



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**County Council Meeting 09.10.23**

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Wexford furthers economic and cultural opportunities with Jiangxi Province, China

Wexford County Council has hosted a delegation from the Jiangxi Province in China and has signed a letter of intent for future trade, education, tourism and cultural ties for Wexford and the Chinese province.

The Governor of the Jiangxi Provincial People's Government, Mr Ye Jianchun was welcomed to Wexford on Thursday, September 21st 2023 along with the following representatives:  
Secretary-General of Jiangxi's Provincial People's Government Mr. Xu Yanbin  
Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office Mr. Fan Young  
Secretary of the CPC Jingdezhen Municipal Committee Mr Liu Feng,  
Director General of the Dept of Culture and Tourism of Jiangxi Ms. Mei Yi  
Deputy Division-Chief of the Foreign Affairs Office Mr. Xiao Zhibin.

The aim of the visit was to promote economic, trade, education, culture and tourism activities between Jiangxi Province and Co Wexford, establishing strategic linkages and working towards embracing each regions cultural strengths. During the visit both parties learned about the business environment in each region thereby gaining a better understanding of the increasing opportunities between County Wexford and Jiangxi Province. The Jiangxi province is located in Eastern China to the south of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River with a total population of 45 million. It consists of 11 prefectural cities and 100 counties.

In 2022, the GDP of Jiangxi province reached 3207.47 billion yuan (€413 billion), with an increase of 4.7%, ranking first in China. The general public budget revenue reached 294.83 billion yuan (€38 billion) with an increase of 4.8%. The total volume of import and export of trade was 671.3 billion yuan (€47.8 billion) with an increase of 34.9%.

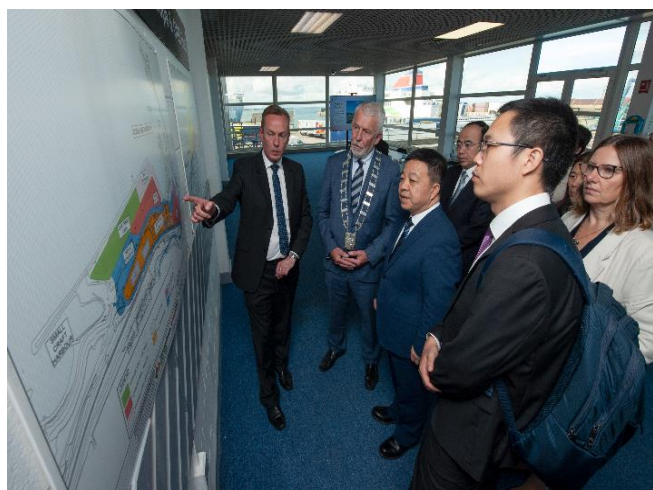
County Wexford was the only location outside of Dublin visited by the delegation during their visit to Ireland. The occasion saw the delegation enjoy a full day of meetings and visits across the county. The first occasion was a visit to Danone Wexford where the group enjoyed a tour of the facility. Employing over 380 people in Wexford, and on a journey to net-zero emissions, Danone Wexford was of particular interest to the delegation, as a market leader in sustainability within the food manufacturing industry.





Next on the itinerary, was a visit to the CBS Secondary School in Wexford town, hosted by the Mayor of Wexford, Cllr John Hegarty and Principal, Michael McMahon to further enhance the links between CBS Wexford and China. The school features Chinese studies as part of the Transition Year curriculum and students from CBS have visited China on a number of occasions.

The delegation then travelled to Rosslare EuroPort where they were welcomed by Cllr Jim Moore, Chairman of Rosslare Municipal District and Senior Management of Rosslare EuroPort who outlined future growth plans for the EuroPort and proposed investment of c.€440m in expansion of facilities.



The afternoon saw the delegation visit Wexford County Hall at Carricklawn where details on Wexford County Council's key economic development plans and opportunities for collaboration with Jiangxi were discussed. Following this meeting, an official signing ceremony of a 'Letter of Intent' took place with the Governor of Jiangxi Provincial People's Government, Mr Ye Jianchun and Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Fleming, in front of an invited audience which included the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. He Xiangdong.

## Town & Village 2023

There was significant interest in the request for Expressions of Interest for the Town & Village 2023 with a total of 22 expressions received from across the county.

Departmental guidelines allow for 5 applications to be submitted, one for up to €500k and 4 for up to €250k each. Following evaluation, 5 projects were selected to progress to full application stage by November 10<sup>th</sup> subject to compliance with grant guidelines/conditions;

Max of €500k will apply :

1. Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District – creation of community recreation park and multi-purpose community building in Ballycanew.



