a temporary performance structure and public realm area, instead of a surface carpark.

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

The demolition contract was awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd, with works on the initial contract for the old Tesco site now largely complete. WCC has also agreed an extension to the main works contract to undertake the demolition of the former Dun Mhuire Theatre, which is now complete.



3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

	Project	Date Delivered
1	Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1: Trails & Carpark	2021
2	Enniscorthy Technological Park, Phase 1	2021
3	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy Active Travel, Phase 1	2022
4	Gorey District Park	2022
5	Min Ryan Park	2022
6	Wexford Arts Centre Extension	2022
7	Monck Street Enhancement Scheme	2022
8	New Ross Fire Station	2022
9	High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross	2022





4. Flood Defence Schemes

4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Statutory Process - The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie. Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy.

Flood Defence Scheme – The project baseline data is to be updated, scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. It will then be necessary to decide on the most appropriate planning route for the scheme. The hydrology and environmental baseline data is currently being updated; ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q4 2023.

New River Slaney Bridge - It is intended to obtain planning consent for the construction of the new bridge as phase 1 of the flood defence scheme. The baseline data is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q4 2023. The planning application is to be submitted in Q1 2025.

A flood event occurred on the 24th October 2023. WCC's Flood Plan was activated. River Level gauges upstream were monitored, WCC crews were on standby, and sandbags were ready for deployment. Fortunately, flood levels receded on the 25th October, residential and commercial properties in the town were not flooded by the river on this occasion.

4.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for engineering and environmental services for the Wexford Town & Environs contract was signed by WCC and Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd on 23rd March. Officials from the OPW, the sponsoring agency for the scheme, including the Minister Mr Patrick O'Donovan, attended. A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will be fully funded.

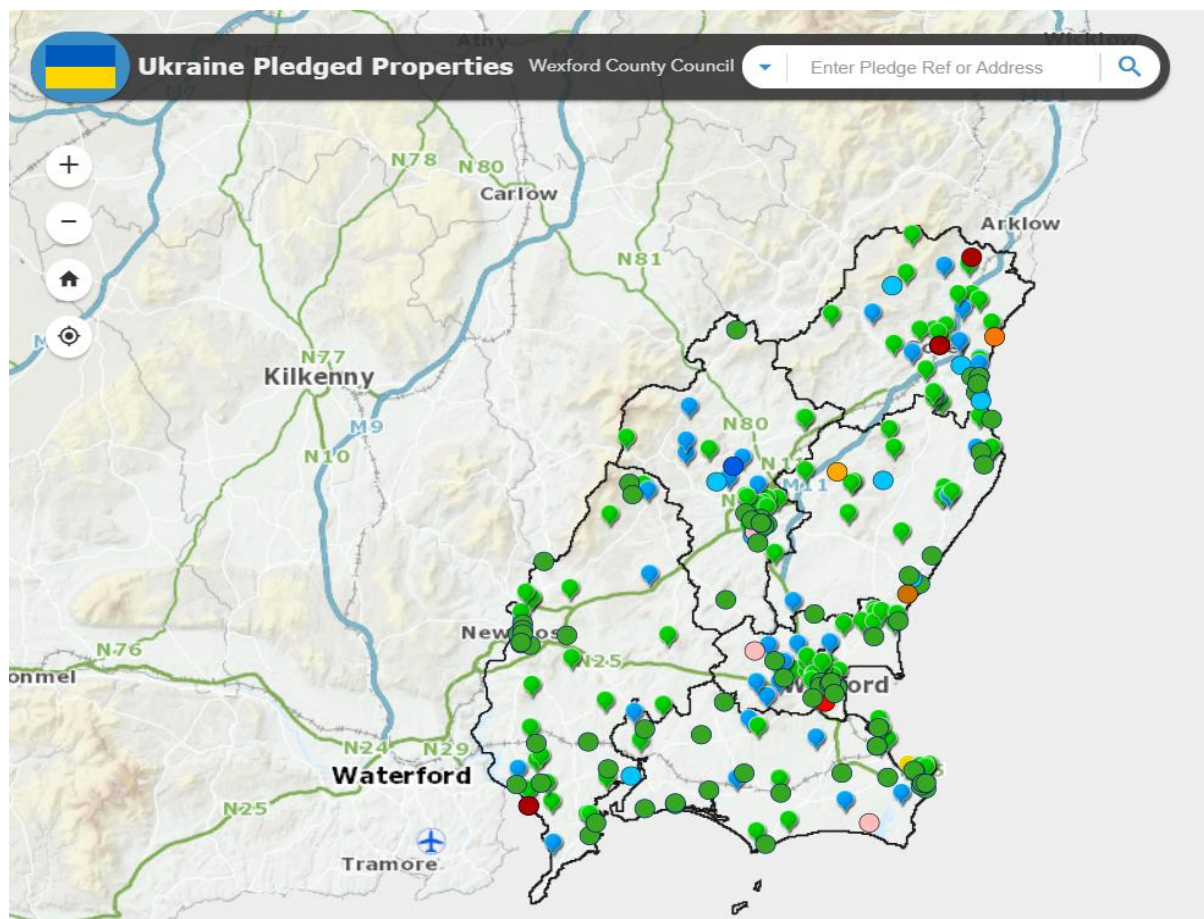
The appointment includes flood risk modelling; assessment of options for flood prevention; preliminary design; the preparation of planning and other statutory consent applications; detailed design; tendering for works contractors and construction management services. The first project Steering Group meeting was held on the 17/10/23.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

Offer a Home

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas. To date some 160 properties have been allocated, housing 555 Ukrainian people who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTP's).

Below is an infographic showing the location of both Offer A Home properties and Irish Red Cross pledged properties currently housing Ukrainian people (BOPT's) in Wexford.



Irish Red Cross (IRC) Pledged Accommodation

The Team also assists Ukrainian families in pledged accommodation. There are 60 IRC pledges accommodating 205 Ukrainian people.

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The next meeting of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum will be held on the 15th November 2023. The Forum has been asked to review the initial Terms of Reference to incorporate the work of the Local Authority Integration Team and future meetings of the Forum will include this new remit.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS OCTOBER, 2023

Type	
Freedom of Information	7
Customer Complaint	12
Ombudsman Complaint	3
Access to Information on the Environment	3
Data Access Request	1
Total	26

PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

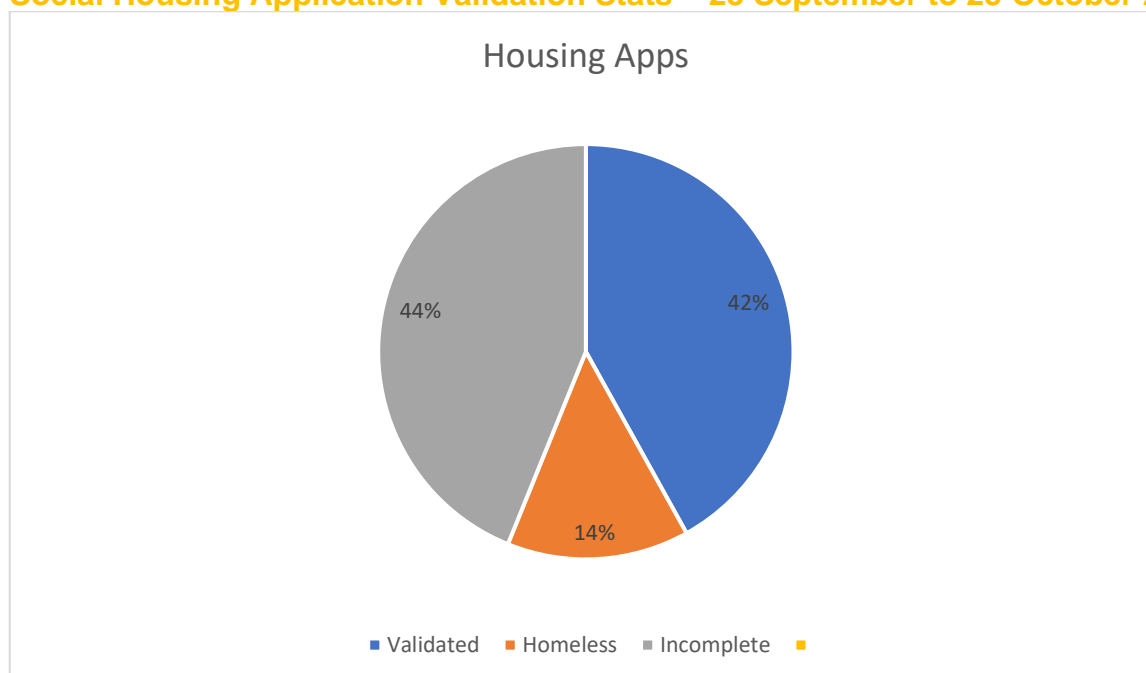
Tenders from 1st October, 2023 to 31st October, 2023

