



Chief Executive's Report

October 2020

1.Economic Development & Planning:

Economic Development

Covid 19 Business Supports €16.8 million grant aid approved



The Economic Department implemented a range of Covid 19 business supports to assist SME's impacted by the pandemic. To date **4,336 grant applications** have been received from enterprises across the range of Covid 19 supports in the Economic business support unit. Currently **3,875** micro enterprises have been approved **€16.8 million** in grant aid under Covid 19 in County Wexford. .

Restart Grant Schemes

There are two schemes under the Restart Grant Covid 19 measure. The previous Restart Grant Scheme from the 22nd May to the 22nd July 2020 and the new Restart Grant Plus scheme which is currently open. To date Wexford County Council has received a total of **€15.2 million** to support business reopen under the combined Restart Grant Schemes and **3,541** applications.

Table 1 Total Applications under both Restart Grant Schemes 22nd May – 25th September 2020

Total Applications Received	Total Applications Approved	Total Applications Paid
3,541	3,175	€14,585.896

Restart Grant Plus

The new Restart Grant Plus (RPG) was open for applications on the 10th August 2020.has been extended by 1 month with a revised closing date of 31st October 2020. The scheme has expanded the number of rateable commercial businesses who can avail of financial supports to reopen their business or maintain trading. The bars and nightclubs reopened on the 21st September and are eligible for a 40% top up on the restart grant to assist with the impact of the pandemic on their business.

Table 2. Restart Grant Plus (RGP)

DATE 25 September 2020	5/22/2020 12:00:00 AM to 9/25/2020 12:00:00 AM	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME STATISTICS		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	153	€687,068.27
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	133	€808,958.61
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,519	€7,906,914.12
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	84	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	1,889	€9,402,941.00
RG1 APPEALS		
NUMBER RECEIVED	TOTAL VALUE OF APPEALS	
415	1,508,933.00	

Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant open 25th September 2020

The Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant aims to support a business of 2 to 10 employees who could not avail of other Covid 19 supports such as the restart grant. The grant is between €500 to €1,000 and has a closing date of the 9th October. Expenditure is for protective equipment, costs of reopening or fit out so assist business impacted by the pandemic by 30% or more of their turnover. Further details are available from Wexford Local Enterprise Office.

Expansion of Trading Online Voucher Scheme (TOV's) under Covid 19

From the 8th April to the 30th September 2020 the Trading Online Voucher Scheme has been expanded to increase the level of support from 50% funding to 90% funding to a maximum of €2,500. To date LEO Wexford have received 365 applications and **335 enterprises** received financial support with **€767,084** grant aid approved to businesses to move online in Co. Wexford.

Reopening County Wexford

Under the new Covid 19 accelerated measures through the Town and Village Scheme a total of €187,500 has been allocated for 7 projects. The most recent round 2 projects were announced at the end of August which aim to increase footfall to towns and villages and implement Covid 19 requirements to protect staff and consumers.

Table 2 : Town & Village Round 2 Approved €75,000

Town/Village	Grant	Project
Castlebridge	€25,000	Collective branding of Castlebridge as birthplace of Guinness Book of Records to include heritage interpretation trail and signage , collective shop branding, awnings for social distancing and website
Gorey District Village Network	€25,000	Scheme to support shops and businesses in 5 North Wexford Villages to undertake shopfront renovations and purchase outdoor furniture and equipment
Our Lady's Island and Tacumshane	€25,000	Heritage environment exhibition at Our Lady's Island community centre and outdoor seating facilities at various locations in both villages.

Round 3

The closing date for Round 3 was the 28th August and we are awaiting word on funding. In Round 3 the Department facilitated the inclusion of the larger towns with a population of over 10,000. This means that both Wexford and Enniscorthy town have applications submitted under Round 3.

Planning

COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

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

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received up until the 22nd September 2020.

No. of valid applications	82
No. of invalid applications	14
Extension of Duration	1

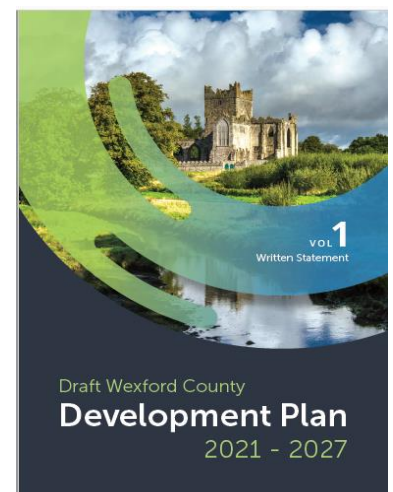
Development Management

The Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027 was approved by the Members of Wexford County Council on Monday, 14th

September, 2020. The Draft Plan takes a pro-active and positive approach to economic development and the management of

development in our County whilst sustaining and improving our natural

resources and heritage. Climate change and resilience have also been embedded at the heart of the plan.



The Draft Plan contains 13 Volumes:

- Volume 1 Written Statement – This volume sets out the Council's vision for the development of the County and contains the Council's main planning policies and objectives. It also sets out the Council's main development proposals.
- Volume 2 Development Management Manual – This volume contains the main quantitative development standards. These will be used in the assessment of planning applications and in local authority own development.
- Volume 3 Settlement Plans - This volume contains Settlement Plans for Bunclody Town, Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane, Castlebridge and Rosslare Strand. The Plans include land use zoning proposals for Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane and Bunclody Town.

Volume 4 contains the Statement of Compliance with statutory Section 28 Guidelines. Volume 5 contains the Record of Protected Structures for the County including all the towns, villages and rural areas. . Volume 6 details Architectural Conservation Areas for Wexford Town, Enniscorthy Town, Gorey Town, New Ross Town and Bunclody Town. Volume 7 contains the Landscape Character Assessment which sets out the policies to protect and manage the landscape of the County. Volume 8 is the Retail Strategy which sets out the strategy to ensure a competitive, healthy and attractive retail environment in the towns and rural areas of our County. Volume 9 contains the Housing Strategy which details the requirements for housing across all tenures and types across the County. Volume 10 contains the Energy Strategy which sets out targets to increase generation of renewable energy and policies with regard to non-renewable energy while protecting the natural environment and people.

- Volume 11, 12 and 13 are the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Strategic Environment Assessment Environment Report and the Natura Impact Report which are all required by European Directives.

The Draft Plan will be on public display for a period of 10 weeks from from Monday, 28th September 2020 to 4pm on Wednesday, 9th December 2020. The Council is inviting written submissions and observations on the Draft Plan during this period. The Draft Plan will also be circulated to prescribed authorities, designated environmental authorities and other non-statutory stakeholders.

The Draft Plan will be displayed on the Council's new online consultation portal (<https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/>) and written submissions and observations can be made directly to the portal. Hard copy written submissions can also be made and should be marked 'Draft Wexford County

Development Plan 2021-2027' and addressed to 'Forward Planning, Planning Department, Block B, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93.

E-mailed submissions and observations will not be accepted.

The Draft Plan can also be viewed in the Planning Department at County Hall and in Wexford, Enniscorthy, New Ross, Gorey and Bunclody public libraries. Please note that due to Covid-19, attendance at the Planning Department/public libraries is currently by appointment only.

