



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**October 2021**

# Economic Development & Planning:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

### Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

The scheme was announced by Minister Humphries, Department of Rural and Community Development in August. Based on the number of towns/ villages with a population of 500-15,000 in the county, Wexford was allocated a budget of €260,000 for 5 nominated towns/villages. 167 applications were received by the deadline of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September as follows:

	No of Applications received	Amount of Funding Requests received
Enniscorthy	40	€112,218
Gorey	31	€134,790
Kilmore Quay	6	€14,653
New Ross	47	€169,952
Wexford	32	<b>€130,278</b>
Outside of nominated areas	11	<b>€61,422</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>€623,313</b>

Assessment of applications is ongoing. Following the assessment process, a list of applications recommended for funding will be forwarded to the DRCD for approval before successful applicants will be advised to proceed with works.

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021

Eight applications were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development in advance of the scheme deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in accordance with the scheme criteria. An announcement regarding successful applications is expected in mid October.

### Town and Village Connected Hub Scheme 2021

Town and Village Connected Hub funding is to develop and leverage the capacity and quality of existing remote working facilities & Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) in support of the National Hub Network initiative. Following a call for Expressions of interest Wexford County Council submitted two applications from existing Community Hubs as well as an application for funding for the County's existing 9 BCPs involving a collaboration between the Economic Department and the Broadband Officer.

Community Hub	Killinierin Community Centre	€64,789	
Community Hub	61 North, Wexford Town	€36,890	
	<b>Community Hub Funding Request</b>	<b>€101,679</b>	<b>€101,679</b>
BCP	Hook Head Visitor Centre	€29,500	
BCP	Stella Maris Community Hub	€29,500	
BCP	St Marys GAA Complex	€27,500	
BCP	Wexford Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre	€26,500	

BCP	Raheen Parochial House	€25,500	
BCP	Marshallstown GAA Club	€34,500	
BCP	Ballyroebeck Hall	€19,500	
BCP	Askamore Childcare Centre	€19,500	
BCP	Ballyfad Community Centre	€29,500	
	<b>BCP total</b>	<b>€241,500</b>	
	Less Local Contribution	-€24,170	
	<b>BCP Funding Request</b>	<b>€217,350</b>	<b>€217,350</b>
	<b>Total Funding Request</b>		<b>€319,029</b>
	<b>Total Funding Approved</b>		<b>€319,029</b>

## Small Business Assistance Scheme 1 & 2

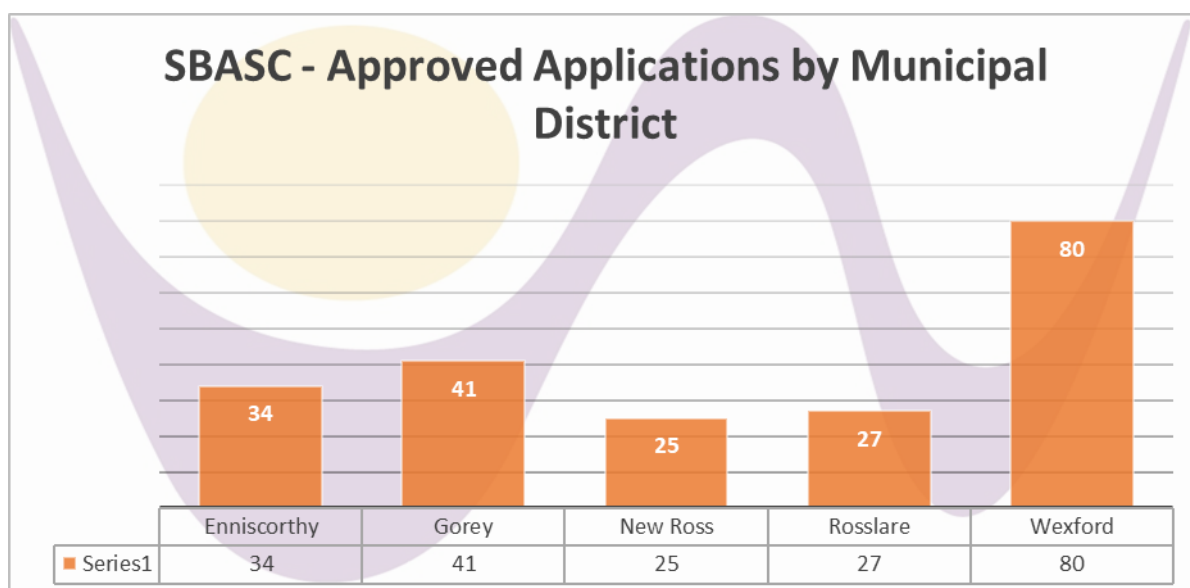
A total of 253 Applications were received for the County, 207 Approved, 46 Rejected, with €768,000 funding supporting SME's in their recovery from the pandemic.

### SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME 1 COVID STATISTICS

	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	2	€8,000.00
APPLICATIONS PAID	116	€464,000.00
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	26	€0.00
<b>Total Number of Applications</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>€472,000.00</b>

### SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME 2 COVID STATISTICS

	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	3	€12,000.00
APPLICATIONS PAID	86	€284,000.00
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	20	€0.00
<b>Total Number of Applications</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>€296,000.00</b>



<b>Total number of SBASC Approved Applications</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>%</b>
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Enniscorthy	34	16%
Gorey	41	20%
New Ross	25	12%
Rosslare	27	13%
Wexford	80	39%

## Local Enterprise Office

### Trading Online Voucher

Applications for the TOV voucher remains strong with 140 approvals in 2021 to the value of €296,506 to date assisting SME's with a digital presence to expand their customer base.

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



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

This year's NWED is once again an online event and the theme is "Build The Future". Aine Kerr, co-founder of Kinzen and host of RTE's Reignite will host the event. The morning and afternoon sessions will allow participants to hear from the following keynote speakers; Rachel Doyle, The Arboretum and Aimee Connolly, Sculpted by Aimee. Panellists and session speakers include; Larissa Feeney, Accountant Online, Gerry Duffy, Gerry Duffy Academy, Paula McNicholas, Lean Business Consultant, Kim Mackenzie-Doyle, The Big Idea and Jenny Melia, Enterprise Ireland. The day will address areas such as;

- Planet, People, Purpose & Profit – building sustainability and green actions into your business.
- Build a Better Business – making improvements in your business to drive productivity, efficiency and profitability.
- Is there a Better Way? – developing an innovative mindset.
- Finding New Markets, Win New Clients – internationalising your business and understanding available supports to help you on your journey.

There will also be several spotlight short sessions ranging from trading online, harnessing social media, first steps in digitalisation, sustainability and an opportunity to network. The day will finish with advice clinics (online exhibitor booths) where participants can engage with state agencies and support bodies to answer any questions they may have. This year's "Leading Light" representing County Wexford is Niamh Hogan, Holos Skincare. Niamh produces an amazing range of ethically produced skincare products for her base in Enniscorthy and heads up an all-female team of six.



Niamh has won numerous awards for her products and recently was the overall winner of 'Free From Skincare Awards'. Holos Skincare is an excellent example of a business that adapted to Covid and adjusted their business model with 67% of all revenue sales online which was up by 30% on 2019 figures and represented an overall revenue increase of 103%. Niamh is currently looking firmly at the export markets and has just signed a significant contract in the U.S. Niamh's business will be profiled both locally and nationally in the lead up to NWED and on the day itself.

### Green for Micro

This pilot scheme has been extended with no details of a closing date announced. The programme is free of charge and delivered over 2 days offering practical guidance to micro-enterprises on how to make their business more sustainable. There is a centralised application process through the following link; <https://leo.submit.com/show/1> and applications are assessed locally. Uptake on this programme has been slow with 6 businesses signed up to date. We continue to promote through social media and our website. It should be noted that several clients are receiving separate consultancy support under "client stimulus". To increase traction and to embed sustainability in business, LEO Wexford have been working on a "**Sustainability is Your Business**" guide. This guide is currently been finalised and will provide practical steps a business can take to save money, develop new green income streams and take care of the planet. It will also outline the supports available from Government and other agencies in terms of funding, consultancy and training.

### Training/Mentoring

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

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Introduction to Google Analytics     | 05/10/21 |
| • Customer Service/Complaints Handling | 05/10/21 |
| • Trading Online Voucher Seminar       | 06/10/21 |
| • Business Advice Clinic               | 07/10/21 |
| • Social Media for SME's               | 07/10/21 |
| • Management of Stress                 | 11/10/21 |
| • Brexit Clinic                        | 12/10/21 |
| • Advanced Presentation Skills         | 12/10/21 |

To date 1,174 participants have availed of training with a further 173 receiving one to one mentor support.

Following a recent tender for suitable business consultants for our mentor panel, we received a total of 56 applications. A detailed tender assessment has taken place and successful candidates will be informed shortly. The new panel will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

## Tourism

### Fáilte Ireland “Keep Discovering” Campaign



As part of their “Keep Discovering” Campaign, Fáilte Ireland have created a video for Wexford where they showcase a flavour of the great things to see and do in Wexford such as Hook Head Lighthouse, Curracloe Beach, Blackstairs Mountains, Johnstown Castle, Quadventure and Irish National Heritage Park. This video aired on TV on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September as well as across digital and social channels including RTE Player, Sky, AdSmart and Facebook. Fáilte Ireland’s plan for the remainder of the year is to geo-target their content to focus on consumers who live within two hours of Wexford.

### Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme



Wexford County Council in partnership with Wexford Borough Council has been successful in an application to Fáilte Ireland for funding under The Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme. Monck Street in Wexford Town has been approved for a grant of €228,000 which will see investment by both Wexford County Council and Local Businesses. The proposed retractable roof, soft lighting, public realm features and stylish outdoor dining furniture will ensure that visitors are attracted to the town destination year-round. The project will improve visitor flow & orientation bringing people from the Quays to the Main Street. This will have a positive impact on the town's economy; increase visitors dwell time and ensure the hospitality sector is resilient in poor weather conditions while maximising the shoulder season.

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

The Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland and is administered by Wexford County Council. The scheme opened on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and will close on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. To date 146 applications have been received with a value of €348,449.



DATE 23 September 2021	15-Apr-2021 to 23-Sep-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
OUTDOOR SEATING & ACCESSORIES FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY BUSINESS SCHEME		
	NUMBER	VALUE
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	100	€243,932.21
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	8	€22,334.95
APPLICATIONS PAID	30	€82,182.22
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	8	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	146	€348,449.38

## PLANNING

### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

No. of valid applications	1366
No. of invalid applications	106
Extension of Duration	38
Exempted Development Declaration	54

Numbers are those received from the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 until 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

No. of valid applications	131
No. of invalid applications	2
Extension of Duration	2
Exempted Development Declaration	5

### Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	66
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	490
Average waiting time to meeting	30 days



## **Forward Planning**

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

At the Special Planning Council meeting held on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the Members continued their considerations of the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions and Observations received on the Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. The Members decided to make a number of material alterations to the Draft Plan arising out of the submissions received. It was determined at that meeting that some of the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan must undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. When the assessments are completed the proposed material alterations, and the assessments, will then be placed on public display for a four-week period during which written submissions and observations relating only to the proposed material alterations or the assessments can be made to the Planning Authority.

### **Heritage**

Works are on-going at Fethard Castle which received grant funding of €70,000 under the Community Monuments Fund. The works are necessary to secure the future of the monument and build resilience against future climate-related deterioration.

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

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

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

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

As a continuation of the new Wex Bee Aware project in partnership with the Housing Department; Resident Groups of Local Authority owned housing estates have been invited to attend meetings in each of the five districts. The All-Ireland Pollinator focused information evenings are to be hosted by Deborah Darcy, Ecologist and will take place in October.

One housing estate in each of the five districts will be selected to participate in a pilot scheme to remove areas of cut lawn and replace with suitable pollinator planting. The project will also see the continued roll out of Wex Bee Aware, Community Apple Orchards, again on Council owned lands.

### **Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites**

Report from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as follows:

- 57 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 3 property owners currently engaged with the County Council to carry out remedial works so that the properties will not be placed on Derelict Site Register.



## Building Control 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

- Validated Commencement Notices: 44
- Number of Building Control Inspections: 21
- Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion: 17
- Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts: 0

## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 are as follows: -

- Live Cases 412
- Cases Opened 263
- Cases Closed 143

The number of planning enforcement actions as at 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 are as follows: -

- Warning Letters Issued 303
- Enforcement notices issued 25
- Legal proceedings instigated 9

## Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as at 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 are as follows:

- Properties advertised on websites 92
- No. of warning letters served 42
- Cases Closed 38

## Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 up to and including 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 totals **42**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	10	2	0	7	1
Gorey	8	0	0	8	0
New Ross	8	2	1	5	0
Wexford	12	2	1	9	0
Rosslare	4	0	0	4	0
<b>2021 Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>

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

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	115

## Special Projects:

### 1.1 Min Ryan Park

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

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

This project is practically complete. Final snag works are ongoing including the sewer connection which is due to be completed by November.

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1

Phase 1 – the development of three serviced sites is substantially complete and the construction of the first building is well under way.

### 1.4 Gorey Town Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Completion of the building works is expected in October.

Kompan Ltd. has commenced playground and adult gym equipment installation, and this will be complete in October.

### 1.5 South East Greenway

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

### 1.6 Trinity Wharf

Tenders for a works contract for the new access road to serve the site have been assessed. WCC is advancing the works licence agreements required from CIE for the construction of the access road and for the new level crossing with a view to commencing works in Q4 2021.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. A tender notice regarding pre-qualification re-issued on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and submission are due by mid-October.

### **1.7 New Ross Fire Station**

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station has been awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site on May 6<sup>th</sup> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions and will take 9 months to complete. Completion is expected in June 2022.

### **1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension**

The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site on May 6<sup>th</sup> following lifting of Level 5 restrictions. Completion is expected in June 2022.





## 1.9 High Hill, New Ross

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



## 1.10 Kilmore Quay Link Road

Works are expected to be completed in October 2021.

## 1.11 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

A Part VIII planning consent application for the development of the public realm space on the site is being prepared and is expected to be lodged in Q4 2021.

### **1.13 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:**

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

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

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

WCC is engaged with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to a further funding application to support regeneration in Enniscorthy.

### **1.14 John Street Building Regeneration Project**

WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross which will see these buildings converted into a high-quality enterprise hub.

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

### **1.15 Esmonde Street**

Our consultants RPS are progressing with the detailed design work and site investigation works are planned to commence in September 2021. Following the recent unsuccessful RRDF funding application for works, a budget of €1.5m has been committed by WCC to allow the project to advance.

### **1.16 Gorey Market House**

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

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. This tender process was concluded in May 2021 without the award of a contract.

### **1.17 Mechanics Institute**

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders were advertised in November 2020. A works contractor will be appointed in Q4 2021. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.

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

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

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

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

Tenders for environmental services required to support the Hook tourism project have been assessed and an award of contract is planned for early October. Likewise, the appointment of design team for the tourism services will be completed in early October.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman Centre in New Ross has been completed and was presented to the Members of the New Ross Municipal District in June 2021. The tenders for tourism co-ordination and management services for the project have been assessed and the successful tenderer is due to be appointed in the coming weeks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **1.22 Wexford town to Rosslare Greenway**

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

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

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

A Part 8 submission is in preparation for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site and for construction of a temporary surface level car park. The plan was presented to the Wexford MDC September meeting and the Part 8 process will commence in October 2021.

## **1.24 Crescent Quay – Dredging**

An award of contract was made to RPS Consulting Engineers in June 2021 for design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications in respect of this project.

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

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

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



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

### **1.26 Enniscorthy Sports Hub**

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. Design is substantially complete and works contracts will be advertised in Oct/Nov. It is expected that that works will commence in Q1 2022.

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

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

Given the early stage of the project, the timeline for delivery is uncertain.

## **2. Flood Defence Schemes**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:

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

## REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

### 1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS AUGUST 2021

Type	August 2021
Freedom of Information	11
Customer Complaint	10
Ombudsman Complaint	3
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

\*Note not included is 1 appeal to the Office of the Information Commissioner of a request from 2020.\*Note not included is 1 appeal to the Office of the Information Commissioner of a request from 2020.

### 2. MEMBERS PORTAL USAGE AUGUST 2021

#### Status of Representations

No. of Representations by Section (Open/Closed)						
Section	Closed	Open	Total	%	Resolved	> SLA
Community	0	1	1	0%	0	0
Customer Service	1	5	6	3%	0	4
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	1	1	0%	1	0
Environment	5	9	14	7%	9	0
Housing	12	110	122	57%	97	5
Planning	0	9	9	4%	1	1
Property	1	0	1	0%	0	0
Roads	2	6	8	4%	5	1
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	1	16	17	8%	9	7
Roads – Gorey – Kilmuckridge MD	3	14	17	8%	9	7
Roads – New Ross MD	0	2	2	1%	2	0
Roads – Rosslare MD	0	3	3	1%	1	0
Roads – Wexford MD	0	8	8	4%	8	0
Water – Non Irish Water Queries	0	1	1	0%	1	0
Wexford Municipal District	0	3	3	1%	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>27</b>

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

Area		August	
Agricultural Burns			93
Environment Complaints			4,016*
Change of Circumstances			380
General Queries			0
Housing Validation			856
Quick Calls			12,518**
Road Faults Log			866
Emails			27,313
	1. Incoming External Emails	6,890	
	2. Incoming Internal Emails	5,848	
	3. Forwarding/Replies	51	
	4. Emails sent by CSU	14,524	
<b>Total</b>		<b>27,313</b>	<b>46,042</b>

\* 1093 (27%) of these calls relate to Community Clean Ups

\*\* 4,068 (15%) of these calls rare in respect of various Housing Services, 1,967 (48% ) of which are for Housing Maintenance)

### 4. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY AUGUST 2021

#### Tenders

No uploaded	2
No of tenders received	10

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

## HOUSING

### SSHA 2021

Wexford County Council is currently carrying out a review of the Social Housing Supports List (Housing List) and will be writing to existing approved applicants requesting that they update their details. To remain eligible for Social Housing Supports, existing approved applicants who receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA 2021) review form must return the form with the relevant documents on or before Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Only **915** applicants will receive a SSHA 2021 form. Applicants who have applied, or been reassessed, since 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, will not receive a form. Also transfer applicants, including those in Private Rented accommodation receiving HAP (Housing Assistance Payment), will not receive a form. Any applicant, whose circumstances have changed, are advised to contact the Customer Service Unit or any Area Housing Officer for a 'change of circumstances' form.