No. uploaded	11
No. of tenders received	20

CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 25 September to 25 October 2023

Area	25 September to 25 October 2023
Phone Calls	6226
Environmental Complaints	306
Change of Circumstances	97
Housing Validation	155
Quick Calls	3775
Roads Fault Log	103
Emails (Received & Sent)	3860
Web Updates / Consultations	84
Newspaper Adverts	73

Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 25 September to 25 October 2023



Members Portal Queries by Section – 25 September to 25 October 2023

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Community	0	1	1
Customer Service	1	1	2
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	4	4
Enterprise and Tourism	1	0	1
Environment	3	8	11
Finance	0	1	1
Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	2	2
Housing	27	84	111
New Ross Municipal District	0	1	1
Planning	1	4	5
Roads	0	3	3
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	1	22	23
Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD	2	19	21
Roads – New Ross MD	0	2	2
Roads – Rosslare MD	0	5	5
Roads – Wexford MD	0	5	5
Water – Rural Water and Well Grants	0	1	1
Wexford Municipal District	0	2	2
TOTAL	36	165	201

Communications-

Top Performing Posts

Vinegar Hill Works



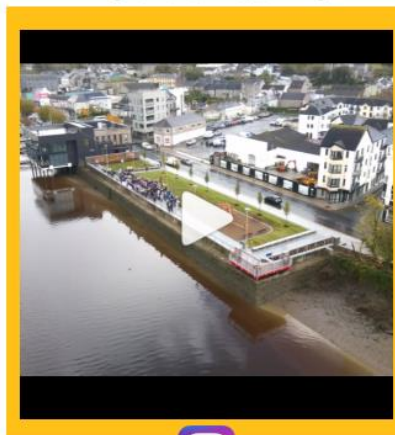
14.4K views

Flooding October B/H



74,730 Impressions

Emigrant Park Opening



2.1K views

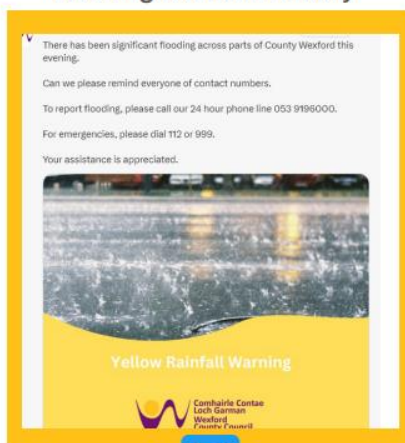
Top Performing Posts

Recruitment



10.5K views

Flooding Oct Bank Holiday



20,115 impressions

SLA - Wexford FC



1.2K views

Monthly Social Media Stats



PAGE REACH

47,417

PAGE VISITS

12,837

PAGE FOLLOWS

7,868

NEW PAGE LIKES

103

NUM OF POSTS

46



PAGE REACH

3,887

PAGE VISITS

798

PAGE FOLLOWS

2,716

NEW PAGE LIKES

123

NUM OF POSTS

46



IMPRESSIONS

319K

MENTIONS

N/A

NUM. OF TWEETS

N/A

PAGE FOLLOWERS

14,277

PAGE VISITS

N/A

NEW FOLLOWERS

183

We're working on improvements to analytics.twitter.com. In the meantime, you may see some metrics are missing. You can access your Tweet Analytics and download reports [here](#). You can try the new version of account analytics beta [here](#).

Monthly Social Media Content

- Bolt Bike Demo
- Sports Energy Support Scheme
- Halloween Fest (FDYS)
- National Radon Forum Cork (Healthy Wex & Library)
- Halloween Costume Swap Event (Environment)
- Vinegar Hill works
- Healthy Wexford Mental Health post
- Climate Action - Draft Plan
- Arts Exhibition - Irish Gothic
- Water posts re WCC Responsibility V Uisce Eireann
- EOI - Enniscorthy Christmas Market Vendors
- Comhairle na nOg AGM
- Fire Safety Week
- Age Friendly - Social Dancing
- Storm Babet Weather Warnings
- National Women's Enterprise Day
- Conservation Works - Bride Street & Ropewalk, Wex
- Climate Action Team - Talks in Libraries
- Local Authority Estates Competition

- Road Closure for Fireworks
- Recruitment
- Water Notice - Wexford
- EOI - Supply of Social Housing & Development Land
- Enniscorthy Community Allotments
- Emigrant Park Opening
- Weather Warnings - Bank Holiday Weekend
- Water Services crew working on major burst.
- Humanitarian Assistance Scheme
- SLA with Wexford FC



Monthly Engagements

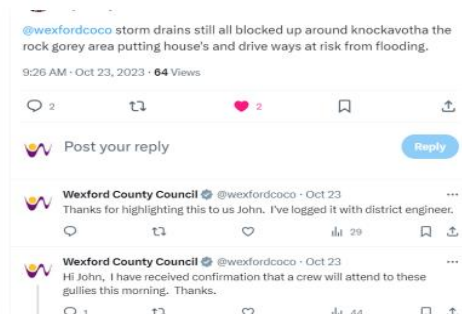
TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.

Can you confirm Wexford County Council only handing out sandbags in emergency only?

What preparations are been put in place to stop flood water spreading from the Cinema car park onto Redmond road. Over the weekend surface water was flowing from the exit close to the boat club onto the road. In the planning permission no surface water was to flow from the car park onto Redmond road. This area suffered flooding in 2004, with local residents observing water flowing from this entrance onto Redmond Road. Will 1 ton sand bags be placed across the entrance to prevent the flooding?

Replying to @DeptRCD @HHumphreysFG and @wexfordcoco
€1 million but the viewing area doesn't have a side ramp for ♿ access?? In a popular tourist area that prioritises access just a few metres away... how was this cleared?

Query to Dept but Wex CoCo tagged



Press Releases October 2023

- Tuesday 3 October - NEW CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES WEXFORD BUSINESSES TO SAVE TIME MONEY & ENERGY
- Wednesday 18 October - Statement Re Article titled "Murphy in High Court Battle with Co. Council" carried in today's New Ross Standard (and others)
- Thursday 19 October - National Womens Enterprise Day Wexford 2023
- Friday 20 October - University Campus Site To be Delivered
- Monday 23 October - Making Sustainability Happen
- Thursday 26 October - Minister Heather Humphreys performs official opening of The Emigrant Park, New Ross
- Friday 27 October - IRISH GOTHIC - an exhibition by artist Patricia Hurl open at County Hall
- Monday 30 October - Minister Heather Humphreys officially opens new Geodesic Dome Training Centre and Sensory Garden

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexford-county-council-press-releases-2023>

Press Queries October 2023

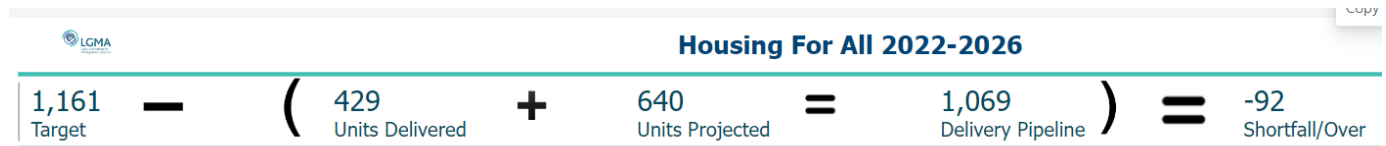
2 Press Queries received in October. 2 responses issued.



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,161 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below.



It is the Councils intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists and Department funding is available.

The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report. All below are currently under construction (except*). The report details 600 approved units of which 514 are currently on-site and under construction. A further 490 units have received support.

Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. There is currently an Expression of Interest open which is due to close on the 24th November, 2023. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Project Address	No of Units	Unit Profile	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross 2 (includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2	2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2023
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	ESB resolved -Road's issue. To deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q1 2024

Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Mangan, Hollyfort	2	2 x 3-Bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q3 2024
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q3 2024
TOTAL	152			

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	4 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd	12	6 x 3-bed 6 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	6 to deliver Q4 2023, 2 to deliver Q1 2024, 2 to Deliver Q4 2024 2 to Deliver Q1 2025
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	4 2-bed 6 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units Delivered Q3 2023 2 units to deliver Q4 2023
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered Q4 2022, 2 units to be delivered Q1 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 2-bed 2 2-bed apt 4 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units to deliver Q2 2024 2 units to Deliver Q1 2025
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	2 x 3-bed 7 3-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. Amendment to planning permission being sought. To deliver on phased basis from Q4 2023.
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delays on site To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	62			

Approved Housing Body Delivery

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cluid				
Bridgemeanows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024
Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q3 2023
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	86	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q2 2026 (to commence imminently*)

Beechfield, Clonard	50	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2024
Tuath				
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q2 2023
Ramstown, Gorey	74	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units Delivered Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q2 2024. An additional 6 units will also deliver Q2 2024
Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)				
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units delivered Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q1 2024
TOTAL	386			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 490 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	164
Gorey	100
New Ross	43
Rosslare	38
Wexford	145
Total	490

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 31st October 2023:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 st – 31 st October 2023)	185	117	183	197	131	813
Repair Requests Year to Date	1351	907	1463	1468	972	6161
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 31 st October 2023)	145	92	126	144	91	598
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	1052	712	1048	1084	685	4581

CLOSED Repair Requests (1 st – 31 st October 2023)	105	65	112	128	77	487
CLOSED Repairs Requests Year to Date	967	579	984	951	638	4119

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

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022 was the second year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets set by the Department for Wexford to date.

Department Targets for County Wexford	
Year	No of Properties
2021	54
2022	68
2023	51
Total	173

The range of works undertaken in the properties include external wall and attic insulation, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting, high efficiency boilers, and upgraded heating system and controls. All properties received a minimum of a B2 BER rating after the works were completed.

Of all targets, the Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 37 properties in 2022. We propose to complete the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value the grant funded works planned for completion in 2023 will exceed €3.1 million.

The following table shows the status of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program to date.

Status update January to October 2023	No of Properties
Properties completed	97
Works Ongoing/awarded	56
Tender Stage	23
Tender Preparation Stage	8
Survey Stage	65
Total	249

Properties current at survey stage will be tendered and awarded in Quarter 4 2023 and Quarter 1 2024 to allow us to upscale delivery in line with department objectives and have work in progress or ready to commence in January 2024. We are current approaching candidate properties for our 2024 program with surveys to commence in Q4 2023.

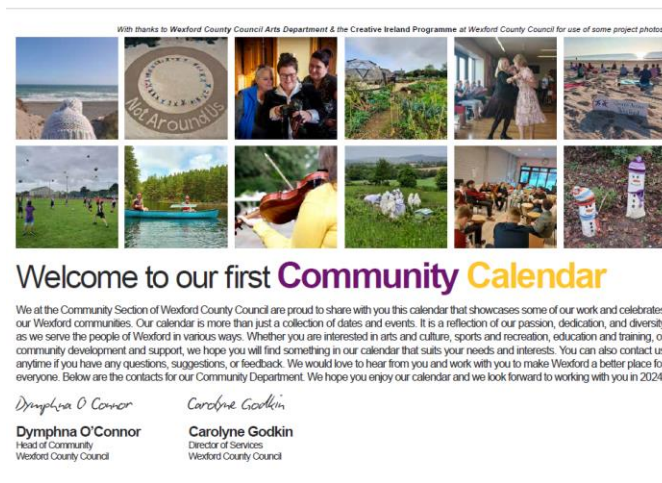
Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Status update January to October 2023	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	Contract awarded
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – Windows and Doors	Contract awarded
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	Contract awarded
Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford District 1offs	Tender Evaluation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Calendar

Our first Community Calendar is currently in print and due for delivery in early November. This is a joint initiative by all areas of the Community team, showcasing our collective work and celebrating some of our Wexford communities.



It highlights all the various elements of the Community & Sports Active team's programme of work, provides contact details, signposts various events during the year and promotes some key messages.

Once printed, the calendars will be available for distribution and can be collected by contacting any member of the Community team. We can provide a number of calendars to the members for distribution to their community groups as requested.

Wexford County Council Community Section Supports & Key Contacts

Community Section
 community@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0427
 @wexfordcoco
 @wexfordcommunitydevelopment

Annette Dupuy
 Healthy County Coordinator
 annette.dupuy@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0525 | 087 606 5505
 @healthywexford
 @healthywexford
 @healthywexford

Ann Marie Laffan
 Sáimcraí Healthy Communities
 Local Development Officer
 annmarie.laffan@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0560 | 088 833 4136

Fran Ronan
 Local Sports Partnership
 Coordinator
 fran.ronan@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0557 | 087 952 6236
 @sportsactive
 @sportsactivewex
 @sportsactivewexford

Niamh Bolger
 Age Friendly Programme
 Manager
 niamh.bolger@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0380 | 087 351 1457

Tara Farrell
 Traveller Interagency Group
 tara.farrell@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0500

Susan Murphy
 Comhairle na nÓg
 susan.murphy@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0520

Stephen Forbes
 Rural Grounds
 stephen.forbes@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0370

Ian Ludlow
 PPN Coordinator
 ppn@wexfordcoco.ie
 053 919 0553 | www.wexfordppn.ie
 @wexfordppn



2014 – 2022 LEADER Project Claims

23/09/2023 – 26/10/2023

The Article 48 team processed 6 claims in October under the 2014 – 2022 LEADER Programme.

The value of these claims was €102,995.37 which will support 3 community groups and 3 enterprises throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid:

Clongeen GAA Community Gym	€22,339.50
----------------------------	------------

Payment Processed:

Kilmore GAA	€48,513.12
Regan Organic Produce	€3,322.50
3 Counties Energy Agency	€5,850.00
Tara Hill Community Development Association CLG	€8,856.00
Shane Stafford – Willow Lake	€14,114.25

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The Annual AGM of Wexford Comhairle na nÓg was held on 13th October in Council Chambers of County Hall with over 120 young people from secondary schools and youth organisations across county Wexford attending the event.



Comhairle na nÓg, which provides young people a forum to discuss issues that affect them and to elect their own representatives to act as a voice for the youth of County Wexford.

The AGM which also included elections for new members in 2024. The Community Development department look forward to working again with Wexford Comhairle na nÓg in 2024.



Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP)

Coolcatts Wexford Drumming Workshops

Drumming workshops have been taking place in the weeks leading up to the Halloween Festival with the young people in FDYS youth service in Coolcatts. On the 31st October the young people will be performing on stage with Extreme Rythm. This project was funded by Creative Ireland and supported by Slaintecare Healthy Communities. The aim of this project is to help tackle anti social behaviour in the area and to raise awareness of this local youth service.



Taghmon Camross Community Car

Taghmon Camross Community Car, an initiative funded by Slaintecare Healthy Communities is now up and running in the parish. This volunteer run service will give users who cannot drive or have no access to transport access to a driver and car that will enable them to stay socially connected and get to appointments such as medical appointments. Phone 089-2780126 to make a booking.



Enniscorthy Community Allotments (ECA) launch & Sculpture workshops with Imogen Stafford

The culmination of consultation with Enniscorthy Community Allotments committee members and allotment owners and meetings with students and staff from Kildalton College which led to an innovative design of a sensory garden for the allotments was unveiled by Minister for Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphries on 26th October at a joint launch of the sensory garden and the new geodome.

Great to have Laura Cassin, lecturer from SETU and Teagasc speak at the launch on the importance of linking education in with community projects. One of the students from Kildalton College, Philip Brennan designed the sensory garden as part of his course work.

Added to this area shortly will be sculptures from the Creative Ireland funded and SHCP supported workshops which are currently underway every Saturday morning at the allotments led by artist Imogen Stafford. Another example of how Enniscorthy Community Allotments continues to develop and grow and the important link with community education.



HEALTHY WEXFORD

Healthy Ireland Round Four Funding Progression



Healthy
Wexford

Work continues on a number of the Round 4 Projects including the Age Friendly Wexford - Lets Get Moving Project and the Healthy Home Environments Information Sessions with Campile Area Development Group

Planning and programme development for the Women's Health Through The Ages continues, with the aim of rolling out the programme in early 2024.

Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

The Healthy Wexford supported Meet Your Neighbour series continued in October, with events in Taghmon & New Ross. To see photos of the events from the host groups visit:

Taghmon: <https://tinyurl.com/4mabsepr>,

New Ross: <https://tinyurl.com/3rsaemsz>

November events are planned in Killanne on 10th November and Gorey on 15th November.

The Department of Health supported Period Dignity Project continues with all funded partners providing spend updates in September and budget management continuing to maximise spend and reach of the initiative.

This initiative provides free period products, for those that need them, in public bathrooms Libraries, at County Hall and in Family Resource Centres across the county.

Following the pilot in Summer 2023 we are now reviewing the Happy to Chat Café activity. Business feedback has been sought but we are also engaging with the public to determine if the initiative was deemed beneficial with a view to further extension of the initiative.