Copies of the Draft Plan may also be purchased from the Planning Department, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn. Further details will follow on the public consultation strategy.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report for August – 23 September as follows:

- 25 property inspections have been conducted.
- Four properties placed on the Derelict Site Register.
- 13 properties recommended to be issued with Section 8(2) Notices of Intention to place on the Register.
- 1 property carried out the required remedial works to prevent it from being placed on the Register.
- 31 Vacant sites identified in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross. Reports issued for review.
- 2 dangerous sites secured – Macamore Inn and Key West Car Park.
- 4 properties referred to Area Engineer for investigation as Dangerous Structures.
- 13 Properties identified as suitable for acquisition by the Council.
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Building Control

➤ Validated Commencement Notices August 2020:	43
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections August 2020:	16
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion August 2020:	6
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

Heritage

Heritage Grant Schemes

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme resulted in 24 applications, 12 of which were successful. €70,000 in grant aid granted.

Wexford County Council made 3 applications under the July Jobs Stimulus Package, and we have been notified of 1 successful application to date.

Applications have also been made under Community Monuments Grant Funding.

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 21st September 2020 is as follows:

- Live Cases 290
- Cases Opened 15
- Cases Closed 13
- District Court Cases 0

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 21st September 2020 is as follows:

- Properties advertised on websites 57
- No. of warning letters served 11
- No of enforcement notices issued 0
- Cases Closed 7

Note: The Short Term Lettings provisions only apply to the Gorey Electoral Area / Gorey Rent Pressure Zone

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2020 up to and including 21st September, 2020, totals **68**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	9	0	1	8	0
Gorey	15	0	0	15	0
New Ross	6	0	0	5	1
Wexford	31	0	3	28	0
Rosslare	7	1	0	6	0
2020 Totals	68	1	4	62	1

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	70

Significant changes for DAC applications

The National Building Control Management System (BCMS) is now live for the submission and processing of DAC applications. The Access Section as part of a change management process is working to streamline current DAC application procedures via the Diamond System to facilitate the on line submission of DAC applications via BCMS. It is expected that this process will take a period of 6 to eight weeks to facilitate new work practices, training and procedures linking current systems with the BCMS.

Access Activities

The Access Section is currently working in collaboration with DFI (Disability Federation Ireland) on the imminent National Make Way Day Campaign planned for the 25th of September (a virtual and social media campaign strategy for 2020 event).

The Access works recently completed at the Presentation Centre Enniscorthy, a prototype staircase which converts to a platform lift providing access for all to the stage area, will be launched as part of a Make Way Day event organised by the Presentation Centre. This event is supported by the Access Section and WCC Communications Section.

Biodiversity and Natural Heritage

Wex Bee Aware

A grant application was made to The National Biodiversity Action Plan for a Staff Tree Planting Scheme and Orchard creation. €16,000 has been granted for the projects. An area of land has been identified to the front of County Hall, adjacent to the existing wildflower meadow, where native trees and shrubs will be planted, one for each member of staff. Over the next few weeks the site will be cleared and prepared for planting towards the end of November 2020.

A number of locations are currently being identified in Clonard, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey where small clusters of apple tree orchards will be planted on Wexford County Council owned lands. These orchards will be for the public to harvest.

After the success of the collaboration between Wex Bee Aware and The Guide Guides of Ireland, Teacup Bee Hotels project, The Girl Guides of Ireland have again approached Wex Bee Aware to work on a Winter Spring project. 'Plant a Tree to Feed the Bees' is being developed. The project will encourage Girl Guide Units throughout Ireland to plant fruit trees, monitor the trees health and development, and to record wildlife using the tree and to finally harvest and enjoy the fruit.

Natural Wexford

A Natural Wexford Sign for Lady's Island was installed in September. Further signs for Forth Mountain, Shelmaliere Common Quarry, Bunclody and Ballymoney are currently being produced and will likely be installed in October. The signs will inform visitors to the area of the importance of the natural heritage in these areas. Scoping is being carried out to decide on the next locations for Natural Wexford signs.

2. Special Projects:

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT – October 2020

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works on the park are substantially completed and the Park was opened to the public on 15/06/2020. Public lighting is now operational. The Skate Park contract has been awarded, with completion expected in Spring 2021. The official opening, scheduled for August 29th, has been postponed until further notice due to Covid restrictions.

Trinity Wharf: Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is due in the coming months. The detailed design of the access road and new automated railway level crossing is expected to go to tender w/c 28th September 2020, with works due to commence in early 2021. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured to date for the scheme under the 1st Call for URDF projects and a further application, in response to a 2nd URDF Call for Applications, was submitted at the end of May 2020.

Crescent Quay: Works are substantially completed with minor snagging items currently being addressed.

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

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

A presentation was made to the Enniscorthy MDC July meeting setting out the next steps for the project including the development of a master plan for Templeshannon that will co-ordinate the public realm works and the development of the proposed new urban blocks within Templeshannon. A Brief for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of the required applications for planning and statutory consents will be advertised the week commencing 28/09. The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have been delayed by the Covid 19 emergency restrictions. The tender for the ground investigation works was accepted this month and the works are programmed to commence on site in November and will take approx. 2 weeks to complete. The preliminary design and bridge options report will be done once the ground investigations works are complete. An application for URDF funding was submitted for the project under the 2nd call for funding in May 2020.

Gorey Market House: A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was approved in May 2018.

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender assessment process has been delayed by the Covid 19 restrictions. The lifting of some of the restrictions in July has allowed the process to advance. This tender is a competitive procedure with negotiation. It is envisaged that it will take circa. 3 months to fully conclude the tender process and a draft tender report is expected to be completed by the end of October 2020.

Wexford Arts Centre: Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. A design team was appointed in April 2019, the preliminary design has been completed and Part VIII approval was obtained on 13th January 2020. Detailed designs and tender documents for the works contract are complete and tenders for works were invited on 28th August 2020, with a deadline of October 2nd. Works are expected to commence on site in January 2021.

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

High Hill, New Ross: The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, that is currently derelict, that connects John Street and the town centre with the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. A plan for the development of a new amenity/public space at High Hill, in keeping with the Norman history of the town, was developed by New Ross MDC. A Part VIII application was approved for the preliminary design in July 2019 and the detailed design and works tender documents have been completed. The tender document for works was advertised in August and 2 tenders were received by the closing date of 24/09/2020. Works are expected to commence in late 2020/early 2021. An application for RRDF funding for this project, as part of the New Ross tourism project application, was successful.

Esmonde Street: RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street.

Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part VIII planning consent process is expected to be advertised in October. WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Works are nearly complete on Phase 1 (access road, car park, trails and services) and substantial completion is expected in October following closure of the site in April/May due to Covid19.

The draft design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department. The drawings are currently being reviewed by the Special Projects Office and a Pre-Planning application has been made. A Part VIII application will be made in Q4 2020. A brief for the provision of design team services is currently being prepared for the detailed design, procurement and construction management stages.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Alan Sherwood and Associates were appointed to develop a plan that will significantly enhance the tourism experience in Enniscorthy, increase visitor numbers and enhance the town's profile as part of Ireland's Ancient East.

The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC at its July meeting and set out the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on the Castle that will have the capacity to significantly improve tourism visitor numbers to the town and link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross. The project will now advance to the next stage with the procurement of design services to prepare the preliminary design and planning consent applications required for phase 1 of the project.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Part VIII approval was obtained in February 2019. Tenders for construction works have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works are due to commence at end of November 2020.