**New changes for 2021** applicants must submit 52 weeks income details for all household members by the following means:-

Any household member in employment	Any household member in self-employment
Evidence of 12 months' income prior to the date of application must be submitted through a combination of the following:- <b>Current Year</b> <b>Payslips</b> for all employments <b>or</b> <b>Pay and Tax Summary (Year to date)</b> . This can be obtained from Revenue's online service, myAccount* and will include all employments in this current year to date. <b>Previous Year</b> <b>Statement of Liability</b> . This can be obtained through Revenue's online service, myAccount* or your local tax office <b>and</b> <b>Employment Detail Summary</b> . This can be obtained from Revenue's online service, myAccount*.	A minimum of 2 years' accounts with an Auditor's Report <b>and</b> A Notice of Assessment and/or Self-Assessment Acknowledgement letter for the preceding 12 months
	Any household members in receipt of social welfare
	A recent statement from Department of Social Protection detailing all welfare payments received and commencement date of receipt of such payments. If a household is in receipt of social welfare for less than 12 months, a Statement of Liability for the preceding year and, where applicable, payslips for the intervening period must also be provided.

\*<https://www.ros.ie/myaccount-web/home.html>

For any/all household members with a disability or medical condition a separate HMD – Form 1 (*Disability and/or Medical Information form*) must be submitted. This can be requested from CSU by telephoning 053-919 6000.

Adverts have been placed in the local newspapers advising applicants of the SSHA 2021 and the new income requirements.

## Affordable Housing

The Housing for All Plan was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> September by the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, which contain significant commitments to affordable housing. Wexford County Council is committed to supporting the delivery of affordable housing within the County and will examine all affordable options proposed under the programme.

A Local Authority led affordable housing development has already been identified at Ramsfort Park, Gorey, Wexford for 20 units. Part 8 Planning for this development was approved by the Council at the July meeting. This site has secured €225k towards development under the Serviced Site Fund (which has been amended and relaunched as the Affordable Housing Fund). Procurement for this project will commence when the route of the access road has been agreed, this will form a link to the Local Authority lands at St. Waleran's and is currently under review by the Housing, Roads and Planning Departments. Formal applications will be opened once the regulations have been issued.

The Council will also examine the viability of progressing projects under the various affordable models for other County locations. The Department have committed to providing guidance and regulations on the processes, including the scoring and weighting information, to Local Authorities in the coming weeks which will enable applications to be made under the Affordable Housing Fund. Housing will review each of the Districts to determine eligibility under the scheme.

It is expected that the current Scheme of Priority for Affordable Housing, adopted by the Members in 2019, will require a review of Eligibility Criteria for applicants, following enactment of the Affordable Housing Bill. Once guidance is issued from the Department, an amended scheme will be brought to the Housing SPC for agreement and subsequently to full Council for consideration and adoption by the Members.

## Housing Supply Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Roof works recommenced. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	More changes requested by Irish Water at final connection (IW). Pump Station complete. Will complete in Q4 2021
Ballycullane	2	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Due to complete Q1 2022
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Works commence on site 24 <sup>th</sup> May 21. Due to complete in Q2 2022
Creagh	14	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q4 for increased density incorporating more one bed apartments
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 submitted to DHPLG on 10 Sept. Awaiting Pre Planning Meeting and Stage 2 approval.
Rosbercon	28/41	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q3 2021.

				Seeking to procure a Knotweed specialist.
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 Q4 2021
Whiterock Hill ( <i>deliver units in 2 phases</i> )	44	Wexford	Stage 4 approved	Stage 4 approved 20 Sept for Phase 1 (22 Units) Proceed to sign contracts. Discussions re pump station to enable Phase 2 (22 units also) ongoing.

Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Site cleared and surveys complete. Stage 3 Submission Q4
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Scheme designed. Awaiting Office of Public Procurement (OPG) Frameworks to tender for Integrated Design Team. Frameworks to be in place mid Q4
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be lodged in October 2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>242</b>			

### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required. Shortfall of €42,300. Contractor lined up but no contract can be signed until funding is fully in place. Application to be confirmed by DHPLG
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. Management Plan required.
Francis Street	2	Wexford	Sketch Design for demolition and re-build complete. Revised Stage 1 submitted 6 Aug to DHPLG. Awaiting approval. The proposal is to construct 2 no apartments on the site.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed apartments on the site is now prepared and submitted for Pre Planning. Stage 1 to follow in October 21.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>		

### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	14	Rosslare	Site cleared, Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. Stage 1 Sept 2021.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>		

## Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW no capacity. Awaiting formal notification on our appeal to IW prior to submission of Stage 1.
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Substantial additional funding required. Tender for consultants underway. Awaiting Funding Approval
Adamstown	2	Wexford	IW confirmed that there is no capacity in Adamstown so this job is on hold. We have appealed this decision and we are hopeful we will be allowed 2 houses on this derelict site with a total population equivalent (PE) of 8
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	5	Gorey	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs. Awaiting confirmation of feasibility from IW to connect into treatment plant. Stage 1 approved 2 Sept 2. Pre Planning lodged. Appoint Consultants Q4 2021
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity with IW and land availability in Q2 2021. Awaiting IW approval and transfer of land back to Housing.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Derelict house on site. Pre-Planning submitted 10 Sept. If Planners agree to the density on site Stage 1 can be lodged in Q4 2021
Grogans Road	3	Wexford	Proposal for 3 Apartments submitted for pre planning prior to Stage 1 which can follow if received positively by Planning.
Bride St	2	Wexford	Site Surveyed. Pre Planning to be lodged Sept 2021 for 2 no 2-bed apartments.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>		

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	All units expected to deliver Q3 & Q4 2021. Delay due to service connections
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	Approval received June 2021. Currently under construction. To deliver 2022
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	16 units delivered. Remainder to deliver Q4 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2022



<b>Tuath</b>			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	All units delivered
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	All units delivered.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Approval received June 2021. Site clearance commenced. To deliver on phased basis from 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>391</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver 2022
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2021& Q1 2022
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	3 units complete. 2 units to deliver Q4 2021 and Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023
Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received June 2021. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	Delivered
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	All units delivered
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Delivered

Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expected to deliver Q4 2021.
Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	To deliver from Q4 2021 & Q1 2022.
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	Delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2021. Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>		

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

## Housing Maintenance

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

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021)	103	66	104	100	58	431
Repair Requests Year to Date	932	664	1007	928	599	4120
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021)	83	60	85	87	47	362
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	536	404	566	595	346	2447

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER Programme -

The Article 48 team processed 20 LEADER claims. The value of these claims was **€528,608.96** which will support 7 enterprises and 13 community groups across County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
1. Askamore Muntir Na Tire	€11,232.52
2. Astro Active-County Wexford Community Workshop	€15,407.62
3. Barnadown Showjumping	€82,581.22
4. Gerald Roche	€14,022.00
5. Wexford Lavender Farm	€15,547.50
6. Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€2,931.75
7. Wexford Local Development	€11,070.00
8. Rosslare Community Development Association	€10,000.00
9. Simone Walsh Gallery	€103,249.94
10. Amelhu Holdings	€48,922.46
11. Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€3,713.49
12. Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€3,990.73
13. Wexford Walking Trails	€2,675.93
Total	€325,345.16
Approved for payment	Approved Payment
1. Clongeen Community Development Group	€28,500.00
2. Wexford Arts Centre	€2,928.73
3. High Meadows Community Hub	€50,220.09
4. Kilcanon Industries CLG	€37,814.48
5. Murrintown Community Development Group	€45,929.51
6. Killurin Rowing Club	€10,971.49
7. Ferns St Aidans GAA Club	€26,899.50
Total	€203,263.80

## **Joint Policing Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 13th September 2021, on 'The Street' County Hall. This meeting was the first opportunity for the JPC members to meet in person throughout the Covid period. Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit presented the division report answering questions from the members present.

The meeting agenda included items - CCTV update from the Co. Secretary, LA16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure and the JPC Annual Report 2020. The next meeting date is to be agreed.



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

The proposed September meeting of the Local Community Development Committee has been deferred until the 21st October 2021.

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

The proposed September meeting of the Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group has been deferred until the 21st October 2021.

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

A regional meeting of the LAG Managers took place on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2021, via Microsoft Teams – items discussed included procurement and the LEADER Programme review.

## **Community Enhancement Programme 2021**

The LCDC approved funding of €150,065 to 84 community groups on the 15<sup>th</sup> July under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021. This iteration of the CEP was focused on improving community facilities by supporting groups as they re-opened community facilities, which had been closed due to COVID19, through the provision of small-scale capital and operational grants, to a maximum of €3,000.

## **Burial Grounds**

Access and safety improvement works under the 2021 burial ground programme of works were completed at Bunclody and Rathnure cemeteries during August.

At the July meeting of Enniscorthy Municipal District, the members agreed that the municipal burial ground at Summerhill Enniscorthy would official by named 'Enniscorthy Cemetery', following a public consultation process.

## **Garda Youth Awards**

An adjudication panel met during July to consider applications received under The 2021 Garda Youth Awards. The format of the awards ceremony, to be held during Q4-2021, will be dependent on the evolving public health situation.

## **Comhairle na nÓg**

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth launched the Comhairle na nÓg Five Year Development Plan during July, with additional funding of €5,000 provided for Comhairlí to begin implementation of the stakeholder engagement element of the plan.

The Wexford Comhairle na nÓg AGM will be held remotely on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.



## Healthy Wexford

### October Report (to include 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021)

Many of our Healthy Ireland Fund activities have progressed over the summer period. Below are some photo examples of activity funded across County Wexford.