To support world Mental Health Month the Mental Wellbeing Working Group of the Healthy County Committee agreed to have a stand of mental health information in County Hall. This was supported with information from local and national agencies and was maintained by our Healthy County Coordinator.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR EVENT

Come have a cuppa

[illegible]

On World Mental Health Day a short reel of the Mental Health Signage at Wexford GAA Clubs, which was supported by Healthy Wexford, Mental Health Ireland, HSE Connecting for Life (South East) was shared on Healthy Wexford Social Media.



Our Healthy County Coordinator has represented Healthy Wexford at a number of launches and events recently including the following:

Our Healthy County Coordinator facilitated at the recent Wexford Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference at Wexford County Council. This event also highlighted the work undertaken by the young people with the 'Not Around Us' initiative.

Our Healthy County Coordinator and a Library Colleague attended the National Radon Forum in Cork on 4th November, where the work of Wexford County Council – both through Libraries and through Healthy Wexford was highlighted.



A Healthy Ireland Planning Session took place in Galway recently and was attended by the Healthy Ireland Coordinators from across Ireland and the Local Authority based Slaintecare Local Development Officers.

The event included address by Department of Health Officials and Minister Hildegard Naughton, Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing, and the National Drugs Strategy.

Our Healthy County Coordinator attended and exhibited at the Health & Wellbeing Day in Bunclody, organised by the Engaging Communities team from Wexford Local Development.



In addition to connecting with the public this event provided the opportunity to network and connect with other local agencies focusing in the Bunclody area.

Community Recognition Fund

Total of 8% of the fund has been drawn down to date, with an estimated further 20% in process of being accessed, for works part completed to date. Most projects are in the tender stage or yet to start; with some not scheduled to commence until early 2024, due to onsite issues or requirements for further funding.

Projects completed this period:

Enniscorthy District - Special Needs Bicycles: 3no. special needs bikes purchased.

Ministerial Launch of 'The Dome Training Centre' at the Enniscorthy Community Allotments

Successful launch of the Enniscorthy Community Allotments Dome Training Centre and Sensory Garden, by Minister Heather Humphreys, Department of Rural and Community Development, 26/10/23. Over 60no. persons attended, with coverage from local media, radio and Press Release to national media.

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/supports-grants-and-awards/community-recognition-fund/minister-heather-humphreys-opens-the>



Riverchapel Freecycle Shop

The Riverchapel Community Free Cycle group, led by Aine and Liz Byrne, came together over the last 15 months and have experienced so much growth from where they started from. They have developed from a simple group of friends, of a local Ukraine to community, to now reaching upwards of 70 no. cross-community families each week. They aim to help people better themselves by providing a Freecycle shop, distributing donated clothes, toys and household essentials; educational courses such as first aid, computer skills and English classes, and providing meals and social meetings. The group are being supported by the Community Recognition Fund in procuring new clothes racks, storage bins and administrative laptops and computer software, to increase their capacity in doing their incredible work in helping the local community.



Sports Active

Menowell

Menowell programme continues throughout Oct. This 6-online programme which includes workshops, live exercise classes and programmes will finish up on the 31st of Oct. This programme is run by EduFit and supported by Healthy Wexford. Currently 371 women have signed up.

Playground Leaders

Nine Playground Leader Courses were conducted in the month of October. The schools included Screen Ns, Naomh Maodhog, Ferns, Cushinstown Ns, Feathard on Sea Ns, Monaseed Ns, Our Lady's Island, Scoil Mhuire, Rathagan Ns, Ballindaggan Ns and Scoil Mhuire, Roslare. Approx 180 children have participated so far.

Positive Aging Week - Scooch Tournament

SAW in collaboration with Men's Shed Wexford, organised a Scooch Tournament on Monday the 2nd of November in St Joseph's Community Hall. 16 men participated from different Men's Sheds, Ramsgrange, Mayglass and Wexford Town. Frank Fahey from FIT Walk Ireland made a guest appearance and all participants enjoyed sandwiches and a cup of tea to finish off the event.

Positive Aging Week – Bolt Electric Bike Taster

SAW in collaboration with Wexford Coco, cycling officer Claire Goodwin organised a Bolt Electric Bike Try Out in County Hall on Friday the 6th of October for Positive Aging Week. Georgina Gaul, Sheilbaggan Outdoor Instructor carried out the cycling demonstrations. Education information regarding utilising the Bolt Bike app was also carried out. 16 participants attended.



Yoga Autumn Series

A yoga Autumn series programme finished during Positive aging week on Wednesday the 4th of Oct in partnership with Wexford Town Library. This four-week programme has had 10 female participants sign up along with additional numbers on a waiting list.

Strong and Steady - Coolcotts

On Wednesday the 4th of October SAW in partnership with the HSE started Strong and Steady in Coolcotts Community Centre. This is a 20-week falls prevention programme for older adults. HSE Physiotherapist leads the first 6 weeks and SAW staff and Tutor then take over for the final 14 weeks.

Age Friendly Awards- Judges Visit

The Strong and Steady programme has been shortlisted for the 'Active and Healthy Ageing Award'. The judges visited on the 2nd of October and the Award Ceremony will be hosted on the 30th of November.

Positive Ageing Week – Photo Map Orienteering

SAW in partnership with Orienteering Ireland organised a 'Photomap Orienteering' event in Wexford town on Wednesday 4th October. 12 participants took part over either the short course (2.0km) or long course (4.3km) equipped with maps and photographs of landmarks around Wexford town.

Positive Ageing Week - Health Checks Wexford Library

SAW in conjunction with the HSE and Healthy Wexford provided Physical Health Checks in Wexford Library on the 5th October. Physical fitness measures were taken and participants were given their scores compared with their aged-matched normative values. Participants were provided with an exercise advice booklet and a dietary advice thanks to HSE dieticians. There were 16 participants, 14 female and 2 male.

Residential Nursing Home Exercise Classes

Tuesday the 17th October saw the start of a 9-week exercise programme in 4 nursing homes being run by SAW in conjunction with Age Friendly Wexford (Kerlogue, Knockeen, Cherrygrove and Castlegarden)

This will continue until the 14th of December.

Activators

A six-week activators programme was delivered in Wexford Library. Ten women attended the programme along with an additional 5 participants on the waiting list.

A 3-week programme was delivered in Castletown GAA in conjunction with the GAA Healthy Communities Club. The programme concluded on October 19th with 13 participants attending; 12 female and 1 male.

A taster session was delivered for the New Ross Active Retirement Group on the 6th of October. There were 56 participants in attendance; 22 males and 34 females.

Inclusive Adapted T.Y Module

SAW has begun delivery of an inclusive adapted module for transition year students in Our Lady of Lourdes on the 4th of October. The module covers different types of disabilities, assessing suitability of facilities in their local area, adapting games and sports tailored to different abilities. The module takes place over 6-weeks.

Health and Well-being Event

SAW will attend a Health and Well-being event in Bunclody on Thursday 26th of October to showcase the inclusive activities we deliver and also to connect with locals in the area.

Teenage Girl Adventure Programme

A teenage girl adventure programme for girls in Direct Provision centres began on Saturday 7th of October. The programme is delivered over three days;

Day One; Carrickbyrne Hill – learning flora/fauna, map reading, leave no trace.

Day Two; Curracloe Beach/Ravenwoods – Climate action, sound mapping by an artist and musician.

Day Three; Min Ryan Park & Creative Art Centre; the girls will complete a collage of their memories and of the programme.

10 teenage girls are attending the programme. Programme was funded through Creative Ireland.

Traveller Women's Exercise Groups

A traveller women's exercise group started in New Ross on the 25th of September for 4-weeks. Attendance ranged from 1 to 4 participants.

A 6-week yoga programme for traveller girls in Clonroche started on Monday 25th of September. The attendance ranged from 6 to 8 participants.

Syrian Community Exercise Group

A three-week programme was arranged for women in the Syrian Community in New Ross. However, due to unforeseen circumstances the programme has been rescheduled until next year.

IPP Badminton

An 8-week badminton programme started on Tuesday 10th of October for individuals in Cedar Lodge and Slaney Manor Direct Provision Centres. The attendance for this programme ranged from 23 participants to 32 participants. So far 19 females and 13 males have registered with Badminton Ireland.

Social Soccer

A 6-week social integration soccer for Slaney Manor and Cedar Lodge began on Thursday the 19th of October in Barntown FC.

Safeguarding 14 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 1196 participants.

1 x Safeguarding 4 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 35 participants

Staff Pilates

SAW Tutor June Molloy is running a 4-week Beginner Pilates programme in Wexford County Hall for Wexford Coco staff. This programme started on the 18th of October with 10 participants registered.

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 25 projects under this scheme with total construction cost of €1.79m. A number of the projects are completed, some are ongoing and some are about to commence. Note that WCC must pay all non-construction costs including design, environmental reports etc.