Gorey Town Park: Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May 2019 and has been impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions. Work re-commenced on site in mid-May. It is now expected that the works will be completed by December 2020.

Tenders have been received for the playground equipment with the installation to commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

Monck Street Enhancement Scheme: Tenders were invited for design services for improving the streetscape on Monck St. in late March 2020 and tenders were received on 27th April. Roadplan Consulting has been appointed with works planned to commence on site in Q2 2021.

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

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

Design services are currently being procured to develop new visitor experiences at the INHP and the Hook Lighthouse and to bring the projects to 'shovel ready' status. This will include preliminary design, environmental assessment, preparing applications for planning and related development consents, detailed design and tendering for works contracts. The appointment of design services teams for both projects have been impacted by the Covid 19 restrictions and these contracts are now expected to be put place in Oct/Nov 2020 subject to Government requirements in relation to Covid.

Tenders for the preliminary interpretative design services for the Norman centre in New Ross have been received and an appointment for this work has been signed.

An advance contract for detailed design services for the Dunbrody Ship enhancement works was tendered in July/August but no tenders were received by the closing date.

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

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide engineering services to Wexford County Council for the removal of the oil tank structures on the quay and the development of public realm works on the site.

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

An advance works tender package is currently being advertised with a Q4 2020 target to commence deconstructing the tanks.

Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme: Following the completion of a Coastal Engineering Feasibility Study to investigate the development and provision of major infrastructural coastal works in Courtown to reinstate the north beach, tenders are being invited for the preliminary design of coastal protection structures and beach nourishment to restore the natural amenity and tourism asset to Courtown and Co Wexford.

The appointment of an engineering consultancy to undertake this preliminary design is expected in Q3 2020.

Wexford Flood Relief Scheme: The project brief for design services for the Flood Relief Project has been advertised on Etenders. The closing date for tender proposals was 9th June 2020. A total of 7 tenders were received and the assessment of the submission has been carried out. A Tender Assessment Report will be issued to the OPW in mid-October for approval.

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review with the final report is expected by the end of the first week of October.

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

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

DPER has completed the public consultation in relation to the scheme (29th July to 28th August 2020). WCC are awaiting feedback on submissions received by DPER. While confirmation of the scheme from the Minister is awaited, WCC will progress the detailed design, the shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works. Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species.

The detailed design of the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete. Tender submissions for short listing contractors for the bridgeworks were received in June. The assessment is expected to be completed by December 2020.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway: Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents were completed in 2019.

The EIAR & NATURA Impact reports were delayed due to CoVId19 and are now substantially complete with the drawings and schedules being finalised.

Further local public information processes are underway at Rosslare and Belview which will be completed by mid-October at which stage the planning application to An Bord Pleanála will be finalised and submitted to ABP in November 2020.

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

South East Greenway: Part VIII planning for the project is complete and a Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, and Waterford City and County Council, to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority on behalf of the other Councils. An application for funding for the project, submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018, was successful and €8.0m in grant funding was approved by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in June 2019.

Tendering for the pre-construction rail and sleeper lifting contract was completed in June/July 2020.

The Works Access Licence to progress the rail and sleeper lifting contract was received from CIE in July and the work on-site commenced in August and is progressing well.

The detailed design of the main contract works is progressing well and tender documents are expected to be completed in Nov 2020 for DTTAS review. Tendering for the main works is programmed to be completed by Feb 2021 with works to commence in March/April 2021.

A Leader funding application is currently being prepared for the interpretation and animation of the entire route.

Wexford to Rosslare Greenway: Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project.

3. Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Emergency Services & Community:

Housing Section and Covid 19

As Covid-19 restrictions are eased, the Housing Section will continue to expand its operations. We have now commenced face to face appointments ensuring compliance with guidelines. Housing clinics have not yet started, but this is under review. Housing allocations have recommenced and are ongoing.

SSHA 2020

Wexford County Council is currently carrying out a review of the Social Housing Supports List (Housing List) and has written to 434 existing approved applicants requesting that they update their details.

For applicants to remain eligible for Social Housing Supports, existing approved applicants who receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA 2020) review form must return the form with relevant documentation. Reminder letters have been sent to those who have not returned their completed form and the date of return is Wednesday, 7th October. Applicants who have applied, or been reassessed, since April, 2019, will not receive a form. Also transfer applicants, including those in HAP (Housing Assistance Payment), will not receive a form.

Applicants who do not receive a SSHA 2020 form, but whose circumstances have changed, can contact the Customer Service Unit or any Area Housing Officer for a 'change of circumstances' form. It is imperative that our Social Housing Supports list is up to date to ensure the proper allocation of Social Housing Supports.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

The Technical staff continued to progress and monitor all of our Capital Projects. All of our live sites are back in action since Monday 18th May 2020, the sites have been inspected and revised programs for delivery have been or are in the process of agreement.

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete Sept 2020
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under construction	Due to complete Oct 2020
Taghmon	18	Rosslare	Under construction	Due to complete Sept 2020
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Construction commenced 31/08/20. All Foundations poured
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary & Environmental issues unresolved (no activity) Recommend removing from List. HLO to discuss with tenants
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Delayed tender due to Irish Water. Tender will be in 2 phases now, phase 1 to tender in Sept 2020 for 22 houses. Phase 2 depends on IW

				outcome, awaiting meeting
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Preparing Tenders	Stage 3 approved. Design Team preparing Tenders for October 2020
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2	Propose CPO of land for access (no activity)
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Prepare Stage 3	Stage 2 approved. DT instructed to proceed to Stage 3
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Stage 2 was delayed by ESB and surveys. Ready for Stage 2 submission in October 2020
Kileens	40-50	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 – Higher densities. To appoint team in Q4. Stage 1 in Preparation and will be submitted in Q4 2020
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 Q4 2020 Consultants appointed. Surveys complete except for ESB line
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	Design team appointed. Stage 2 Q4 2020. Knotweed cordoned off. Management plan in place. To DHPLG Q\$ 2020
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Knotweed Management Plan in place. Architects selected Formal appointment in Sept 2020. Commence design development Q4 2020.
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 2	Demolitions complete, Appoint Design Team Q3 2020 through OGP. The result from the OGP has been challenged by 2 practices which were eliminated in the competition. We are waiting for appropriate cool off period and conclusion of the tender process undertaken by the OGP.
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 2	The submission of Stage 2. This may be delayed until 2021
TOTAL	249			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage Construction to commence in October 2020
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design commenced.
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Archaeology investigations under way and initial site surveys complete. Stage 2 Oct 2020.
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – not approved by DHPLG (submitted

			23/05/19) not approved – on hold, no funding stream (no activity)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, site ownership to WCC – Land transfer complete. Out to tender Aug 2020. Tenders due back Sept 2020.
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – Funding approved from WCC. Commencement notices approved. To commence on site Sept 2020.
Newtown	1	Ferns	Site clearance approved.
TOTAL	8		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water (no activity) To seek clarity on available PE Sept 2020.
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 2021)
Daphney View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussion with Focus (no activity)
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once Rosbercon is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works.
TOTAL	87		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site Clearance awaiting PEP to proceed with site clean up in preparation for demolitions. Assess then for HSE build or site sale. Demolitions Q3 2020. Site clean-up tendered
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q2 2020. CPO commenced, in newspaper. Single stage Q2 2020 awaiting CPO action.
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling works 2020.
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC. Tender Q4 2020
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to next Municipal District meeting July 2020
TOTAL	14		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Due to be delivered Q4 2020
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	6 units delivered. 8 units to deliver in Q4 2020, 8 units to be delivered in Q2 2021
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver by end Q4 2020
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	4 units to deliver 2020, 1 unit to deliver 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	6 units to deliver by Q4 2020
TOTAL	75		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2020
Michael St, New Ross	3	New Ross	Delayed on site.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit delivered. 18 units to deliver Q1 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2021
Clonattin Upper, Goreybridge	8	Gorey Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2020
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHPLG approval received Mar 2020. To deliver 2021.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	DHPLG approval received Apr 2020. Expected to deliver Q4 2021
TOTAL	115		