July also saw Healthy Wexford and its action partners report on Year Two (July 20-June 21) activity. The fund now continues until December 2021

As part of this reporting a review was completed on the first year of Healthy Wexford Social Media, which is managed by the Healthy County Coordinator

The review looked at presence, activity, reach, and engagement over the year.



Key findings of this review :

- Strong presence and activity.
- Activity is impactful based on reach levels and levels of engagement
- Twitter provides greatest reach but Facebook provides a reach to an older audience
- Opportunity to develop and utilise Instagram in coming year with strong following already

In July, Healthy Wexford also distributed our summer merchandise through action partners.





As part of the retro-branding of facilities across the county Healthy Wexford signage and Flags have been prepared. Working with the Districts this will be fitted over the coming weeks and months, with some already in place.



After a lot of behind the scenes work the **'Not Around Us'** in Wexford campaign releases on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This initiative is an invitation from young people to consider your activity in spaces where there are children and young people, in order to provide smoke/vape free environments for our young people and to help de-normalise smoking and vaping for the next generation.



Not Around Us in Wexford is a partnership and collaboration led by Healthy Wexford and supported by Wexford County Council, the HSE, Wexford CYPSC, WWETB, Wexford LCDIC, FDYS, Sports Active Wexford, Wexford GAA, Leinster Rugby, Wexford FAI and Wexford's Comhairle na nÓg.

The initiative is funded by the Healthy Ireland Fund, with additional support from Wexford County Council

While the key campaign message broadly replicates that which originating in Limerick, it has its own unique Wexford slant in that the materials have been designed here in collaboration with Wexford Comhairle na nÓg, and the initiative asks groups and organisations to really discuss and consult with young people before pledging to the campaign. This means Wexford will have a network of healthy areas, chosen in consultation with young people, where they can be free from smoking and vaping.

Initially we are asking all not for profit and public organisations who have children and young people engaged with their facility/space to get involved. More information is available here <https://bit.ly/NotAroundUs>

Work also continues progressing our other Healthy County initiatives and in areas where we are collaborating such as Radon and Accessible Trails & Destination Parks.



## INTERREG – Celtic Routes

There are more than 60 Tourism Trade bodies using content from the Asset Library from our website [www.celticroutes.info](http://www.celticroutes.info). Fáilte Ireland have also requested that a number of our assets be uploaded to their Trade Portal.

The Celtic Routes Project have been shortlisted in the “Supporting Tourism” category for Chambers Ireland Local Government Award.

## Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26 and public consultations

Work on the Age Friendly Strategy continues with surveys distributed to older people via local media, WCC online portal, social media as well as through Meals on Wheels services, day care centres, IFA and the PPN. Alliance members including Local Link, An Garda Síochána, Libraries and the HSE also assisted in this process. Over 500 surveys have been returned to date with analysis of the results currently underway.

Consultation took place with older members of the farming community at an IFA Farm event on the Earle family farm in Ballycanew on Friday 10th September 2021.



*Age Friendly public consultation with farming community at IFA event*

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September consultations continued with targeted focus group meetings which involved groups working with older people who are isolated and lonely, the Wexford Dementia Working Group, nursing homes, health services as well as those working with or members of the following communities: Asylum-Seekers & Refugees, Roma, Travellers, LGBTQ+ and disability groups.



After this consultation period ends one to one meetings with members of the Age Friendly Alliance committee will commence followed by the production of a draft strategy which will be ready for November's Alliance meeting.

### Telehealth

This pilot telehealth trial with 50 patients in Wexford finished at the end of August and Waterford IT are working on the first draft of their evaluation report which will be ready by the end of September.

### Creative Ireland Funding - Creativity in Older Age 2021

- **Enniscorthy Activity Garden at St. Johns Hospital, Enniscorthy** – The Architects/Designers have been appointed and held the first of a series of six sessions with interested hospital staff, residents and service users on Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of these meetings is for the design team to get to know the primary users of this future garden and learn about how they currently interact with the outdoor space on the hospital campus. They plan to 'co-design' the garden with all users and the broader community and ensure it meets the needs and wants of the community and the environment, and that it is loved by staff, service users and community members for generations to come.



*Men's Shed & Age Friendly Programme Manager meet Designers*

- The **Community Music programme** has concluded with patients of the dementia ward – The Ivy Ward in St. Johns Hospital and feedback has been very positive. The expansion of this project into the community is planned to start on 23<sup>rd</sup> September with clients of the Alzheimers Society and their carers and will continue for 6 weeks.

## Wexford Dementia Working Group

The Wexford Dementia Working Group met in St. Johns to discuss a collaborative response to the new Model of Care for Dementia.

## Positive Ageing Week

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



**POSITIVE AGEING WEEK 2021**  
27TH SEPTEMBER - 1ST OCTOBER 2021  
ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE IN COUNTY WEXFORD:

**Walk and Talk:**

- Friday 24th Sept - Min Ryan Park, Wexford (10am) National Make Way Day
- Tues 28th Sept - Gorey Town Park (11am)
- Thurs 30th Sept - Rosslare Cliff Walk & Kirwans Gardens (11am)

**4 weeks Activators:**

- Starting Mon 27th Sept - New Ross Library Park (12noon)

**6 weeks Walk and Tone:**

- Starting Fri 1st Oct - Min Ryan Park (1.30pm)

For more information contact: 087 6937764

Age Friendly WEXFORD

hi healthy ageing | Healthy Wexford | Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council | Sports Active Wexford

## Libraries and Castlebridge Day Care Center IT training

Funding has been secured to run an IT training project with older people from Castlebridge Day Care Centre in collaboration with Wexford Libraries.

## Colaiste Abhain – Intergenerational Technology Project

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



## **WFO & Pop Up concerts in Nursing Homes & Day Care Centers**

Wexford Festival Opera have approached Wexford Age Friendly to identify nursing homes and day care centres in Wexford which could host their 'pop up' opera events during the Opera Festival. Work is ongoing on this.

## **Inclusive Design Training**

The HSE's National Dementia Office and Understand Together Campaign are running 'Inclusive Design Training' for staff at Wexford County Council. This training is aimed at technical staff with planners, district engineers, access officer, special projects and housing staff due to attend. This training will raise awareness of the impact design has on a person's well-being and ability to access the built environment. Participants will gain a good understanding of dementia inclusive design and will be able to apply this knowledge when conducting walkability audits, building inspections or applying for public realm funds.

## **Wexford Sports Active**

**Outdoor Yoga:** Two Outdoor Yoga classes will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of September at Curracloe Beach for European Week of Sport.

**Bike Week:** Sports Active organised lots of events throughout Bike Week including school events and community events from 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September.  
Kennedy College – Cycle training for 4 young people with Autism  
Rathgarogue NS – Balance Bike Training for 24 junior and senior infants  
Bunclody College – Cycle training for Transition Years  
Men's Shed Cycle – spin and coffee in Ramsgrange for men's shed  
Courtown BMX – Three evenings of BMX come and Try  
Norman Way talk and spin – Cycle with talk from Catherine McLoughlin Heritage Officer organised by WexBUG  
Bike Maintenance Workshop – The Bike Shop Wexford  
5km Teen Cycle in Enniscorthy – Cancelled due to no registration  
Back on your Bike Wexford Town Loop – Cycle skills and spin with WexBUG  
Mountain Bike Taster for teens – Forth Mountain Mountain Biking with Shielbaggan OETC  
Balance Bike Come and Try in Min Ryan Park – with support from Shielbaggan OETC  
Virtual South East Spin – Any Distance Any Day cycling throughout Bike Week

**European Week of Sport:** European Week of Sport runs from 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September. In Wexford we have organised a number of events.

Beach Yoga in Curracloe – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Activator Poles in New Ross – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
Walk for National Make Way Day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September  
Open Water Swimming – Courtown and Rosslare Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September

**Workplace Activity Programme:** The Talbot Fitness Wexford and Ashdown Park Hotel Gorey provided 30 trial passes each to staff of Wexford County Council. These were a mix of one day, three day and four-day trial membership passes and were issued on a first come first serve basis. These facilities along with others have provided corporate discount leisure membership rates for staff of WCC.

Total Participants : 60

**Activator Poles: Purple Paddlers Dragon Boat Club**

This group are breast cancer survivors. A taster session has been delivered for this group on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm. Total registered for the session was 12 and number attended: 10

**New Ross 6 Week Activator Programme**

New Ross has had a good turn out for activator taster sessions in the past, so we will begin a 6 week programme for Positive Aging Week starting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September. 5 participants have registered so far for course.

**Havenview**

We will host a taster session for Havenview residents on 29<sup>th</sup> of September to support the Positive Ageing Week Campaign.

**Men's Sheds:** Ramsgrange Men's Shed took part in an Activator Pole walking taster session on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of September with Frank Fahey from FitWalk Ireland. There were 9 participants. The group will begin a six-week programme on 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

**Positive Ageing Week:** Sports Active Wexford have organised a number of events for Positive Ageing Week from 27<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October. These include walk and talk events in Wexford, Gorey and Rosslare and Activators in New Ross.

**Healthy Woodlands:** Sports Active Wexford have facilitated a walking group in Tintern Abbey for Havenview service users. Havenview service users typically have a combination of intellectual disabilities and mental health difficulties. A total number of 5 participants and 2 staff members from the ward attend on a weekly basis.