Operations -

The regularization of the public lighting system on the Barrow is ongoing, new lights have been fitted to Marshmeadows access road and Jetty. Further lighting upgrades on the site have commenced in September to facilitate new business activities.

A new traffic management system and weighbridge upgrade is due to commence in October / November.

KIMO AGM was held in Falkenburg Sweden 4th – 6th October, Wexford County Council was represented. KIMO have tentatively enquired about Wexford hosting the next international board meeting in May 2024.

Beaches –

Bathing water: weekly bathing water samples ended on 3rd September. The water quality results are published on beaches.ie website. There were 6 water quality incidents – at Courtown (2 no.), Carne, Duncannon, St Helen's and Baginbun. These incidents were followed up with investigations and discussions with HSE.

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works. Design and tender works for the access path are ongoing, with the works expected to go to tender before the end of the year..

Coast -

The Environment Dept monitors the coastline regularly, focussing on erosion risk areas.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being finalised. The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries. Public consultation days will be held later in 2023.

Seaview, Kilmore: Preplanning application was submitted to Wexford CC Planning Dept in August 2023, with application for full planning permission to follow. Preplanning meeting was held with Planning Dept on 29th August. A planning application will be submitted over the coming weeks. Further correspondence was issued to OPW in order to progress the funding of the scheme.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The application is now under consideration by the DHLGH.

Kilmannock Drainage Scheme – this is a land reclamation and drainage scheme dating from mid 1800s; draining approx 1,000 acres of land near the Great Island Power Station. Maintenance works including the installation of new outlet valves on the drainage channel were installed in early August 2023. Site inspections have confirmed that the operation of the drainage scheme has improved significantly since the valves were installed. This will be monitored closely over the coming months.

B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Public Conveniences	Open	Comments
Slade	All Year	
Dunncannon	All Year	
Cullenstown	All Year	Painted June 2023
Kilmore	All Year	
Carne	All Year	Painted June 2023
Bunclody	All Year	
Rosslare Strand	All Year	
Ballyconniger	Seasonal	
Ballineskeer	All Year	New Beach Wheelchair shed now installed.
Curraclloe	All Year	New Adman steel shed installed for beach wheelchair
Min Ryan Park	All Year	Recently Painted – June 2023
Vinegar Hill - Dryloo	All Year	
Carrigfoyle	All Year	Anti-Vandal Steel Container delivered 18 th October
Morriscastle	75% of Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	Universal Access Toilet (UAT) to open Monday 23 rd July, External shower installed, completion works include concrete pad for beach wheelchair shed
Baginbun – Portaloo's	All Year	Percolation Test carried out 29 th June 2023
Cahore – Portaloo's /Dryloo's	All Year	Portaloo's now re-located beside bottle bank.
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

Cahore to receive 3 Dryloo's similar to what was installed in Vinegar Hill last year. Dryloo's have now been delivered to site and will be assembled soon. These are to replace the temporary portaloo's.

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

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

2. Water Sampling:

A Total of 344 water quality samples are taken by Council Scientists from 78 sampling sites in the county per year with analysis carried out by the EPA. 8 surveillance sites are being sampled 8 times per year.

3. Septic Tank Inspections:

139 inspections were carried out in 2022. Wexford had a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2023. 88 inspections have taken place up to the end of September with 45 passes and 43 fails. A further 30 inspections will take place in October/November of 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 62 files have been closed during 2023 so far. 25 extensions of time were granted in 2023. There are currently 57 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 29 open for 2023, a total of 86 open cases. 62 files have been closed in 2023.

Twenty one applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date of which sixteen have been processed/ have been sent for payment. It is understood that the grant to support improvement works on registered systems will be increased from 5K to 12K from 1/1/2024.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2023
2019	156	48	108	11	3
2020	111	38	73	6	4
2021	91	24	67	17	9
2022	139	50	89	14	27
2023	88	45	43	29	14

There are currently 10 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 2 of these are for hearing and 8 are currently for mention.

10 verification inspections were carried out in April 2023 on sites which have Advisory Notices open over 2 years.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 92 active Discharge Licences. Six new applications have been received in 2023 to date. Three applications were received in 2022, two of which are under review and one was formally granted in March 2023. Six discharge licences have been revoked in 2023 at present and a few more are under review.

5. Air Quality:

Wexford County Council enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with Wexford County Council. These Certificates must be renewed every 3 years. On-going enforcement action is carried out to ensure sites remain certified. Wexford has a 100% compliance record in this regard for all 3 below categories in 2022.

Vehicle Refinishers: At end of 2022, 59 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is now the largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues “On the Spot Fines” of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below. The additional facilities were identified on foot of targeted enforcement action in 2022.

Dry Cleaners: At end of 2022, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below. Due to targeted enforcement action in Q3/Q4 of 2022, a new category of facility is due to be added to this register in Q2 of 2023.

Petrol Stations: At end of 2022, 80 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. Issued in 2023 (to end Aug)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	16	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	11	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	N/A

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

Wexford County Council is co-chair of this group, along with Waterford County Council. The WG produced two separate Guidance Documents for Local Authorities, including specific guidance on processing certifications for Petrol Stations under Stage 1b Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 1997 and Stage 2 Petroleum Vapour Emissions Regulations 2011. Stage 2 certifications for relevant sites is required to be implemented, as are significant changes to Stage 1b certifications for all sites.

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act 1987 (SOLID FUELS) Regulations 2022 was signed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Mr Eamon Ryan and came into effect on the 31st October 2022. Spot inspections have been carried out to ensure compliance with the 2022 Regulations.

6. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 65 farm inspections undertaken because of pollution incidents or complaints, 30 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon on 4 individuals where 2 of these farms were cross reported to DAFM.

A total of 95 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0
2023	46	19	2	0

7. Planning

Q1. Breakdown of planning applications referred from Planning January-March 2023 April-June 2023

Single dwellings	Commercial	Discharge/ glamping	Housing estates	Schools	Solar Farms	Sports	Agricultural	Compliance assessments
145	21	2	9	9	3	3	17	39
206	29	1	14	6	0	1	33	36

8. Water Quality

Water Quality in the South East – meeting of regional committee with a focus on agriculture

A regional meeting of government agencies with a role in water quality management or sectors potentially impacting on water quality met in Gorey, Co Wexford on Oct 5th 2023. The meeting was chaired by Wexford County Council and hosted by the Local Authority Waters Programme and Teagasc. Delegates met to discuss and work through issues raised by the agencies, that are impacting on water quality in the South East; including Wexford, as part of Irelands River Basin Management Plan. Over 55 people were present from 18 different agencies.

Key issues also raised were the continued decline in water quality within the region; the need for better oversight, including updating the register of Section 4's discharge licenses across the country; the need for a working group to be set up to focus specifically on coastal water quality and the shellfish industry; and better supports and focus for agriculture sector.

Opportunities: the meeting specifically focused on Agriculture and developing better ways to communicate with the farming sector including highlighting the following programmes:

- The new €60m National Water European Innovation Programme was highlighted where farmers will get payments to assist in addressing water quality issues on their farms. – more [information](#) is available from Teagasc.ie or by emailing info@lawaters.ie
- Recent changes in Department of Agriculture Food and Marine eligibility rules for accessing basic farm payments, were also discussed and how they will help address drivers resulting in biodiversity loss (such as the perceived need to remove river bank vegetation and scrub in areas of high nature value or where they are features protecting water quality or reducing flood risk). These are nature-based solutions providing important services protecting water quality downstream – more information is available from info@lawaters.ie or gov.ie

A field excursion was also organised by Teagasc to the Agricultural Catchment Programme farms in Ballycanew and the delegates talked first hand with farmers about the challenges that farmers face with the changes to derogation and other rules. This offered a great opportunity for the agencies and the farmers to better understand and develop strategies going forward that work to protect water quality and farm incomes.

D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites September 2023	Recycling out (End September) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End September) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles		2922	2757
Aluminium Cans		73	70
Total	108	2995	2827

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- Sept2022	Recycling out Jan - Sept 2023	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2022	Recycling out Jan-Sept 2023
Total Recycling out	462	467	502	498	668	605	391	382
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1894	2447	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Sep	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	78	78	112	117	108	147	84	83

2. 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, Rosslare and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	<i>To end Sept 2022</i>	<i>Sept 2023</i>	<i>To end Sept 2023</i>	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	1,945	163	1,713	-11.9%
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>35</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>46</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>14</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>57</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>11</i>		
Total Bring Site Inspections	6,736	798	7,669	+13.8%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>170</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>197</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>237</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>124</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>62</i>		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	13,248	1,641	13,435	1.4%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>544</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>1097</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	4,440	709	5,992	+34.9%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>112</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>204</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>130</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>218</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>45</i>		

Other Works are as follows.