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

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be delivered Q4 2020
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	4 to be delivered Q4 2020
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver in 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	Under construction
Tuath			
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	28 units to be delivered Q4 2020, remainder will deliver over Q1 and Q2 2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	20 units to deliver in Q4 2020, 21 units to deliver Q1 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	To deliver Q1 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey	8 units delivered, 16 units due to deliver in Q4 2020
Peter McVerry Trust			
Tuskar House , John's Gate St Wexford Town	12	Wexford	CAS Funding. To deliver Q4 2020
TOTAL	339		

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

Wexford County Council's Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) was set up in October 2019 and as part of the south east regional in terms of providing services and supports to vulnerable people. The region is the biggest region in the country comprising of 5 councils, namely, Waterford (Lead Authority), Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary.

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

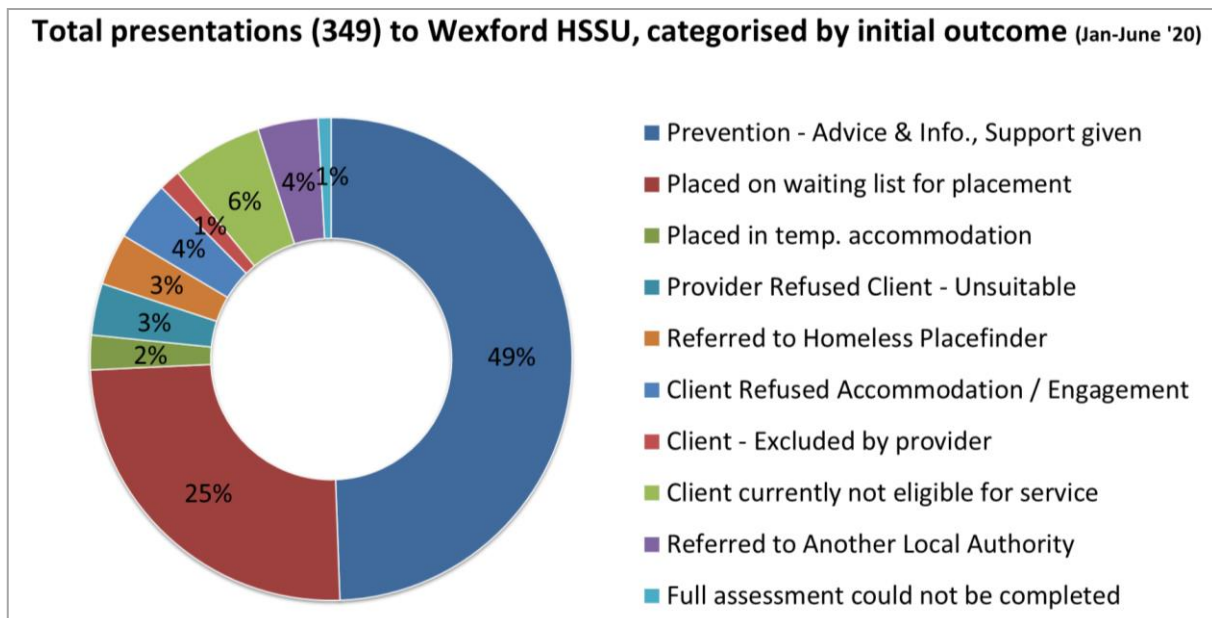
The HSSU operates between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and provides a range of services and supports to persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Co-ordinator along with a multi-disciplinary team, heads the Unit up.

The Homeless Coordinator assigns a key support worker to each case with responsibility for carrying out the homeless assessment. They provide a care and case management model of support to people who present by working with them on a client specific support plan. This identifies the services or supports that the clients need to help them deal with issues and improve their chances of sustaining future tenancies by bringing these supports with them.

The chart below provides a breakdown of the total number of presentations, 349 to end June 2020, categorised by the outcome following the initial assessment by the HSSU team.

It is important to point out that the chart represents the total number of presentations to HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may have multiple presentations.

Of the 349 presentations to date this year, 294 have now been closed (84%) with the remaining 55 presentations (16%) open and being supported. These 55 open presentations represent individual cases.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting

An LCDC meeting was held on 17th September via teleconference and included updates on SICAP, Healthy County Committee, Traveller Interagency Group and the Community Enhancement Programme.

Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

A LAG meeting was held on 17th September with updates on LEADER programme reports including LDS Budgets and Programme data, Project Extension & Resolutions.

LEADER

There were nine claims received for Article 48 pre-payment check. These were fully closed off and payments totalling €136,276 were approved.

There was one project received for Article 48 project approval check prior to the September LAG meeting.

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

Social and Other Media activities

As some travel restrictions remain in place in Ireland and the UK due to the coronavirus crisis, Working Word and the Celtic Routes Partners continued to work collaboratively to respond appropriately. The activity of inviting key national travel journalists on press trips has been continuing, with trips being planned for when travel restrictions are lifted. The Partners have given a target of 2 international influencer partnerships, 3 x UK influencer partnerships and 3 x Irish influencer partnerships. Following a change in the campaign plan, there is now a focus towards social media influencer partnerships with UK and Irish influencers.

Major Promotional activities (Golly Slater)

Working with media specialists, Golly Slater, the partnership agreed an ambitious online and offline media campaign repurposed to focus on the domestic Irish and UK staycation markets and is scheduled for December 2020 to March 2021.

AGE FRIENDLY

Regional Action for Positive Ageing Week

A regional forum has been established led by the HSE and involves the Older People's Councils chairpersons and Age Friendly Programme Managers from Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford as well as Older Peoples Services and Health and Wellbeing staff from the HSE.

In November 2019 a conference was held which showcased examples of best practice in community engagement and positive ageing across the region, and it was intended to hold a similar event in 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this event will now be held virtually to coincide with Positive Ageing Week on 28th September to 2nd of October. The 3 Themes to be delivered over the week are Health and Wellbeing, Information Seminar and Culture & Diversity. Age Friendly Wexford are actively involved in this event and in partnership with Sports Active Wexford are also planning to promote a number of Age Friendly walks in the county.

Positive Ageing Week
MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2020

Positive Ageing Week is Monday 28th September to 2nd October. An online platform of events will be showcased across the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford.

This is the exciting line up of content and information and opportunities for you to engage during Positive Ageing Week.

The content will be screened via zoom. Please ensure that you have zoom downloaded to your device.

All content will be available from 9am. Click on the websites of Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford Local Authorities as if you miss one during Positive Ageing Week you can still view the content at a later date.