**Slaintecare IEP:** The interview process for the 3 new IEP positions have been held and candidates are now waiting to go through Garda and HSE vetting. The induction process is currently being planned. The IEP start dates are provisionally planned for 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**EOPD Group:** 15 members of the Early Onset Parkinson's Disease group took part in a taster session of the Activator Poles with Frank Fahey on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of September in New Ross Library Park. The poles have been used abroad from people with balance issues in particular Parkinson's suffers. The group will start a six-week programme in Horeswood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

**Outdoor Resistance Training for Traveller Women:** Two sessions were completed, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September in Clonroche and one on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September in New Ross. The session in Taghmon has been postponed to a later date due to a funeral in one of the families. 9 members attended New Ross and 8 members attended Clonroche.

**Safeguarding: Safeguarding Courses**

9 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 141 participants.

4 Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed with a total of 55 participants.

# ENVIRONMENT

## A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

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

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

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

## B. COASTAL MATTERS

### Harbours -

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

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

Ports Past and Present: There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists and our project partners in University College Cork and two Welsh universities. Regular updates and further information is available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

A new website for the Port of New Ross has been developed. [www.newrossport.ie](http://www.newrossport.ie)  
Telecommunications mast at New Ross Port was demolished in Sept 2021.

ISPS certification has been extended for the Port of New Ross until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, engagement with the Marine Survey Office is ongoing.

### Beaches –

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

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

## Coast -

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

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council appointed consulting engineers to carry out the design of a suitable coastal protection scheme and a beach access. Funding application being submitted to OPW in Sept 2021 for emergency works to protect the first section of access road.

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

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

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

Ballinamona beach: a new emergency beach exit was installed in 2021, rock armour currently being installed in Sept 2021 to protect it.

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

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

## C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

### 1. Climate Action

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

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

<b>Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Mainstreamed and integrated into all functions and activities
<b>Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Effective management of climate risk and informed investment decisions
<b>Theme 3: Landuse and Development</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Influence positive behavioural changes to low carbon resilient society
<b>Theme 4: Drainage</b>
<b>and Flood Management</b>



<b>Goal:</b> Understand risks and consequences of flooding etc
<b>Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Implement meaningful approaches to protect natural and key cultural assets
<b>Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Empower cohesive communities with strong understanding of climate risk,

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

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

To date the training has been offered to the Climate Action Team and Grades 5, 6, 7 and equivalents. The training is mandatory and will roll out to all indoor staff during 2021.

#### Climate Action Training

Number Offered Training	Training Successfully Completed	Training currently in Progress
266	133	25

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

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

#### Decarbonisation Zone

Under Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 each Local Authority is required to identify a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ). *A Decarbonising Zone is an area in which a range of climate mitigation measures can co-exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs. The DZ will at a minimum **reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 7% per annum** from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade) and will become a demonstrator area, either urban or rural, for other areas in the county*

The work undertaken was supported by 3CEA and extended to 5 workshops with cross-departmental representation from within the Local Authority and with input through the sustainable Energy communities. It involved gathering of available relevant statistics and information to profile the various candidate areas.

Enniscorthy was identified as the preferred area for the pilot decarbonising zone in Co. Wexford and this was submitted to the DHLGH.

The arts & creative sections in collaboration with the environment section has applied for funding under the Creative Climate fund. The Decarbonisation zone was selected as the theme for this application.

### Action by Wexford County Council in 2020.

In 2020 Wexford County Council purchased equipment for four permanent noise monitoring stations at a cost of €10,000. Three stations are active in Gorey, Enniscorthy & Wexford.

### Potential Quiet Areas have been identified as below

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

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

## 2. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 102 farm inspections undertaken as a result of pollution incidents or complaints, 50 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

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

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

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

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

### 3. Duncannon EIP Project

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

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

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

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

## D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Landfills:

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

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

### 2. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites August 2021	Recycling out (End August) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End August)2021 (t)
Glass bottles	109	2911	3047
Aluminium Cans		71	81
Total		2982	3128

## Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan- Aug2020	Recycling out Jan - Aug 2021	Recycling out Jan -Aug 2020	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2021
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	420	<b>440</b>	496	<b>492</b>	660	<b>618</b>	390	400
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1622	<b>1910</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>
<b>Jan-Aug</b>	66	<b>73</b>	116	<b>120</b>	161	<b>160</b>	84	<b>96</b>

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

### 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	<i>To end August 2020</i>	<i>August 2021</i>	<i>To end August 2021</i>	<b>% +/-</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>2234</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1869</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		26		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		23		
<i>Wexford *</i>		34		
<i>New Ross*</i>		32		
<i>Rosslare</i>		19		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>3397</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>5880</b>	<b>+73%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		186		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		182		
<i>Wexford</i>		264		
<i>New Ross</i>		103		
<i>Rosslare</i>		18		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>10704</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>10704</b>	<b>0%</b>

<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>398</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>940</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<i>3599</i>	<b>368</b>	<b>3176</b>	<b>-11.7%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>55</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>170</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>51</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>58</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>34</i>		

*\*Including Towns*

#### **4. Soft Plastics**

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

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

The Food Waste Regulations 2013 are in force in all towns with >500 population. They impose obligations on Waste Collectors and householders. Collectors must provide separate bins for collection of food waste and householders must segregate their waste by either using “brown bins” provided by their waste collection company; composting at home, bearing in mind that certain food wastes cannot be composted, or bringing it to an authorised facility. Householders in all towns and villages to whom the regulations apply were visited by Council staff as part of our ongoing information campaign. Food waste is now accepted at all four household recycling centres. The locations where the food waste regulations apply are outlined on map which shall be uploaded to the council’s website shortly.

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

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

Altogether there are 57 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County, one of those are in the process of renewal and also there are six new applications.

#### **7. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty**

This year’s initiative commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> August at Holmestown Waste Management Facility. Members of the public will have opportunities over 4 consecutive weeks to bring old mattresses for recycling to Holmestown, New Ross, Gorey and Enniscorthy recycling centres between Tuesday

and Friday. Details of the dates involved are on the Wexford County Council website. Around 750 mattresses were received in the first week at Holmestown Recycling Centre.

## E. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	161
Fines Paid in Full●	78	27
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	49
Successful Prosecutions**	20	6
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	28
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€4045

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

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

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

### Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020

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



<b>2012</b>	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
<b>2011</b>	209	17	1,329
<b>2010</b>	370	27	1,338
<b>2009</b>	345	15	1,906

## **F.GENERAL**

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

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

	<b>Jan – Dec 2017</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 2018</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Jan to Dec 2020</b>	<b>1 Jan to 31 July 2021</b>
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>4609</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>3086</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>3526</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>3775</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>2619</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>84%</b>

### **Control of Dogs & Horses:**

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

<b>Control of dogs</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021 (to 31-8-21)</b>
Dogs collected	532	240
Dogs reclaimed	127	80
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	152
Dogs put to sleep	32	13
Dog Fines	5	7

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

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



### **Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure –**

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

### **Waste Statistics**

Due to increased presence throughout the county of the Environmental Clean Up Crews the amount of illegal dumping sites cleared had dropped by 16% up to end of August 2021 as compared with 2012. Similarly, the amount of domestic refuse handled by Holmestown Civic Amenity Site (which is an option for people that do not have a refuse collection service) is up by 18%. The tonnage collected at the Council's 108 Bring Bank Network of sites has increased by 5% again up until the end of August 2021. Wexford were one of the first counties to pilot a mattress amnesty and this year's campaign has yielded 2,700 mattresses.

## **LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES**

<b>Libraries, Archives and Arts Chief Executive Report October 2021</b>
<b>LIBRARY SERVICE</b>

### **Response to COVID**

From September 20<sup>th</sup> 2021 restrictions were eased with the re-introduction of study spaces and PC use being made available to the public. Since May, there have been more than 50,000 visits to libraries in the County however, library services were limited to borrowing only under public health guidelines. Libraries can now offer a full range of their popular services to the public. There is no need to book to visit the library but study and computer spaces should be reserved in advance on the website or by phone. The numbers of visitors in each library browsing and using study and computer spaces will be limited to facilitate social distancing. The wearing of masks is mandatory.

Throughout September, the library service continued to provide public information using various online platforms, there were also online and outdoor activities for adults and children available. The

library social media pages were used extensively to promote online services, resources and information.

During September there was an increased occurrence of in- person outdoor events, including small literacy initiatives e.g. story times, rhyme times, craft Lego classes, Poetry Town events, as well as a health and wellbeing talk, all held in our outdoor designated zones at New Ross Library Park & Wexford Library Sensory Garden. These events strictly adhered to social distancing guidelines and all other guidelines that were in place.

### **Book Call Delivery Service**

The Book Call Service continued throughout September, this service enabled those who were elderly or vulnerable to receive a delivery of library books and materials to their homes. There have been a total of 927 contacts to the service and 7213 books and other library items delivered in 2021 to date.

2021	Total Contacts	Total items (approx.)
Jan	182	1456
Feb	235	1880
March	198	1584
April	196	1520
May	44	312
June	22	119
July	20	131
August	22	118
September	8	93
<b>Total year to date</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>7213</b>

### **E-Book Usage in County Wexford**

The growth in usage of Wexford Library Service's e-book platform Borrowbox continues in 2021. There have been more than 30,000 e-books and 20,000 e-audiobooks borrowed in the first eight months of 2021. There are now more than 8,000 registered users of this service in the county.

### **Radon Testing Monitor Loans**

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

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

### **Climate Action**

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

A low energy lighting system, Triple E registered LED luminaires has been successfully installed and commissioned in Gorey library.

The library service has started a campaign to restrict the use of single-use plastic in libraries. Progress has also been made with installation of bottle filling water stations in all libraries, currently the system is in situ in New Ross Library.