- 1- Beach and lifeguard work
- 2- Black spot checks
- 3- Town inspections every morning
- 4- Trails maintenance
- 5- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep

3. Waste Facility Permits:

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

Altogether there are 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

4. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as submitted to the EPA on 28 February 2023. The 2023 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,597 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. 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, Mercury etc.

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three-year target and they are.

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

E LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-SEPTEMBER 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	162
Fines Paid in Full●	111	46
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	41
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	19
Legal Proceedings In Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	44
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€8,053.00 litter / €3,375.00 Waste – total €11,428.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€4,400

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices
- Fines paid in full- data excludes fines partly paid

July 2023:

Wexford County Council had 4 successful prosecutions in July 2023, two under the Litter Pollution Act and two under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2018. Total fines of €750 were awarded under the Litter Pollution Act and Legals costs of €500 awarded. Total fines of €300 under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws were awarded and €200 Legal costs.

August 2023

Court closed for the month of August 2023.

September 2023

One case adjourned for October 2023 for progress in relation to non-compliance with an Advisory Notice under the Water Services Act which was due for hearing. The Judge struck one case under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Act 2018.

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2019	2,925		741	
2020	3,187	Up 9%	628	Down 15%
2021	2,721	Down 15%	1,331	Up 112%
2022	2,188	Down 20%	1,023	Down 23%
2023			566	

The reduction in reported dumping incidents is also reflected in a similar decline in attendances by the Environment Clean Up Crew to incidents.

Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2023(September)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2023	162	20	1783
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

F. CLIMATE ACTION

The Climate Action Plan is required under the “The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.” The plan incorporates both mitigation and adaptation measures. It will also include the development of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) which will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford. Minister Eamon Ryan requested Wexford County Council to commence its Climate Action plan on 24th February 2023 with 12 months to prepare, complete and fully adopt the plan. The Plan will set an ambitious target of an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% and 50% energy efficiency by 2030. Wexford County Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing, facilitating and advocating others to meet their own targets.

The draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan went before the elected members at the October monthly meeting and approved for public consultation.

Wexford County Council will be requesting views, observations and recommendations for consideration on the draft Climate Action Plan from 10th October to 21st November 2023 through the online Portal or in writing to Climate Action Team, Environment Section, Wexford County Council.

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme funding scheme is due to open shortly to support and build low carbon communities across County Wexford. The fund is open to not-for-profit community groups and clubs.

Funding for 100% of the cost of a climate action project is available through this scheme, up to a maximum of €100,000. Project examples could be insulation of community buildings, solar panels, bicycle parking, rainwater harvesting, community gardens / allotments, etc.

Information evenings were held in each district to explain how the fund can work for communities and provide guidance on how to prepare an application:

Date	Venue	Attendees
19th Sept	Our Lady's Island Community Ctr	15
20th Sept	Gorey Library	23
21st Sept	County Hall	20
26th Sept	New Ross Library	14
28th Sept	Enniscorthy Library	23

Further details on the programme are available [here](#)

G.GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – Sept 2023
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	3365
Closed	4636	4853	5006	3409	2665
Closure Rate	98%	97%	97%	88%	79%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden and one part-time Dog Warden. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023 (February) – September)
Dogs collected	532	429	546	423
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117	96
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370	414
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51	25
Dog Fines	5	18	21	13

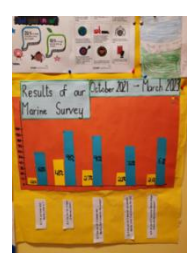
There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

To date in 2023 two horses has been seized.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: Preparations are underway for the 2023/2024 academic year. A green schools seminar covering all themes will take place October 3rd. 25 schools have registered to participate and the themes of Litter & Waste; Water; Biodiversity; Global Citizenship Litter & Waste; Global Citizenship Energy; Global Citizenship Marine; Global Citizenship Food & Bio will be covered at the online seminar which takes place from 5 – 7 pm.



School Workshops: Workshops for both primary and secondary schools are being organised for the 2023/2024 academic year. Workshops will cover topics on climate action, fast fashion, biodiversity and waste management.

Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition: The Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition received 90 entries from 50 community groups. All entries have now been judged. The winners will be announced at the annual Environment Awards on Monday 13th November.


Environment Awards: The annual Environment awards will take place on Monday 13th November in the Ferrycarrig Hotel.

Planting Grant: 84 applications were approved under the 2023 planting grant scheme and closing date for groups to redeem their grant was Friday 29th September. A reminder text message was sent out to all groups in early September.

Trees for Wexford: Applications opened for the Trees for Wexford Scheme week commencing 11th September with a closing date of 6th October @ 4 p.m.

Heritage Stewardship Fund/ Hedgerow Survey: An information talk took place on Saturday 23rd September at 2.30 pm in Wexford Library. The talk which was well attended explored the importance of the hedgerows in our landscape and their role in helping biodiversity in County Wexford. The talk shared some of the key findings of the survey, the species that make up our hedges, how they can be managed and protected for everyone's benefit.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups continue.

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/09/23 – 30/09/23	75
	01/01/23 – 30/09/23	886

Halloween Costume Swap Event: A Halloween Costume Swap event will take place in association with Sustainable Enniscorthy at the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. This event is being organised as part of Circular Living month and to promote reuse as a positive climate action that we can all do simply. Information will be circulated to all schools on Circular Living resources available at Mywaste.ie



Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: Promotion of the 'Bag It Bin It' campaign continues. Stencils have been provided to Enniscorthy Tidy Towns to support their dog fouling awareness campaign.



Green Dog Walker: The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website. Packs are provided to community groups for promotion at events. The Great Global Greyhound Walk took place in Gorey on 24th September and 50 green dog walker packs were provided.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Community and Culture

Wexford Festival Opera 2023, 24th October to 5th November

Wexford Branch Library contributed a wide programme of events to coincide with Wexford Festival Opera with poetry, lectures, an art exhibition and musical events.

Wexford Volunteer Centre – One Million Stars Project

Wexford Volunteer Centre brought the One Million Stars Ireland Project to Bunclody Library. This inclusive community arts project connects communities across Ireland in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence. Stars are woven from paper and represent light, hope and solidarity against violence, promoting the projects 8 points of healthy love within relationships. Stars are curated into the travelling 'LOVE' installation, spreading love and hope for a future free from violence for all.

Happy to Chat

The 'Any News' conversation group has been replaced with the 'Happy to Chat' initiative in Wexford library. A new pilot initiative to increase social engagement and reduce loneliness and isolation in the community, 'Happy to Chat' is supported by Healthy Wexford and Wexford County Council.

Wexford Volunteer Centre Information Sessions

These information sessions on volunteering continued in library branches over October.

'Animal Life'

Camphill Wexford Day Service mounted an art exhibition "Animal Life" in the foyer on of Gorey Library this month. The exhibition included several pieces created by service users in the local community.

My Open Library

My Open Library Service continues at New Ross and Gorey Libraries.

After an induction, members of this enhanced service can access the library on a self-service basis from 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Fully staffed library opening hours remain in place Monday to Saturday. During My Open Library hours, all library services are available, My Open Library users can use the study space, use a public PC or laptop, avail of printing services, the internet and Wi-Fi and borrow and return items and collect requests.

Sensory Friendly Hour

The Sensory Hour continued Saturday afternoons from 4.00pm-5.00pm. This hour supports library users, both adults and children who have sensory and/or extra needs.

Book Buddies

The second meeting of “Book Buddies”, an intellectual disability inclusive book club was held on Monday 9th October in Gorey Library. This club was launched in support of Down Syndrome Ireland.

Bunclody Day Care Centre

Bunclody Library staff visited the Age Action group in Bunclody Day Care Centre and gave an informative talk on all library services particularly digital resources.

Movies Memories

‘Movie Memories’ which is part of Gorey Library’s official Age Friendly Event programming took place on Monday 23rd October. As requested on the Age Friendly comment cards two analogue clocks were recently installed in the library.

The Nursing Home Project

Folklore collector Rachel Uí Fhaoláin hosted a special in-conversation event discussing old cures in Irish folklore in Gorey Library. The event included informative first-hand accounts from residents involved in The Nursing Home Project. The audience included residents and family members from local nursing homes.

Learning and Information

Digital Help Hub

The Digital Help Hub continued in October with Enniscorthy Library being one of the community locations. Digital Help Hub is an initiative of the ALL-Adult Literacy for Life national strategy. WWETB, WLD, and Wexford County Council Library Service have worked together to bring this Pop-Up initiative to County Wexford. WWETB tutors were available to help the public on a one-to-one basis. There were demonstrations on how to use devices such as phones, tablets and laptops, how to get online and use apps and how to access multiple services like eGov, MyWelfare, the National Childcare Scheme, Revenue, SUSI, Choice Based Letting and more.