To register see www.positiveageing.ie or the facebook page Positive Ageing Week 2020 or twitter @PositiveAgeingW

The Healthy Ireland Fund, supported by the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING 10.30AM	FACILITATOR	SCREENING
Mental Health	Gina Delaney, Mental Health Ireland	Monday 28th
Healthy Food	Deirdre Howlin, HSE	Tuesday 29th
Social Prescribing	Fiona Luffan, Niamh Flavin and Shelle Mackay	Tuesday 29th
Mindfulness	Teresa Hennessy, HSE	Wednesday 30th
Flu Vaccinations	Leonora Fitzgerald	Wednesday 30th
Building Resilience in Older People	Dr. Denise Rogers, Youmeen Gleeson, Bernard Prindemant	Thursday 1st
Self Management Supports for Long Term Health Conditions	Kate O'Connor, Catriona Renwick, Michael Lane, Martin Treacy, John Wheeler	Friday 2nd
INFORMATION SESSION 1.30PM		
Alone - Volunteer Centre	Rob Walpole, Derek Fanning	Monday 28th
Fair Deal Scheme	Barbara Murphy	Tuesday 29th
Library Services	Paul Deane	Tuesday 29th
Citizens Information	Sinead Tymon, John Hoctor	Wednesday 30th
Fire Service and Safety at Home	Sgt Tom O'Dwyer, Paddy Connolly CEO Age Action	Thursday 1st
Safety and Security Age Action	Noel Hennessy, Fiona Foley	Friday 2nd
Housing Options & Dementia Awareness		
CULTURE AND DIVERSITY 3.30PM		
Musical Engagement	Drawing Room Opera Company	Monday 28th
Storytelling	Niall De Búrca	Tuesday 29th
Intercultural Day	Samuel Morgan, Syed Mustafizur Raham, Monika Grodecka, Linn Ritina, Murty Brennan	Wednesday 30th
Activity Day - we encourage you to go for walk, socially distanced and enjoy the after-noon and share images from your walk to pan2020@tipperarycoco.ie		Thursday 1st
Storytelling	Ray McGrath	Friday 2nd





Joint Policing Committee Meeting

A Joint Policing Committee meeting was held on 15th September 2020 via Teleconference. The committee serves as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area. Discussions included the draft Bye Laws, regarding the prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor on streets and in public places.

PPN

Secretariat - Following the Secretariat Meeting on 5th September 2020 a call for nominations has been issued for vacant Community and Voluntary seat on the LCDC. Closing date for nominations is Wednesday, 30th September 2020.

Informing - PPN continues to keep members updated on funding, training events, webinars etc. Recently, informing members of Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme, Positive Ageing Week, Sustainable Energies Community week and inviting members to participate in an Online Public Consultation for the Criminal Justice System as requested by JPC.

Community Enhancement Grant - Community Enhancement Grant (Community Centres) 2020 grant secured to finance a second round of distribution of Covid-19 Support packs to PPN members to support them in the re-opening of their premises

Healthy Ireland



Healthy
Wexford

October Report (20th August – 19th September)

Healthy Wexford will formally launch on 5th October, with a virtual event to allow for maximum attendance and mindful of current guidelines. The event will be streamed online, from Irish National Heritage Park, where Minister Frank Feighan, Minister of State Public Health, Wellbeing, and National Drugs Strategy is expected to attend. The launch of Healthy Wexford will include the formal launch of the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022 & celebration of Wexford joining the National Healthy Cities and Counties Network.

Healthy Wexford is now also on social media with the following accounts:

- Facebook @HealthyWexford
- Twitter @HealthyWexford
- Instagram @HealthyWexford

You are asked to Like/Follow and Share to those who may be interested.

The Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme, supported by the Department of Health, launched in early September, with a closing date of 30th September. Evaluation of applications will begin in early October, with final allocations to be approved by Wexford LCDC.

Sports Active

Sport Ireland Covid-19 Small Grant Scheme

The COVID-19 Club Small Grant Scheme is part of a series of COVID-19 related funding schemes from Sport Ireland, following the announcement of €70 million of funding by the Government to support the sports sector in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

61 Wexford Clubs and Groups applied for over €93,000. 58 clubs met the criteria and these recommendations have been sent to Sport Ireland who will allocate the funding. The clubs should hear in early November 2020

Woodlands for Health Programme (Mental Health Programme)

Residents from Havenview Disability Rehab Unit in Enniscorthy have continued to participate in walks organised through this programme in Tintern Abbey and are facilitated by leaders from Wexford Trails.

The programme has been extremely successful with nine residents taking part with the help of their carers. We plan to continue the programme until the end of October with two other residential houses taking place. The programme has been enhanced by the Council's beach wheelchair which has now been adapted with all-terrain wheels to enable two wheelchair residents to access the woodland trails.

Swim For a Mile.

The Swim for a Mile event partnered with Swim Ireland Bunclody Community Swimming pool and ourselves was tremendously successful, with 30 participants achieving their Swim for a Mile Challenge.

Bike Week 2020

Bike Week was postponed during the summer and rescheduled to September 19th – 27th. Throughout bike week we will be partnering with Shielbaggan Outdoor Education and Training Centre to launch our brand new balance bike programme for primary schools kick starting the cycle right primary school cycle training programme. We had mountain biking with St. Peter's secondary school on Forth Mountain, road cycling with Men's Sheds and an adult mountain biking session in Kilbranish.

ENVIRONMENT

Piers and Harbours	
Rosslare Erosion and Flood Protection Scheme	Funding in total of €1.15m plus VAT has been received from the OPW to implement the flood management scheme for Rosslare and to appoint Consultants for the detailed design of the Coastal Protection Scheme at Rosslare
New Ross Port	Pilotage operations have resumed in New Ross Port since the buoyage was upgraded in August and the new Harbour Master has been appointed. 12 ships have been piloted up river since the resumption of pilotage
Harbour Bye Laws	The final draft of the Harbour Bye-Laws were presented to the SPC on the 24 th September
Beach Bye Laws	The draft of the 2005 beach Bye-Laws were presented to the SPC on the 24 th September for consideration.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to Covid-19

All libraries in County Wexford are currently open six days per week. Visitors can browse and borrow, use a computer/wifi or printing facilities. From Monday 28th September libraries no longer require patrons to book in advance to use the browse and borrow service. A dedicated time each day, at 10.30am is provided for seniors and vulnerable people to visit their local library. Capacity of libraries is reduced to maintain social distancing and members of the public over 13 years were requested to wear face coverings in the library, as per government guidelines.

From Monday 21st September, Wexford, Enniscorthy and Gorey libraries introduced limited study spaces along with their browse and borrow service. These two hour slots must be booked in advance.

From Tuesday 29th September the mobile library service resumed its visits to rural villages and schools. This facility is operating with revised safety procedures and social distancing. Full details are available on www.wexfordcoco.ie/library

The **BookCall** service continues to run throughout County Wexford. Co-ordinated from Library HQ and the mobile libraries, this adaption of the homebound service brings items to people who are elderly or vulnerable and who are cocooning at home and in nursing homes. Library staff select the books and contact the member to arrange a suitable time for delivery.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library 2020- Department of Rural and Community Development Funding

Healthy Ireland at Your Library establishes libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. It is part of the national strategy to improve health and wellbeing, placing a focus on prevention, individual awareness and keeping people healthy for longer.