## **Library supports to marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities regarding Dormant Accounts Funding 2021**

### **IMLYA exhibition and workshops for DEIS schools:**

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

### **Comic Creation Project**

The Comic Creation project with FDYS Traveller after school programme commenced in September. This project is funded via the Dormant Accounts Fund and is being delivered by author and illustrator Sarah Bowie. The children worked on drawing characters, by the end of the project, they will produce a printed comic book, along with an eBook which will be made available on BorrowBox, our eBook platform.

### **Sensory Pod**

Gorey Library recently installed a Sensory Pod which was co-funded by Wexford County Council and the Dormant Account Fund. This pod will be the perfect reading nest for individuals needing some

quite space and time to unwind. The pod makes a welcome addition to the Autism friendly initiatives in the library.

### **Eduroam Everywhere Initiative**

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

## **Decade of Centenaries 2021**

### **Historian in Residence Programme**

Barry Lacey, "Historian in Residence" for Wexford County Council Libraries prepared an online version of his original Heritage week talk on "The Railways and County Wexford's Revolutionary period (1916-1923)". Barry also worked on an online presentation entitled "Women, Wexford and the Road to Freedom". Both talks will be released on Wexford Libraries Facebook and YouTube channels in November.

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

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

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

This podcast has had over 1.35K listens.

### **Decade of Centenaries, Wexford Libraries YouTube**

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

“Flames along the Wexford coast” by Barry Lacey – 428 views

“Wexford’s Civil War Dead” by Aaron O’Maonaigh – 169 views

“Sport and War in County Wexford” by Paul Rouse – 52 views

“The Burning of Wexford’s Country Houses, 1919-1923” – 1,000 views

“The Road to Independence – film on the War of Independence in Wexford” – 547 views

### **Wexford Great War Dead**

The Wexford Great War Dead project and website have now been included on “Mapping the Centenary”, a digital portal of projects marking the centenary of the First World War by the Imperial War Museum, London: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/partnerships/mapping-the-centenary/projects-map>

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

### **Digital Ambassadors Programme**

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

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

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

New Ross Library provided a 4-week Activator Poles programme in partnership with Sports Active Wexford. The course began on Monday 20th September and will run until the 11th October. 15 attended.

### **Online Event -- Plant-Based Diet for Teens Talk - Thursday, 16th September.**

In this online talk, dietitian Didi De Zwarte discussed various plant-based diets available and covered the key nutrients to consider for a balanced plant-based diet for young adults.

### **Online Event -- ‘Good Nutrition for Healthy Ageing’**

‘Good Nutrition for Healthy Ageing’ with dietician Didi de Zwarte was screened in September via our Facebook and YouTube channel.

## **Work Matters Business eResources online**

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

## Cultural Activities

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

### **'Lost in Translation Book Club'**

The online 'Lost in Translation Book Club' held its fifth session on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and discussed '*Resistance*' by *Julian Fuks*. This daytime book club will meet once a month over the next six months.

## Poetry Town & Culture Night

### **Poetry Town**

Wexford Town was selected as one of the 20 inaugural poetry towns, Wexford Town Library played host to several events from Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>

Poetry Town events began on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Wexford Town Library, with spoken word artist Stephen James Smith who performed to a capacity audience in Wexford Town Library's sensory garden.

This was followed up with readings by local poets Paddy Kehoe, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and Margaret Galvin, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The closing performance of Poetry Town on Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> also celebrated Culture Night 2021. Spoken word artist and Wexford native Sasha Terfous performed alongside local poet Sinead O' Reilly to a captivated audience in Wexford Town Library's sensory garden.

To add to Wexford Town Library's celebration of poetry over the week-long festival, artist Mary O' Connor spray painted a verse by the poet Doireann Ni Ghriofa on the entrance steps of the library building. A video installation featuring the works of twelve poets was on display in Wexford Town Library during the month of September in conjunction with Poetry Town.

### **Culture Night**

The sixteenth edition of Culture Night took place on Friday 17 September 2021.

To celebrate Culture Night, New Ross Library hosted Niamh Page, a traditional sean nós dancer. Niamh gave a brief introduction to traditional sean nós dancing and was accompanied by traditional musician Tommy Carroll.

Gorey/Ballygarett Comhaltas performed traditional music and dance on the plaza at Gorey Library to mark Culture Night 2021.

### **Camera Club Exhibition**

Wexford Camera Club presented a 'Best Shots' exhibition in Wexford Town Library over the month of September. The exhibition featured the favourite photographs belonging to members of the club.

### **Seamus Heaney: Between the Covers**

An exhibition of first editions and memorabilia associated with Seamus Heaney was on display in Wexford Town Library for the month of September in conjunction with Poetry Town.

### **ArtBank Art Exhibition**

Bunclody Library played host to a mini-Art exhibition by ArtBank Bunclody during the month of September.



## Services for Children and Young People

### Right to Read Literacy and Numeracy

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

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

### Local Studies & Genealogy

#### Queries

There were 28 genealogy enquiries and 17 local studies enquiries in September. Over 610 copies of Volumes 2 & 3 of "On Your Own Ground: County Wexford parish by parish" have been sold. It is available through Selskar Bookshop and The Book Centre in Wexford town, and from O'Leary's Bookshop in Bunclody.

## ARCHIVES

### Collections management

The Archive dealt with 79 research enquiries via email, telephone, and post during the month of September. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, in an effort to facilitate researchers until the Archive's reading room reopens.

### Digitisation

Nine volumes of Grand Jury presentments covering the period 1878-92 were digitised in-house during September and were subsequently made available on the Archive's website [www.wexfordcountyarchive.com](http://www.wexfordcountyarchive.com)

As one of the archive projects funded under the Decade of Centenaries 2021 programme, a minute book documenting the activities of a newly established GAA Board in Ballykinlar internment camp during May-November 1921 was recently digitised. The digitised version of the original book and the accompanying transcription will be made available on the Archive's website next month.

## ARTS

**Wexford Culture Night Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021** - hosted a series of free events as part of the national celebration. This year's celebration focused on a number of live events in all 5 Municipal districts, in

association with our venues and cultural organisations, across County Wexford as well as a limited number of online events. Highlights included Melanie O'Reilly and her Celtic Jazz ensemble hosted by St Michael's Theatre in New Ross, Reality Ends an experimental cabaret Presentation Arts

Centre in Enniscorthy, a gallery talk by artist and member of Na Cailleacha, Gerda Teljeur on the current exhibition in the Wexford Arts Centre The Age of Reason/Unreason (Part 3) and an online gathering hosted by the Rachel and John Uí Fhaoláin celebrating our place through songs, music, and poetry.

**Poetry Town Wexford 10 – 18 Sept.** Wexford County Council Arts Department partnered with Poetry Ireland on a new nationwide Poetry Town initiative in 2021, which saw more than a hundred poetry-related activities take place in 20 towns nationwide over ten days culminating in live events in Wexford Library and Wexford Arts Centre over the 10 days. As part of Poetry town, Poet Laureates for each town were appointed with New Ross born poet and spoken word performer Sasha Terfous selected as the Poet laureate for Wexford town. On Culture night she performed her work and new poem for Wexford town. Over the 10 days numerous in person events took place including Poetry in the Courtyard in Wexford library with readings and workshops delivered by Wexford poets, café readings, an outdoor poetry reading in St Peters Square and workshops in schools.

**Art ability - Whatever exhibition** On Culture Night, Friday 17th September, the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre launched Whatever, the bi-annual Arts Ability exhibition in Cumas New Ross. Launched online earlier this year, *whatever* comprises an exhibition of selected art works by participants across a variety of HSE day care and residential centres and consists of an original artist book, and five short documentary videos. The documentaries, produced by filmmaker Terence White, explore the studio processes of a number of the artists involved in the programme highlighting techniques and interests that are pertinent to them.  
[www.artsability.ie](http://www.artsability.ie)

#### **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (LLPPS) – July – Sept 2021)**

Wexford Co Council Arts Department is overseeing the implementation of the LLPS scheme funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media via all local authorities nationwide. The aim of this once off scheme is to support the live music /entertainment / performance industry which has been so badly affected by COVID 19, and to encourage local audiences to attend live music & performance events in safe outdoors settings in keeping with HSE and Dept national guidelines. In July Wexford County Council held an open call to professional events companies to be part of a panel for delivery of services for live outdoor performances across the 5 municipal districts in Summer 2021. Three companies were awarded the tenders and are working with each district.

- Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD - Lantern productions staged “Sounds of Summer” in Gorey Civic plaza with ‘Love Gorey’ from 19-22<sup>nd</sup> Aug – a 4-day festival which included live music and comedy for adults and family focused entertainment with Puppet Shows & Outdoor Cinema Screenings.
- Enniscorthy MD– Lantern productions staged ‘Sounds of Summer’ in Orchard Peace park from 26-29<sup>th</sup> August - a 4-day weekend festival included local bands, spoken word performance and family entertainment.
- New Ross MD– - Event Lighting Solutions staged a series of “Saturday Night Live” concerts in the Library Park throughout July, August and September including local, national and international music acts.
- Rosslare MD – Ad Personam Cultural Events Ltd Delivered Castle-Lake Arts Festival on 7<sup>th</sup> August in the grounds of Johnstown Castle which included live Music, theatre, pop up events throughout the grounds and film screening. In addition, Events Lighting delivered ‘Garden Fest’ an evening of live music in the gardens of Piercestown Scout Hall with national and local bands

- Wexford MD - Lantern presented 'The Home Stretch' for Min Ryan Park, Wexford for September 10th - 12<sup>th</sup>. Three headline national bands performed over the three evenings supported by bands local bands.