Digital Ambassador Sessions

By appointment each week, Enniscorthy Library staff are available for half hour tutoring sessions, participants will be shown how to access the range of online library services, particularly BorrowBox which is used to download e-books and e-audiobooks to a phone, tablet or laptop/computer.

Each session will help familiarise participants on how to access the internet, assist them to download apps and help them participate in other online activities.

Digital Skills Class

Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly classes for the over-55s take place each week for older people in Enniscorthy and New Ross libraries. A WWETB tutor facilitates the classes.

Reach Ability

Currently four groups from the local Reach Ability programme visit Enniscorthy Library each week to use the IT suite and exchange books. A member of the Reach Ability community started a work experience block in Enniscorthy Library during October, for one hour per week over a nine-week period. The Reach Ability Group, Castlebridge attended the IT Suite in Wexford branch for classes over a six-week period.

Health and Well Being

Activator Poles Sessions and Yoga Sessions with Sports Active Wexford continued in libraries this month.

Local History

A total number of 26 local studies enquiries were responded to and a total of 22 genealogy enquiries were completed in Wexford Library in October.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Ukrainian English Classes continue in Wexford and Gorey branches. New weekly information, help and guidance meetings called Outreach to Ukrainian Families started in Wexford Branch this month. The Community Support Officer with Wexford Local Development held English language classes for Ukrainian adults twice weekly in Gorey Library. New Ross Library provided Outreach for Ukrainian Nationals each Monday during October.

Environment and Climate Action

Climate Action Plan Drop in Session

The public were invited to drop into libraries this month and talk to members of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Team in relation to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan.

A “Library of Things” – Circular Economy

A **biodiversity kit** is available to borrow from Wexford Library. The kit can be borrowed for up to three weeks and is free to borrow with a library membership card.

The **Home Energy Saving Kit** is available to borrow for two weeks with library membership card.

Digital Radon Monitor Loans Scheme:

New Ross Library supported the Healthy Wexford series of four programmes with Campile Area Development Group in October. As part of session 2, The Air that we Breathe, in Campile Hall on 18th October, the EPA spoke about Radon, and how it impacts the home and health. 18 Digital Radon Monitors were loaned to residents in the Campile area on the night from New Ross Library. Wexford Libraries are the first Public Library Service in Ireland to offer Digital Radon Monitors for loan and attended a seminar in Cork in October when the scheme was extended to Cork County Library Service. Digital Radon Monitors are currently available to borrow for free to library members in all five library branches in the county.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

Childcare Seminar

Wexford Library Service for Children and Young People attended the Wexford County Childcare Committee seminar entitled ‘**Understanding Challenging Behaviour**’ which focused on children from birth to 12 years. Wexford Library Services had two large table displays of new childcare books and associated brochures. The new book collection was sourced in consultation and close collaboration with local teachers, families, organisations supporting families and SETU. Resources were selected to support the work of educators, families, healthcare professionals and childcare students living and/or working in County Wexford. In addition to attending the seminar, Wexford Library's services and resources were promoted to all attendees and questions and queries from childcare professionals and childcare students were addressed. The collection of books will be housed in Wexford Library will be available to borrow soon from any library or mobile library in the county.

National Children's Book Festival 2023

Wexford Library Services, in association with Libraries Ireland, have been organising Children's Book Festival for many years. The promotion and support of the Children's Book Festival is a central tenet of the *Right to Read* initiative and this programme continues to be a central focus for library services to children each October.

All branches in Wexford Library Service held a highly successful programme of events for schools and families throughout the county. Visits from award winning Irish children's authors and illustrators offered schools and families the opportunity to meet some of the very best writers and artists. There were events for children from pre-school to 12 years of age. Sensory events for children with intellectual disabilities were offered in each library to ensure that there were book related events to engage all ages and abilities. Altogether Wexford Libraries hosted 30 events and feedback was excellent.

Little Book at Bedtime

This initiative from Roderic O’Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development, in collaboration with public libraries and the LGMA, aims to encourage all parents of young children to read stories with them at bedtime. The initiative looks to promote reading for pleasure and to improve children’s literacy. From the 6th of October, parents and children under 4 could pop into their local library to pick up their free bedtime story book and join the library. Bedtime story books are available in English and Irish. There has been significant uptake of this initiative so far, with many families joining several new members to the library on receiving the free books.

Dormant Account Fund (DAF) Literacy Support Programmes

A range of literacy support programmes provided to schools and the community by the library include: TTRS, Nussy Reading and Spelling, Reading Eggs, Mathseeds. All literacy and numeracy programmes are in great demand by the public and primary and secondary schools. Windmill Therapeutic Centre attend the IT Suite in Wexford Library every Monday for TTRS. LOTE4Kids is being promoted particularly to Ukrainian Nationals.

Decade of Centenaries

The End of the Irish Civil War and the 1923 Election in County Wexford

Historian in Residence Barry Lacey visited libraries this month and discussed the end of the Irish Civil War in County Wexford and the election which took place afterwards in August of 1923, which was the first election since the foundation of the Irish Free State. The talk looked at the candidates involved in the election and how they lost or won seats to represent the people of the county.

Historian in Residence with Westmeath Co. Council Dr. Ian Kenneally lectured on Fake News and Irish Freedom: The years 1919-1923 in New Ross Library.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 47 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 13 researchers visited the Archive in October. Research topics included family history research through the Boyse estate rentals (Bannow) and the Lorna Rosbottom collection (1800s); research through the Wexford Festival Opera archive on *The Rose of Castile* opera (1951); deaths recorded in issues of *The Wexford Chronicle* (1830s-50s); research through the archive’s Civil War collections for a forthcoming exhibition (1922-23); research on the formative years of Ros Tapestry (1990s); family history research through extant rentals of the estate of Raymond Rowe, Wexford town (1872-79).

ARTS

Exhibitions:

IRISH GOTHIC A solo exhibition by Patricia Hurl In association with IMMA

opened in County Hall on 19th October 2023. This exhibition, selected from a major retrospective hosted by IMMA earlier this year, presents one of Ireland’s most accomplished artists. Hurl’s work is by its nature political, and traverses the disciplines of painting, multi-media and collaborative art practice. Since the 1970s, she has created work that deals with loss, pain, frustration and loneliness. The Exhibition is open to the public from 16th October – 29th November 2023 Open Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm. Free public and school tours are offered.

Wex-Art – a visual arts festival to coincide with Wexford Opera Festival was launched on 14th Oct. Wex Art is coordinated by Tom Mooney and supported by the Arts office. The Wex-Art Map features over 20 exhibitions taking place in Wexford town from Oct 14- Nov 6 showcasing the work of over 70 artists based in Wexford. In addition, the Wex Arts Festival guide highlights arts and cultural events taking place over the course of the festival until November 6 and is supported by Wexford Borough.

Wexford County Council Arts Department and Wexford Arts Centre in partnership with South East Technological University launched **LOOP A solo exhibition by Emma Roche**, recipient of the 2021 EMERGENCE Visual Art Award. This launched on 14th October in Wexford Arts Centre and runs until 24th November. This award supports visual artists with the development and promotion of their practice.

Music Generation

Is an ongoing partnership between Wexford County Council and WWETB supporting performance music education of young people in primary, post primary and youth work contexts countywide.

Schools programme –vocal and instrumental workshops in 25 Primary schools countywide which is ongoing Sept 2023- May 2024.

The Bunclody Music Hub located in Bunclody Vocational College provides a number of places for after-school group instrumental and vocal tuition for children and young people aged 7 -18 years in addition to group lessons which will be available in October in Guitar - acoustic and electric, and Piano Keyboard.

Music Generation trip - Creative connections – Sitges Spain

Ten young people from Music Generation's **The Yellow Bellows**, a singing group for teenagers 12-18 years, travelled to Sitges in Catalonia Spain 26 – 30 October to take part in their annual Celtic festival titled Creative Connections, which is funded through Culture Ireland. They were accompanied by their music educators and Music Generation team.



Wexford Wind Jammers & HFC Youth Band is a new initiative started in October for young people from 6th Class to 6th Year and led by musician educators Jenna Larsen & Geraldine Mahon in Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts.

County Wexford Youth Film Project

The CWYFP, supported by the Arts Office, is running a 4 day Documentary Filmmaking Workshop in October/November which will focus on the power of the documentary. The workshops are free to teenagers across County Wexford.