Wexford Library Service was successful in applying for funding under this scheme which is also supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Ten thousand Euro in funding has been secured to develop a new library app to allow for ease of access to online information for library users. The new app will also allow users to self-issue items in a completely touch free environment using the app on their phone. Funding was also received for the provision of video equipment in libraries to allow for the recording of high quality events and online content.

Positive Ageing Week

Positive Ageing Week took place from 28th September to 2nd October this year. The week was a regional action funded by Healthy Ireland involving counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. Its aim was to celebrate the older people in our lives and the contribution they make to our families and communities. Wexford Libraries joined in by promoting the online events on our social media, sharing details on what was taking place online each day with information and links on how watch the videos.

Sessions for the Week took place under the headings of Health and Well Being, Information Sessions and Culture and Diversity with 17 different online talks posted over the course of the week. Topics of the talks included mental health, healthy food, building resilience in older people, musical engagement, storytelling and an intercultural day.

Wexford Library also gave out packs as part of Positive Ageing Week containing a HSE produced book titled "101 Square Meals" and a hygiene hook keyring.

Social Media & Facebook

Social media is an important conveyor of public information from the library service. September continued the upward trend in social media followers especially through Facebook. Wexford Library's page is now the third most liked library Facebook page in Ireland and the reach of our information is enhanced by increased focus on video and interactive content.

Library Services to Children

Schools Services

An awareness campaign has been launched to highlight the many services offered by the library services to primary schools in the County including school classroom novel collection, block loans, project boxes, picture book class sets along with our online services such as Britannica Junior, Borrowbox and RBDigital. TTRS (Touch Type Read and Spell) is an online service to help children and young people experiencing challenges with literacy and is being offered to children to access at home or through their school setting. There is a sustained interest in this multi-sensory, phonics-based online course that teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling.

Parenting Today 2020 Talks

September's Parenting Talk was on the subject of ***Tick Tok, Snapchat and Instagram -- a parent's guide*** presented by Frank Turner TekCentral. The talk was available on Wexford libraries Youtube channel from 10th September. The session incorporated parent's questions and feedback.

Toddler Storytime/Rhymetime Outdoor Sessions in New Ross Library Park

New Ross library provided two Outdoor Storytime & Rhymetime sessions on Thursday 3rd & Thursday 17th September in Library Park. Sessions were provided to limited numbers of children and their families (max 15 outdoors) adhering to government guidelines.

Local Studies

During the month of September there were a total of 19 genealogy queries and 22 local studies queries researched by library staff. These queries came from the following: 29 were local, 8 were from elsewhere in Ireland, 1 was from the US and 2 were from the UK.

Acquisition

An important collection of property deeds and correspondence was deposited in the Archive in early September. The collection pertains to the Cornick family whose descendant Isaac Cornick built Cromwell's Fort in Mulgannon, Wexford in 1783. The documents complement a rent ledger that was acquired by the county archive in 2014 which details the extent of the Cornick estate in County Wexford, particularly in the north Wexford area. Both acquisitions are an invaluable aid to highlighting the fortunes of this once prominent family in the county.

ARTS

Wexford Film and TV Coordinator

Wexford County Council appointed a new Wexford Film and TV Coordinator **Linda Curtin** who commenced her role as Part-Time Film Co-ordinator in September, 2020, and will work through the Arts and Economic Development departments.

The aim of this role is to develop film in County Wexford which increases indigenous and international film & TV production and provide local support and training to new and existing film and screen sector in County Wexford. The Co-ordinator will oversee the preparation of a 1 year pilot programme for film development which will develop into a three year strategic plan for the county. The Co-ordinator will work closely with the Screen Wexford Steering Committee which will consist of representatives from Wexford County Council, funders, the film and TV industry.

2020 Wexford Culture Night Reimagined

Culture Night in Wexford took place Friday 18th September, 2020 and in response to Covid 19 was a hybrid programme of digital and physical events, which were free and accessible to all.

The Arts Council is the primary funder for Culture Night for the first time ever this year, driving the event's focus on equity for artists and increasing visibility of Ireland's diverse cultural landscape. County Wexford presented a smaller selection of curated events that combined physical events with arts venues countywide if and where possible, alongside an online programme.

For full programme go to <https://culturenight.ie/events/wexford/>

Culture Night is supported by the Arts Council in partnership with the Wexford County Council.

Music Generation

A partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in Wexford county working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings.

Having switched to online in March 2020, from September 2020, Music Generation Wexford Musician Educators are starting going back into schools in person –14 primary schools confirmed to date with a further 15 schools to follow up- the option of continuing with the online workshops

The vocal & instrumental programme will be adapted, featuring musicianship through body percussion, ukuleles and glockenspiels

The High Street Opera workshops for children continue Online; Mini Maestros for toddlers in person with the Wexford Arts Centre & Online; the Cool School of Rock in Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts and CPDs with The Beat Goes On and other skills based training, online.

County Wexford Youth Film Project.

County Wexford Youth Film Project is based in St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross. The project trains young people aged 13 – 20 in the art of filmmaking and provides them with an opportunity for creative expression through an accessible and exciting medium.

It is intended that from September / October onwards that groups of 12 will meet in person in St. Michael Theatre.

In August, CWYFP presented an online special workshop designed to help create your own short film using mobile devices and free online tools to enabling you with your own short film.

It was free to teenagers across County Wexford and was funded by The Arts Department, Wexford County Council.

Wexford Youth Theatre (WACT)

Wexford Artists Community Theatre are dedicated to developing life skills in young people through affordable theatre experiences that educate, entertain and enrich the lives of the young people.

They are currently enrolling and have approx. 50 members aged between 12 – 17 years old. .

After going online for past 6 months they will resume workshops in person twice weekly from the new base in Trinity Street Wexford town. Groups limited to 12 will meet in person over 3 evenings per week.

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

Pembrokeshire County Council and Wexford County Council have invited applications from artist/s to create two new pieces of public art, one in Ferns and one in St David's as part of *Ancient Connections* with a total maximum budget of €175,000 to include all costs.

The artworks must be linked either visually or conceptually and be made from sustainable materials. Closing date for submission is 21st September, 2020. 23 applications were received and will be reviewed.

FIRE SERVICE

Fire Station Priorities for 2020.

Wexford County Fire Service continues to update the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government while awaiting approval to appoint the successful building contractor for New Ross fire station following the completion of the tendering process.

COVID-19

The fire service commenced its return to all operational training in July and August with Covid-19 precautions to maintain operational preparedness. Training is now fully implemented.

Major Emergency Management

Wexford County Councils Crisis Management Team was activated on 24/08/20 to coordinate the preparation and response to Storm Francis which passed with minimal disruption to the county.

Fire Operations

There were 53 incident responses in August as detailed below.

Call Statistics

Incident Type	Calls August 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 2 (2)	90	80
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 0 (0)	34	42
Road Traffic Accident	8	51	68
Industrial fire	1	9	7
Commercial fire	1	7	7
Assembly fire	0	2	0
Agricultural fire	0	2	1
Motor Vehicles	5	37	30
Forest/bog/grass etc	4	77	61
Rubbish	9	64	51
Non-fire rescues	4	35	23
False alarms – good intent	14	178	165
Malicious false alarms	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	5	31	52
Total	53	618	587

Fire Safety

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

August 2020

Applications Received	Year to date	August
Fire Safety Certificates	68	3

Number of Inspections	Year to date	August
FSA Inspections	57	3



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation



COVID -19

- Water Services has returned to normal service following the lifting of restrictions on non-essential construction work due to Covid - 19. Irish Water is back to business as usual.
- Water Services is carrying out its activity in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA.
- Office operations are working as normal with staff working both remotely and in the office and so are available to answer any queries. General queries still go through Irish Water 1850 278 278.