Max €250k each will apply to the following projects :

2. Cushinstown Community Development Group – repurposing of 2 derelict buildings to rejuvenate and expand community space.
3. Carrig on Bannow Parish/Community Committee – provision of community facilities and amenities to include playground, walking track, green/biodiversity area.
4. Castlebridge Community Hall – refurbishment and rejuvenation of community hall to include energy efficient heating system.
5. The National 1798 Centre – rejuvenation of existing exhibition to improve accessibility, inclusivity, and additional new/innovative exhibition piece.

The economic department will work with the Municipal Districts to support community groups with the next stage.

## **Tourism**

### **Fáilte Ireland “Keep Discovering” marketing Campaign**

County Wexford is currently featuring on the Fáilte Ireland “Keep Discovering” marketing Campaign which includes broadcast and video on demand, print media, audio, influencer programmes, social media in addition to weather sponsorship on RTE which has a 1.6 million average weekly reach. The Wexford advertisement also aired on RTE during the Ireland and South Africa Rugby World Cup Game on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.



Fáilte Ireland Tourist information point has been installed at the terminal building at Rosslare Europort which will be a vital source of information for international visitors showcasing what County Wexford has to offer with the aim of encouraging visitors to increase their dwell time in the County.



## Rose of Tralee Tour 2023

The Rose of Tralee Tour was resounding success with an overall PR value of €310,734 (€118,137 in 2022).

### PR & MEDIA

**PR VALUE**  
**€310,734**  
(€118,137 in 2022)

Excluding 9 Rose mentions of Wexford with a value of **€13,150** for the mentions alone



**RTÉ ONE ON 21ST & 22ND AUGUST 8PM**  
**OFFICIAL SELECTION NIGHTS FOR ROTIF**

- Over half a million viewers tuned in (**576K+ viewers**)
- Across 2 days, average **audience of 406K+** tuned in
- 1 minute reach of over **1.3 million** across both nights
- Official @RTEOne social media content has over **2.2 million views & 66K+ total interactions** on cross-channel platforms
- **139K+ streams** to date across both nights in Ireland
- Other statistics: 15 - 34yo audiences with **growth of 53.7%** this year compared to 45.5% last year
- **69 countries** in the world tuned in including UK, USA, Spain, France, Australia, New Zealand and more

### 'No beef' between Kerry and Dublin Roses as Rose of Tralee tour kicks off across Ireland

**Irish Independent**

Bitter Croke Park rivalry nowhere to be seen at festival's official launch in Wexford



### Visit Wexford Social Media Coverage

- 1.25m+ impressions (up 59%)
- 94.8K+ Engagements (up 119%)
- 127k+ Video Views (up 95%)

### Rose of Tralee International Festival Official Social Media Channels

- 144k+ cross-channel audience
- 6 static feed image posts & 12 reel videos (245,411 views)
- Instagram highlight reel 'Hello Wexford' with 100+ stories
- 3 daily YouTube recap videos (7 mins total, 6k+ views)
- 221K+ views on TikTok





## Television Audience

- Live TV shows were watched in Over 80 Countries including UK the US, Australia, Canada and Spain.
- Over half a million (576K) RTE viewers tuned into the Rose of Tralee Selection Nights (21st & 22nd August 2023) where the Wexford Rose Tour heavily featured.

## Rebellion 225

The County was awarded €75,000 in grant funding by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media towards hosting commemorative events across the county.



Rebellion 225 campaign audience reach was an estimated 5.2 million with PR coverage with an average value of €1.15 million. Rebellion 225 events were hosted under one brand and banner with daily updates across dedicated Rebellion 225 accounts on social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (now X). A digital guide was also produced and available online. The Rebellion 225 campaign saw significant coverage in local, regional and national media across online, print and Broadcast platforms.

## Local Enterprise Office

### LEO National Marketing Campaign

A national marketing and lead generation campaign was recently launched to increase awareness and highlight the range of efficiency and competitiveness supports available from Local Enterprise offices and to encourage engagement. The Theme for the Campaign is “**All in a days work**” and will run from 14<sup>th</sup> September to the end of November and after a review of impact, it will likely run again in January 2024. Initially The campaign is running on national radio, national print advertisements including the Irish Times, Independent, Business Post, Examiner and Sunday Times. The campaign will also run on YouTube Pre-Roll and VOD, Display & Programmatic Advertising, promoted social posts on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. It will also be supported by PR push by Enterprise Ireland’s PR agency to maximise media opportunities.



The campaign features 6 LEO supported companies who have availed of competitiveness and productivity supports – 2 who availed of Lean, 2 from Digital and 2 from Green. LEO Wexford has aligned local supports including training programmes such as the Owner Manager Programme to the national campaign.