### **Jazz at Johnstown**

The Arts Department, Wexford County Council, in partnership with Johnstown Castle and supported by Rosslare Municipal District piloted 'Jazz at Johnstown' -an afternoon of outdoors Jazz by Wexford's finest Jazz musicians, on the grounds of the castle Saturday 12 September. This event was ticketed and free to Johnstown Castle members and the visiting public by general admission. Several acts featured over the afternoon performing on three different sites throughout the grounds – and included the Kevin Lawlor Quintet, Melanie O Reilly, Chris Colloton Trio, Alex O Keefe, Mark Flynn, the Ivy Sisters and Percussion Ensemble. It was a very successful event and managed by jazz at Johnstown committee comprising Tom Money, Kevin Lawlor, and Senan O Reilly.

### **The Living Arts in Schools Project**

The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. 4 selected primary schools has the opportunity to host an artist in residence for an 8 or a15 week residency during the school year.

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

**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.

**Music Administrators** – WWETB have advertised for administrators for the Music Generation programme in the south east. Closing date for receipt of applications was Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Music workshops** -Music Generation Wexford hosted a series of workshops in September partnering with the National Opera House, Wexford Festival Opera, Wexford Trad and Heritage Trail and the National Heritage Park

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

### **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 October onwards that groups of 12 will meet in person in St. Michael Theatre.

### **County Wexford Youth theatre (CWYT)**

CWYT is based in Wexford Town and are recruiting New Members Aged 12-18yrs for 2021-22. Run by Bare Cheek Theatre Company, they did their annual call out for new members in September 2021 via schools & social media. Auditions will take place on Mon 27<sup>th</sup> at their studios in William Street Lower, Wexford. CWYT provides training in all aspects of theatre production including acting, writing, directing, stage management and technical theatre. Most of the stage productions are devised by the members and scripted by professional playwrights. CWYT runs three age-appropriate classes each week and perform at least four productions per year.

### **New Ross Piano Festival 2021**

The New Ross Piano Festival was a recipient of the Small Arts Festival and Experimental Events Grant Scheme 2020 this was postponed due to Covid19. However, the festival this year is happening from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September with a series of lunchtime and evening events for further details of the programme <https://www.newrosspianofestival.com/whats-on/> .

## **Creative Ireland**

**Heritage Workshops with young people** - Wexford County Council in partnership with Dig It Kids are delivering a series of online heritage workshops for young people in Autumn 2021 funded through the Creative Ireland programme. These fun interactive workshops based on archaeology and history events will be tailored to the local heritage of County Wexford. The three locations selected are the Irish National Heritage Centre, Ferns and the Hook further details of these workshops can be viewed at <https://digitkids.ie/archaeology-camps/>

### **Enniscorthy Activity Garden for older People**

Wexford County Council in partnership with the HSE, Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation appointed landscape architect Esther Gerrard and her collaborators Element for Action for Phase One- Research Phase of the creative enhancement of the Enniscorthy Activity Garden which will be located on the campus of St John's Community Hospital, Enniscorthy.

Creative Workshops are taking place on site during the months of September and October led Esther Gerrard and her team, with input for over 100 service users and staff on site as well as Enniscorthy men's she who are based on site, into their ideas for the creative enhancement of this underutilised green space. The research and proposals for development of this garden in Phase 2 - will be presented back to WCC and the HSE (Healthy campus committee) by November 2021.

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

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of Wexford Festival Opera. A photographic exhibition will showcase a large number of unseen original press photographs of the early years (1951 to 1958) of the Festival. The accompanying booklet will tell the story of challenges faced by the opera committee in bringing opera to Wexford town in early days. It will recount the spirit of the people in a small provincial Irish town in the 1950s in specialising in rare and often little-known opera works and building an internationally renowned opera festival.

The exhibition, a partnership between Creative Ireland, the Stakeholder Committee of the Wexford Festival Trust and Wexford Library Service will be on view to members of the public in Wexford Library during September before moving to the National Opera House in October.

### ***Design & Make in 3D***

This creative project is a partnership between Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, TEKcentral and Wexford Library Service will enable young adults, aged 12-17 years to develop their creative and IT skills by taking part in a two part, hands on design by technology project, using STEM tasters outdoor in summer and to design, make and create with Tinkercad at Halloween.

The programme offers taster activities at introductory level outdoors in summer using a mix of engineering, technology and problem solving to build interest and skills. Followed by a week-long programme in autumn to enable them to create and design products /3D models with technologies available to them in their local library.

A suite of video guides will be developed to enable the young people continue to practice and develop their programming skills in the longer term.

The young people will present their work and learnings to their peers, youth workers, families and a public audience in an online production for Wexford Science Festival in Science Week.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

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### **Finlay Power, RIP**

Mr. Finlay Power died as a result of a road traffic accident. Finlay was a member of our Gorey Unit, he also attended training in Wexford with our Auxiliary Fire Service unit. Both units provide a guard of honour at Finlay's funeral on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September. May he rest in peace.

### **Civic Duties**

We provided ambulance cover to two events in September 2021.

Heritage Park Traditional Music on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Sports Active Open Swim in Courtown and Rosslare Strand on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Weekly Training**

Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross. Each class is broken into small teams, some classes are broken into 2 training periods as classrooms are small.

Weekly training is mostly completed out of doors involving search skills, communications, and water responder.

New Ross unit will return to training in the WWETB Butlersland on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Covid 19 – Response**

#### **Patient Transports**

We have provided transport for a person to two appointments, one to Waterford Regional Hospital and the second to Bridgetown Medical Centre.

### **IBTS**

We have provided volunteers to help with the running of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinics in New Ross from 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 8 volunteers provided over for the clinics.

## FIRE SERVICE

### Wexford Fire Service Report August 2021

#### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls August 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 0 (0)	83	90
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 2 (2)	45	34
Road Traffic Accident	11	57	51
Industrial fire	1	8	9
Commercial fire	0	1	7
Assembly fire	0	3	2
Agricultural fire	2	9	2
Motor Vehicles	7	24	37
Forest/bog/grass etc	4	64	77
Rubbish	4	40	64
Non-fire rescues	7	65	35
False alarms – good intent	17	139	178
Malicious false alarms	0	1	1
Miscellaneous	5	32	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>618</b>

#### Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	30	13	19	17	4	83
DOMESTIC FIRE	12	16	6	8	3	45
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	18	7	14	10	8	57
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	5	0	0	3	0	8
COMMERCIAL FIRE	1	0	0	0	0	1
ASSEMBLY FIRE	2	0	0	1	0	3
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	3	1	2	1	2	9
MOTOR VEHICLES	6	3	5	7	3	24
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	17	17	17	7	6	64
RUBBISH	10	11	8	4	7	40
NON-FIRE RESCUES	15	18	18	11	3	65
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	66	18	28	23	4	139
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	13	4	9	4	2	32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>571</b>

#### Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in August 2021: 8  
 Number of Applications received to date: 81  
 Number of Applications to this period 2020: 68





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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## COVID -19

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

# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model.</li> <li>➤ A schedule of high priority works has now been identified and is to be considered for funding</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> <li>➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023</li> <li>➤ It is now expected that the rising main and plant upgrade to Vinegar hill will be included within the scope of this project.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Works are ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<p><b>Gorey RWSS</b></p> <p>To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun.</li> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Commissioning of new Treatment plant and pipework modifications ongoing</li> <li>○ Borehole works ongoing during 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works commenced in April 2021 and it is programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement.</li> <li>○ Works are ongoing on all elements of the project within the three villages and on the treatment plant in Arthurstown. A number of road closures will be needed to facilitate pipeline construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tender documents have been issued and tenders are due to be returned in April</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> <li>○ Irish Water Board approval was granted in July and a construction contract is likely to be signed this year for construction to begin early 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> The direct labour crew are continuing with their work on the Find and Fix project as part of the overall leakage reduction programme. 2020 targets were successfully met with ambitious targets set for 2021.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Construction of the new main in Collballow started in May 2021 and we have just completed this project on programme.</li> <li>➤ Mains rehabilitation is starting 30<sup>th</sup> September on 1.1km of water main on Rectory Road Enniscorthy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital



### IW Minor Water Schemes


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

### IW Minor Wastewater Schemes

- **Trinity Street WWPS Upgrades**
  - Replacement of change-over switchgear and generator control panel are now substantially completed.
- **Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades**
  - Pumps will be upgraded to smart pumps at St.Brendan's WWPS during Q4 2021.
  - The pump controls at Keellogues WWPS will be upgraded during Q4 2021
- **Stimulus Funding - SCADA Upgrades**
  - Upgrade of existing SCADA at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy is in progress, with application for funding for further upgrades at WWPSs around Wexford Town submitted to Irish Water.
- **H&S Improvement Works**
  - New valve chambers and access covers and controls to improve H&S at Carne PS.
- **Invest to Save**
  - Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with design underway.
  - Civil works are currently underway at Blackwater WWTP to improve energy efficiency and process

	control necessary to deal with fluctuations in loading.
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Wexford monthly Capital Maintenance budget is €108k/month.</li> <li>➤ €826k of works have been approved to progress up to August 2021.</li> <li>➤ Additional CM funding has been awarded for specific works in Enniscorthy and Gorey Districts</li> <li>➤ Additional Funding has been made available in 2021 for “unfunded needs”</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>August 2021 Figures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Enquiries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 24 pre connection enquiries received for drinking water</li> <li>○ 17 pre connection enquiries received for waste water</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 20 connection enquiries received for drinking water (31 processed)</li> <li>○ 5 connection enquiries received for waste water (12 processed)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 23 connections sent for tapping drinking water</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer’s Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS are 70% complete on site, and M&amp;E works are 90% complete on site, ESB connection is scheduled for October 2021 which will bring the works to practical completion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q4 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The new WWPS is now 90% complete on site, with a short section of new sewer to divert flows away from the old WWTP to the new WWPS expected to be completed during October.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kyle Close, Oulart</b>- Connection works scheduled for September.</li> <li>• <b>Mountain View, Ballindaggin</b>- COF received from IW. In design discussions with IW and Department.</li> <li>• <b>Gleann na gCaor, Monagear</b>- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>• <b>Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</b></li> </ul>
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<h3>3. Rural Water</h3>	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kilanerin GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrogeologist has been engaged and awaiting phase 1 of study into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.</li> <li>○ Awaiting Report expected delivery late Sept/early Oct</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Storage Tank</b> - consultant appointed to carry out the hydraulic model assessment shall be finalised.</li> <li>○ Consultation has commenced with Consultants re delivery of a hydraulic model and report.</li> <li>○ <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ WCC are reviewing information submitted. Once reviewed the report will be sent to the Department.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps,</li> <li>○ An Bord Pleanala Submission, Ground Investigations and main contract tender preparation.</li> <li>○ Archaeologist Impact Statement has been completed and will be included as part of ABP Submission</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Battlestown CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers. Group was written to again in August 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability. Group was written to again in August 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A total of 188 new well grant applications were received to date for 2021.</li> <li>○ 211 Well Grants have been paid up to the end of August, totalling €373,619</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for August was 45.5MLD, up 2MLD on 2020 figures. Overall consumption is trending high.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Leak repairs</b> Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</b> Planned leak detection was focused on Wexford, New Ross and Gorey subsequent repairs were undertaken countywide.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, commencing Oct 2021.</li> <li>○ The Forth Road Gorey, rehab project design has been completed, awaiting construction funding.</li> <li>○ IW will be issuing a request for 2022 proposals in Oct 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find resources were concentrated in New Ross.</li> <li>○ The contractor Find crew completed Ferns Investigations and is currently investigating Kilmuckridge South DMA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- **BYS Services**
  - Backyard main replacement works are requested as priority at Maudlintown Wexford for 2021 funding.
- **Pressure Management**
  - Funding is received for PRV replacements at Rowe St, Bride St, Colestown, Ballinra and Askimore. Advanced control for 6nr PRV and additional Telemetry capabilities was also funded. Works to be completed by Oct 2021.
- **First Fix**
  - Shareridge have taken over as Irish Water's First Fix contractor and will be commencing cold calling in October 2021.

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### NATIONAL ROADS

#### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

Pending formal approval to progress the project to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation), preparations have commenced for a potential planning submission in 2023 and further extensive environmental surveys will commence in October.

#### N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

Ground investigation works and environmental surveys have been completed to finalise the design and environmental assessment processes.

There is ongoing close consultation with Rosslare Europort and the OPW to ensure the full coordination of all proposed port development works.

A planning application is currently being prepared for anticipated submission to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 of 2021.

### National Road Pavement Schemes

#### **2021 Pavement Schemes**

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

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

The tender for the construction contract was awarded on the 11<sup>th</sup>. August. Works are due to commence on 8<sup>th</sup>. October with a 12 week programme.

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

This minor repair scheme was tendered in Mid August. The contract was awarded in early September and works will commence on 30<sup>th</sup>. September and should be completed by the 8<sup>th</sup>. of October.

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

This minor repair scheme was tendered in Mid August. The contract was awarded in early September and works should be completed by the end of October.

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

The extent of the works was agreed with TII on 19<sup>th</sup>. August. Tender documents will be progressed in September. It is hoped to invite tenders before the end of October.

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

Minor pavement repairs at the junction with the N25 and R738 will be tendered in October and should be completed in October.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

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

Tombrack to Strahart; (Enniscorthy District); Rathpiercehill; Monroe to Knockrathkyle; (Both in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Oldcourt to Templeshelin; (New Ross District); Cleariestown to Kilmannon; Waddingtown to Cullens Cross (Both in Rosslare District).

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

North Parade; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

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

Roads completed in the last month were:

Ballymorris to Sparrowsland; Ballycarney to Ballinakill; Garryhaston to Wicklow Border; Kildavin Bridge to Clonegall; Ballyhogue; (All in Enniscorthy District); Waddingtown to Durr; Rosegarland to Rospile; Carrick to Kiltra; Greenfield to Ballyregan; Ballyharty; Clongeen to Rochestown; Gardamus; Killag to Redmoor; Murntown to Kildavin; Ballysheen; Hillcastle to Lough; (All in Rosslare District); Curracloe to Ballinesker; Larkins cross to Knockeen; Growtown Upper To Furlongstown; Artramon to Crossabeg; Edenvale to Artramon; Shelmaliel Commons to Coolstuff; Monmore; (All in Wexford Borough District).

## **Community Involvement Schemes**

Five roads have been resurfaced this year from a total of nine.

## **Local Improvement Schemes**

Wexford County Council was allocated €349,878 on 17 June from the Department of Rural and Community Development to resurface all twelve lanes on the priority list. Five of these lanes have been surfaced to date.

The lanes surfaced in the last month were: Gurteen, Templeshambo; (Enniscorthy District); Crane Lane, Ferns; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Crosstown; (Wexford Borough District).

On 29 July Wexford County Council was allocated an additional € 303,908 to resurface ten more lanes. This brings the total grant allocation to €653,786 for 2021. Work is due to commence on these lanes shortly.

## **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

Bridges completed in the last month were:

Ballybregagh Bridge; Ballinacash Bridge; (Both in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Mulmontry Bridge; (Rosslare District).

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

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

inspection of the bridge structure has been carried out and found no defects below the water.

A structural inspection of the bridge has been completed. This will inform the detailed design. A stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was completed and the planned works did not screen out.

A Natura Impact Statement is in progress and will be submitted to An Board Pleanála as part of the planning application in early October. It is intended to develop the design options over the coming months. Works are expected to commence quarter 2/3 of 2022.

## **Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works**

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

Works are presently in progress on these projects.

## **Active Travel Measures**

Wexford County Council was allocated €3,603,000 for 50 Active Travel projects in the County on the 29 March. An additional €2,310,008 was allocated on the 26 July for 21 extra projects. This

brings the total Active Travel allocation for 2021 to €6,188,563 including increased amounts to 4 of the 71 projects in total.

Projects completed in the last month were: Ferns village footpaths; (Enniscorthy District); Kilanne village; Campile village; Goat Hill; Rosbercon junction; (All in New Ross District); Laurel Grove to Pugin Park, Tagoat; (Rosslare District); Talbot Green/Green Street junction; (Wexford Borough District).

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

### **Additional Outdoor Infrastructure**

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

Four of these projects are complete to date.

Works are in progress at:

Bunclody Main Street/The Mall, Public realm works; (Enniscorthy District); Gorey Civic Square; Courtown picnic area; (Both in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); (Rosslare Strand amenity area; Kilmore Quay picnic area; Ballycogley picnic area; (All in Rosslare District); North Main Street automated bollards; (Wexford Borough District).

### **General Maintenance**

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

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

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

Design work are completed.

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

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

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

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

## Public Lighting – Active Travel Footpath Funding

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

- Kilann Village. Installation complete.
- Campile Village.
- Duncannon Village. Installation completed.
- Fethard Village. Installation completed.

## Finance:

### COVID -19

As we move into the final quarter of 2021 the position in relation to any proposed rates waiver for businesses for the final quarter of 2021 is still unclear. In addition there is no confirmation or indication of what if any support funding the council might receive in respect of ongoing expenditure as we continue to deal with the Covid situation or indeed lost income as a direct result of the pandemic. The discontinuation of the rates waiver at such a late point in the year will, no doubt, have negative impacts on the council's cashflow as there will be significant work involved in reconnecting with ratepayers who have ceased the payment arrangements they had in place pre Covid. Any decision not to provide the sector with support funding for added expenditure and/or lost income will also place the council in a vulnerable position for 2021 as in order to protect local services expenditure the 2021 budget was adopted on the basis that government support funding would be made available where normal levels of income continued to be negatively impacted by the pandemic.

The continuing impact of the COVID 19 emergency on the finances of the council was clearly evident in the reported outturn to the end of June 2021 as set out in the Q2 Finance Report circulated to Members. Emergency expenditure on our response to the crisis in 2021 includes significant spend on the Hauliers testing centre in Holmestown at the outset of 2021 and again we are still awaiting confirmation of recoupment of these costs.

### Budget 2022

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

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

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

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

## **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2021. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2022 is acknowledged and council approval for the extension of the overdraft facility at the same level for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 is now sought to secure ministerial sanction to this borrowing facility. A formal submission for approval to the overdraft facility for 2022 is included as a separate item on the agenda for the October meeting.

## **Audit**

- Audit of Accounts 2020 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2020 Accounts is now complete and the Local Government Auditor is currently finalising the statutory audit report which is expect to be submitted, together with a copy of the audited accounts, for consideration of the council at the November meeting.
- Audit Committee - The next meeting is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Audit Committee will also meet with the Local Government Auditor before the end of the year to discuss the outcome of the 2020 Audit. Following this the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**