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is underway ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will follow in Q4, 2020.
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Deferred survey works due for completion Summer 2020.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. ➤ Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. A new delivery date is yet to be decided.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m³ reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. ➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under construction ○ Borehole works commencing September 2020

Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor selected. ○ Planning permission granted. ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded until November 2020 at the earliest which will impact on delivery of the scheme ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scheme design complete and ready to tender. Tender documents are being finalised and we expect to issue shortly. ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded in 2020 and a new delivery date is yet to be advised.
Wexford Town Water Main Rehab and Gas Network	Irish Water has advised it is no longer funding this project.
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The direct labour crew have commenced the find and fix programme. This is designed to target specific areas of leakage within the County and is designed by our Water Conservation office. Fixes to identified leaks have been completed in the South Regional and works are currently on going in Enniscorthy Town.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At detailed design stage

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disinfection Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging. ○ Snagging ongoing at various sites. ➤ Treated Water storage programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy. ➤ Kilmallock Bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be submitted for planning by summer 2020 ○
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IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Trinity Street**
 - Generator Upgrade works expected to take place Q4 2020.
- **Fairgreen Pumping Station, Ballycullane**
 - Works to decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP have commenced on site, and will continue during Q3.
- **Sinnottstown Lane Pumping Station**
 - Upgrade works completed September 2020.
- **Iona Pumping Station, Rosslare**
 - Upgrade works completed September 2020.
- **Rosetown Village Pumping Station, Rosslare**
 - Civil, mechanical and safety upgrade works on-going, expected completion November 2020.
- **Pumping Station Rationalisation**

Several proposals for rationalisation and decommissioning of pumping stations located close together have been submitted to Irish Water for review.
- **Rosslare Aeration Upgrade**
 - Meeting held on site with Irish Water to discuss proposals, and specialist contractor currently preparing report.
 - Funding approved from IW under Government Stimulus Package
- **Coolgreaney WWTP Upgrades**
 - Funding approved by Irish Water for upgrade to PLC controls of the WWTP.
 - Government Stimulus Package funding approved for upgrade to the inlet works.
- **King's Bay WWPS, Arthurstown Upgrades**
 - Phase 1 of upgrade works including site fencing and new valve chamber currently being tendered.

IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide. ➤ Additional budget of 221k was awarded for expenditure this year under the Government Stimulus Package ➤ 747K of works have been approved to date with 462k of expenditure committed.
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 23 applications received for Water Connections ○ 6 applications received for Wastewater Connections
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Delayed due to COVID 19. Expected completion now Q4 2020. ○ Rising main works recommenced 21st September. ➤ O'Rahilly View WWTP (TIC), Gusserane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q4. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curraclloe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q4.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some Water Services staff continue to work from home where possible

3. Rural Water Programme



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mullawn GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turbidity Meter was installed by EPS on the 26th May. Works have been completed and inspected by WCC and payments for works have been approved. ➤ Killaneran GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awaiting quotations for the engagement of a Hydrogeologist. Contact made with NFGWS for recommendations regarding appropriate Hydrogeologist.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021.

Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigative works for the relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir are on-going with consultations with Planning Dept.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendation to the Department at the end of the month on decision on progression, awaiting a response from the Dept. ○ Agreement to be reached in regard to Road Re-instatement before Site Investigation quotations can be sought. Site investigation quotations expected to be sought once confirmation of numbers is received. ○ Discussion with Planning proposed on results of findings of appropriate AA Report.
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Battlestown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader that scheme not expected to proceed. ○ Alternative solutions to resident issues currently being investigated. ➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader scheme not expected to proceed ➤ Crosstown GSS Scheme/Orchard Lane GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Irish Water are in the process of Taking in Charge the Crosstown GSS Scheme ○ There are no plans to Take in Charge the Orchard Lane GSS scheme at the moment.

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Countywide consumption for August 2020 was on average 43.48MLD, this is a decrease of 0.5MLD from Jul 2020. ➤ This is currently outside our 2020 YTD monthly target of 41.84MLD. However, Wexford is subject to seasonal demand from Tourism, Agriculture and Industry sectors.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 36nr leak repairs were completed by operations staff in August 2020. ➤ Planned Leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Kilmuckridge, Bunclody and Gorey areas.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current Projects – Enniscorthy BYS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffey Northumberland still remain stood down on the Bellfield Rd BYS project due to COVID-19 restrictions. A connection from the new main to the properties is still required to complete this project.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stimulus Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding for 3nr Pressure Management locations and the replacement of 5nr bulk meters was approved under a Government funded Stimulus Package. These works will be completed in 2020. This package also is funding the Old Dublin Road transfer of services as detailed below. ➤ Rehab Submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved Old Dublin road transfer of services and decommissioning of the problematic 3" PVC main will be progressed in 2020 by the Direct Labour Crew. ○ Coolballow rehab is proposed to be delivered in the next phase. ➤ Find and Fix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find and Fix resources were concentrated in Gorey and Enniscorthy during August 2020. ○ 16nr finds were recorded by the Find Crews, and the assigned LA Fix crew completed associated enabling works and 15nr repairs. These works saw savings of 7.0m3/hr. ○ The Find crew has currently commenced investigations in New Ross and South Regional areas. The Fix crew is completing works planned for Gorey and Enniscorthy.
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ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme

Covid-19 Site Closure

Works are still being impacted by the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 resulting in a slippage of the program for closing out of minor works. It is expected that any outstanding works will be completed in mid-September, subject to an updated programme from the contractor.

M11, N80 Link and N30

The M11, N80 Link and N30 are now open to traffic. Works in relation to fencing, landscaping drainage and general housekeeping will continue until contract completion.

Side Roads

Any outstanding works in relation to side roads will involve the installation of Traffic Management on a temporary basis to enable the works to be carried out safely.

Liaison Office

Wexford County Council is continuing to liaise with the public in relation to the scheme.

N25 New Ross By-Pass

It is anticipated that minor outstanding works to remaining side roads will be substantially completed in October and will be taken over by the Council. Any outstanding post-scheme road safety audits will also be conducted during this period to review operational conditions on the roads. A review of the design and construction of a junction on the L4003 Rathgarogue Road will be undertaken to reflect concerns raised by local residents and enhancement works will be proposed following the review. The Council will continue to engage with local residents on the issue.

A launch date for the project art piece is currently being arranged and associated landscaping works and other amenities will be completed by Wexford County Council in the coming weeks.

The PPP Company continues to provide operation and maintenance services in accordance with covid-19 guidelines. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the final completion of all outstanding works.

The PPP Company continues to provide operation and maintenance services in accordance with covid-19 guidelines. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the final completion of all outstanding works.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The appraisal of scheme options is progressing following the completion of the public consultation on the constraints study and scheme options on the 10th of August. A report on the public consultation has been published on the project website <http://oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie>. The report summarises how the public consultation was managed and implemented, the level of public participation achieved, and the main items of feedback received. All feedback has now been considered by the project team and the detailed assessment of the scheme options (and different combinations of scheme options) is progressing in order to identify the option that best meets the project objectives. This detailed assessment process will continue through the remainder of 2020 and into early 2021 and it is anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed in late February or early March of 2021.