Screen Wexford

Funded by the Arts and Economic Departments of Wexford County Council to develop film industry in Wexford, Screen Wexford held a coffee and networking morning at the Presentation Centre on 22nd September to welcome new and emerging crews to Screen Wexford. Screen Wexford provides ongoing support to the screen industry for film permits etc and provides ongoing support to the winners of the three New Voices Film bursary awards 2023. All three films are now completed and will be screened in Wexford Arts Centre in November.

Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2023 recipients:

The Eugene O'Neill International Festival – is a recipient of the Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant Scheme for County Wexford. The festival took place in St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross on 12-15th October. This niche festival was very well attended by local and national audiences.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland - Open Call Arts Awards 2023

Nine cultural organisations and artists' collectives throughout the county have been awarded funding through Creative Ireland Wexford Open Call 2023. These awards are for innovative programmes that develop creative thinking in addressing the key strategy areas of well-being, placemaking and climate action. The Creative Ireland Programme feeds directly into our County Development Plan, and people from all over Wexford will benefit from these awards. A total of €70,751 was invested in local communities.

Successful applications include:

- X-Gap (The Gap Arts Festival): a new Christmas performance piece developed between North Wexford communities and artists Honor Heffernan and Garrett Keogh.
- Cartlann na nDaoine (North Wexford Traditional Singing Circle): an intergenerational exploration of living and evolving local song traditions.
- The Fishermen of Wexford (artist Helen McLean): the design and creation of a large new mosaic with the Wexford Tidy Towns group, to be installed at the Crescent, Wexford Quay.
- Invitation to a Conversation (Sown Society): a series of multidisciplinary workshops that explore innovative and sustainable practices relating well-being to nature, creativity and community.
- Trailblazers – A Way with Words (Purple and Gold Writers Collective): a trail of innovative and engaging poetry events in daytime, Wexford Town café venues from 21-29 October.
- The Ways of Water (artists Andi McGarry, Jeni Roddy, Lynn Haughton, Conall Geoghegan): boat building workshops at Kilmore Quay Community Gardens and Stella Maris Centre that use found and natural materials to address sustainable living within the adjacent watery landscape.
- The Enniscorthy Time Machine (Festival in a Van): an exploration of Enniscorthy's past and future through new poems, stories and songs, focusing on social justice and climate change.
- Ghost House (Spooky Before): a county-wide storytelling project that draws from supernatural, spiritual and unexplained experiences in the home to explore mental health and wellbeing.

- The May Bush and The Coming of Summer (artists Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert): an archival project that celebrates traditional May-time festivities and underlines the importance these festivities have in creating a sense of place and pride in belonging to a community.

Creative Ireland – Evolve

Throughout the summer of 2023 Creative Ireland Creative communities programme supported the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in North Wexford to run an art-based programme that focused on the recovery and wellbeing of young people. Artists Sonya Weston and Deirdre Travers worked with a group of teenagers to produce a publication of their own design, using lino printing, mono printing, collage, painting, digital photography, and alternative photography. An exhibition of the work produced was held on Thursday 19th October at the Wexford Mental Health Association Building.

Creative Ireland – Opera Festival Events

1. The Purple and Gold Writers Collective delivered a trail of innovative and engaging poetry events in daytime café venues from 21-29 October. Taking place during the busy Opera Festival period, these relaxed sessions increased the creativity and fun that enveloped the town at that time. Themed around place and community, workshops will engage participants in a unique yet familiar way of looking at Wexford and provide a fresh way in to developing positive placemaking action.

2. Led by Tom Mooney, Wexford Festival Literary Trail was an exploration of its historic laneways and the harbour vistas which have inspired Wexford based writers for centuries. During the Opera Festival period, participants explored the town, stopping at points of literary interest. A paper guide that functioned as an anchor to the literary heritage of Wexford Town was also published.

Creative Ireland – Púcaíocht/Shapeshifting

Púcaíocht/Shapeshifting is a bilingual publication of poetry by the Wexford born poet Máire Ní Bhriain. The book describes Irish words that remain in the vernacular of County Wexford and relates to logainmeacha and aspects of the culture and nature of the county.

Púcaíocht/Shapeshifting was launched on October 12th at Wexford Library. Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian and lead for Creative Ireland Wexford opened the launch as *Gaelige*. Speakers included Brian O'Clérigh and author Máire Ní Bhriain, who shared some excerpts from her book. Some Sean Nós singing from Máire's friend enriched the evening for all.

Creative Ireland – Halloween Extreme Beat

Throughout September and October innovative percussionist Nicky Bailey from Extreme Rhythm held 10 drumming workshops each for FDYS Coolcotts and Taghmon FRC. Nicky used his extremely visual style helped the participants to develop their drumming rhythm and sense of beat in a fun relaxed atmosphere. At the end of October, each group showcased their skills with a performance on stage with their family and friends joining in. This event helped to develop awareness of the local Youth Projects, Family Resource Centre and the support services that are available.

Creative Ireland – Nursing Home Music and Poetry Programme

Wexford was awarded Creative Ireland Age Friendly funding to develop a workshop programme of music and poetry to four nursing homes in Wexford in 2023 over a 5 month period. The last of the 'Swing Song' workshops took place in mid-October. Musician Melanie O'Reilly, two members of her jazz band with poet and spoken word artist Stephen James Smith collaborated interweaving live swing jazz songs with poetry readings. The aim of the workshops is to entertain and develop conversations and social interaction with the audience. The workshops took place in nursing homes county wide.

FIRE SERVICES

Wexford Fire Service Report September 2023

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls September 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	4 (3/1)	55	54
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	4 (0/4)	44	48
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	2	6
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	1	3
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	7	3
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	2	0
School	0	3	0
Other Institution	1	2	2
Factory	1	3	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	1	10	4
Shop/Supermarket	1	2	2
Office	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	1
Restaurant	0	1	2
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	3	37	40
Unoccupied Building	0	2	7
Agriculture Business	0	5	4
Forest/Bog/Grass	2	45	107
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	7	19
Outdoor Storage	0	7	2
Outdoor Rubbish	6	28	30
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	1	7	9
Gas/Chemicals	1	4	1
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	1	34	41
Other rescue	11	67	47
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	6	6
Road traffic accident	16	137	136
Water pumping/flooding	1	5	10

Incident Type	Calls September 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	34	240	194
Malicious	0	2	1
Total	92	767	784

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	24	9	11	8	3	55
Other Fire in House	8	12	11	10	3	44
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	1	0	0	0	2
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	0	0	0	0	1
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	1	1	2	0	7
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	0	1	0	0	2
School	0	0	3	0	0	3
Other Institution	2	0	0	0	0	2
Factory	1	0	1	1	0	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	5	1	4	0	10
Shop/Supermarket	1	0	0	1	0	2
Office	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	12	9	6	8	2	37
Unoccupied Building	1	0	1	0	0	2
Agriculture Business	1	2	1	0	1	5
Forest/Bog/Grass	11	13	7	4	10	45
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	1	1	1	1	7
Outdoor Storage	1	2	2	2	0	7
Outdoor Rubbish	13	3	7	5	0	28

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	2	2	2	1	0	7
Gas/Chemicals	2	2	0	0	0	4
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	5	7	12	9	1	34
Other rescue	30	13	16	7	1	67
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	3	1	2	0	0	6
Road traffic accident	41	30	37	21	8	137
Water pumping/flooding	2	2	1	0	0	5
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	89	45	64	30	12	240
Malicious	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	261	160	190	114	42	767

Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in September 2023:	16
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	136
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	93

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties:

- **November 5th** – Halloween Walk – Rathgarogue- Ambulance cover.
- **November 12th**- Remembrance Sunday Ceremony- Gorey
- **November 25th**- Gorey Christmas Lights- Switch on- Ambulance Cover

Weekly Training

- Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.
- Training includes EFR- practical exams, Water Awareness & Swiftwater Food Responder- New & Recerts.

CDO Conference a& trade exhibition

- **November 7th-9th**- Co. Cavan- CDO, ACDO and Officers attending the annual conference & trade show.

Annual Awards Presentation Night- November 12th Riverbank, Wexford. Annual presentation of awards including Long Service Awards, training certificates & achievements. Pictures to follow in next month's report.

Finance:

Budget 2024

Work continues to progress on the preparation of Budget 2024. The Statutory Budget Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th December 2023 at 10.00am

Audit

- Audit of Accounts 2022 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2022 Accounts is now complete. The Statutory Audit Report for 2022 has been submitted by the Local Government Auditor and is listed on the agenda for consideration of members together with the final audited version of the 2022 Annual Financial Statement.
- Audit Committee - The next meeting is scheduled for 13th December 2023, and the committee will meet with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2022 Audit and Accounts. Following their meeting with the Local Government Auditor the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

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, 2023. An application seeking ministerial sanction for the extension of the overdraft facility at the same level for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 has been submitted to the DHLGH following council approval at the October meeting.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**