An Option Selection Report will be published which will describe the assessment and selection process and outline the rationale for the selection of the preferred option. This Option Selection Report and preferred scheme option will be published on this project website and will also be displayed for public information. Arrangements for public engagement on the preferred scheme option will be made subject to guidelines in place at the time to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare and Rosslare Europort Access Road

The detailed appraisal of the three scheme options is progressing to identify the option that best meets the project objectives. It is anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be identified in October and further details of the scheme options and other project information is available on the project website <http://rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie>.

An Option Selection Report will be published which will describe the assessment and selection process and outline the rationale for the selection of the preferred option. This Option Selection Report and preferred scheme option will be published on this project website and will also be displayed for public information. Arrangements for public engagement on the preferred scheme option will be made subject to guidelines in place at the time to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The project continues to consult closely with Irish Rail and Rosslare Europort as the scheme develops in parallel with plans for the future development of the Port.

2020 National Road Pavement Schemes

The 2020 TII road improvement allocation has been received from TII.

The following schemes will be carried out in 2020;

- N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme
- N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme
- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great Pavement Scheme
- N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the newly constructed Mountelliot roundabout to the R731 Ballyanne junction in New Ross.

This scheme was tendered in May. The contract was awarded in August.

Preparatory works commenced on 28th September.

The programme duration will be 10 weeks.

N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the Ferrycarrig Bridge to the Maldron roundabout on the N11.

This scheme was tendered on 19th August with a tender return date of 11th September. A Letter of Intent was issued on 21st September. A contractor will be appointed in early October.

Works should commence in late October or early November with a 12 week construction programme.

N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from Holmestown junction to Tomcool junction on the N25.

This scheme will be tendered in week commencing 28th September.

Works should commence in November with an 8 week construction programme.

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

Preliminary archaeology investigations were carried out in 2019. Further archaeological investigations are underway. These are required to be carried out in advance of the pavement scheme going ahead. These investigations were completed in July.

It is expected that the pavement scheme will be tendered in November.

Construction is likely to commence in the first quarter of 2021 with an 8 week construction programme.

Public Lighting LED Upgrade (Non National Roads)

Over 7,000 lanterns have been upgraded to Led since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to upgrade the remaining 5,700 lanterns on non-national roads and housing estates in 2020.

Design works are underway with 75% of the lanterns already designed.

66% of the lanterns have been delivered with 50% of the lanterns installed to date.

The scheme should be completed by the end of the year.

Public Lighting Development Fund

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

- Newtown Road Wexford Town (Completed).
- Clonard Village, Clonard, Wexford Town (Completed).
- Castlebridge Village southern end (Completed)
- Castlebridge Village -Crossabeg road. (Completed).
- Ferns Village – rear of funeral home (Completed).
- Puddle Lane, Ballycanew (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Fishers Row, Trinity Street, Wexford Town (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Marian Terrace, Camolin (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Tomhaggard Village (Contractor due to commence week commencing 21st. September.)
- Kilrane Industrial Estate Access road (Lanterns installed. ESB connection applied for. Cabling due to commence in October).

TII Energy Efficiency Schemes

Wexford County Council applied to TII to upgrade the remaining lights on national routes to Led in 2020.

The locations are listed below;

- N11 Oilgate
- N25 Kilrane and Rosslare Harbour
- N25 Ashfield cross Roundabout
- N25 Barntown
- N25 Larkins Cross
- N25 Balinabola
- N30 Clonroche
- N80 Ballycarney
- N80 Bunclody

TII approved all schemes on 16th April.

Lighting designs have been completed.

These 9 schemes were tendered in 4 separate lots.

All 4 lots have been tendered and awarded.

It is expected to have all 9 sites upgraded by the end of October.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 21 January 2020. Wexford's allocation was €17,088,007, up €2,646,207 on 2019.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 21 February. It was postponed from 30 March to 18 May due to public health measures. The first phase of the Machinery Yard programme was completed on 18 June.

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

Ryland (Enniscorthy District)

Barrystown to Kiltra; Baldwinstown to Muchtown (both in Rosslare District).

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

Clonsarragh to Ramsgrange; Coolaught/Rathfylane (GreenLane); (both in New Ross District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 22 June.

Roads completed in the last month were:

Pollsallagh to Murntown; (Rosslare District).

Community Involvement Schemes

Roads completed in the last month were:

Leegane, Foulksmills (New Ross District).

Local Improvement Schemes

Roads completed in the last month were:

Boleycreen, Bunclody (Enniscorthy District)

Ballycoheir; Ralph; Ballinbarna; (All in New Ross District).

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Bridges that had repairs completed in the last month were:

Mullinree Bridge; (Wexford Borough District).

Active Travel Measures

Co. Wexford received € 1,351,098 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 28 projects. Works has commenced on some of these.

Climate Change Adaptation Measures

Co. Wexford received € 460,000 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 16 projects. Works has commenced on some of these.

Specific Improvement Works

Ballywilliam Culverts Replacement Project. The village suffered fluvial flooding in 2015 causing the service station to be flooded and closed for a period. Roads in the village were also impassable. Following a competitive tender process Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. was awarded the contract for €435,423.00 excluding VAT. Construction works commenced on site in mid-September. The project is progressing well. The works primarily entailed replacing undersized concrete pipes with two large precast concrete box culverts. One box culvert has been installed on the Rathgaroge road at the back of the service station and the other box culvert is being installed at the front of the service station on the R731. The works are expected to be complete by the end of October.

General Maintenance

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

5. Finance:

COVID -19

The COVID 19 emergency continues to impact negatively on the finances of Wexford County Council across all income sources when compared to 2019. The decline in Income levels has slowed but are still much lower than pre-Covid levels. In addition unplanned emergency expenditure on our response to the crisis is now in excess of €900k.

The 6 Month (27th March to 27th September) Rates Waiver scheme for eligible businesses as set out in circular Fin 11/2020 has been notified to ratepayers. The process is almost complete and the total cost of this waiver scheme will be over €10m. The council has yet to receive government funding for the scheme, the first tranche of this payment is now expected in early October. Credit Control are also now engaging with ratepayers to make arrangement for the payment of remaining balances on their rate accounts.

Budget 2021

Preparatory work is progressing on Budget 2021. The delivery of an adequate budget to maintain services for 2021 will be challenging and we currently await notification of potential government support funding as part of the national budget for 2021. The decision by members to retain the 10% local variation factor on Local Property Tax is welcome and a positive start to the budget process. The next stage will be the Draft Budgetary Plans for the Municipal Districts (GMA) and this will be completed as part of the October MD meetings. Following this the detailed work on budget 2021 will be completed and the CPG/Cross party group will be updated on the budget strategy for 2021 at the meeting scheduled for 2nd November. The statutory budget meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th November at 10am.

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

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is now in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €30m to assist with potential COVID related potential cash flow difficulties that might arise for the remainder of 2020. It will be necessary to seek council approval for borrowing by way of overdraft for 2021 and a report on same will be submitted to the November meeting.

Audit Committee/Audit

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 21st October.

The 2019 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service formally commenced on 10th July and is ongoing. This year's audit will be completed in line with government restrictions and guidelines as a result of the COVID-19 situation. Once complete the statutory audit report for 2019 will be submitted to the council for consideration.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**