## Training Programme

In September, the LEO Wexford launched a range of tailor-made, high-quality training programmes to cater to diverse business needs. From nurturing startups to mastering tenders, providing invaluable financial guidance, delving into the benefits of effective marketing strategies, and facilitating business scaling.

Social Media Carousel:

## Intellectual Property Information Event and Workshop

LEO Wexford working in collaboration with South East Business Innovation Centre and Enterprise Ireland delivered an information and workshop on the topic of Intellectual Property on 15<sup>th</sup> September. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the series of workshops as part of the Women in Business South East Forum. The event included a presentation IP Manager Joe Doyle and 3 panellists.





*Pictured at the event; Mel Galloway, Enterprise Ireland, Rosemary Ward, SEBIC, Rhona Togher founder Lios Ltd, Niamh Hogan founder Holos Skincare, Frances O'Reilly founder Dogdry, Joe Doyle Enterprise Ireland and Breege Cosgrave, LEO Wexford*

## Enterprise Roadshow – New Ross

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November, LEO Wexford will hold an Enterprise Roadshow in New Ross highlighting the supports available from LEO Wexford. The event will feature a number of presentations from guest speakers/consultants. It will have a specific focus on opportunities for businesses around the Greenway. A further roadshow will be organised in the Rosslare Municipal district – date to be agreed.

## The National Ploughing Championships 2023



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



## Blás na hEireann

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September fourteen Wexford food producers, shortlisted from thousands of entries across the country will compete for the Blás na hEireann Food Awards in Dingle. Every year Wexford's food producers take home an array of gold, silver and bronze medals from these awards.

This year Wexford LEO are sponsoring an "Eat Wexford" stand in the Food Village at Blás. Finalists from this year will each have the opportunity to display, sample and sell their produce and will also get the opportunity to meet domestic and international food buyers.



The Wexford finalists for 2023 are;

Furlong Family Butchers Ltd	Gorey
Irish Country Meats	Enniscorthy
Killiane Castle Honey	Wexford
Killowen Farm	Enniscorthy
Naturally Cordial Ltd	Enniscorthy
O'Neill's Dry Cure Bacon Co	Enniscorthy
Ryans Bakery Wexford Ltd	Wexford
Scup Gelato	Wexford
Stafford Bakeries	Gorey
Tasty Parlour	New Ross
Trudie's Kitchen Ltd.	New Ross
Well Preserved Ltd	Wexford
Wexford Home Preserves	New Ross
Zanna Cookhouse Ltd	Wexford



## London Fashion Week 2023

Wexford jewellery designer and manufacturer Bláithin Ennis has once again been chosen by world-renowned international fashion designer Paul Costelloe, to put the finishing embellishments and jewelled accompaniments to his outfits for September's London Fashion Week. This collaboration gives the Gorey designer the international recognition and catwalk opportunity she deserves.



## National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) 2023

The Head of Enterprise in LEO Wexford is Chairing the national NWED Committee. Wexford's NWED will take place this year on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Newbay House Wexford. One hundred and twenty five female business owners and entrepreneurs will gather to celebrate NWED in the company of a dynamic, innovative and inspirational panel of speakers.

Resilience, adaptability, and strong leadership has empowered these women to build careers in sectors as diverse as scientific healthcare, aquaculture, dairy processing, digital marketing, artificial intelligence and local government provision.

A strong local and national promotional campaign will run alongside this event, promoting similar events all around the country acting as a catalyst to support Government policy in encouraging and promoting more women to set up and scale their businesses.

The poster is for the National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) 2023 event in Wexford. It features a pink and white color scheme. At the top, it lists the organizing bodies: Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil (Local Enterprise Office) and Wexford County Council. The main title is 'Local Enterprise Office Wexford cordially invites you to celebrate'. Below this, it says 'National Women's Enterprise Day' with a logo showing three stylized figures. The theme is 'Empowering Business Together'. The date is Thursday, October 19th 2023, from 8.30am to 2.00pm at Newbay House Wexford, Y35 NN52. It includes a booking link with Bernie Flood and an RSVP deadline of Monday 2th October. The poster also features a list of speakers and panelists: Maryrose Lyons (MC), Pauline Dunne (Ambassador), Theresa Grant (Keynote Speaker), Deborah Brock (Panellist), and Kate Dempsey (Panellist). Logos for the European Union, Enterprise Ireland, and the Government of Ireland are at the bottom.

**Local Enterprise Office Wexford**  
cordially invites you  
to celebrate

**National Women's Enterprise Day**

**"Empowering Business Together"**  
Thursday, October 19th 2023  
Time: 8.30am - 2.00pm  
Newbay House Wexford, Y35 NN52

Please book with Bernie Flood  
RSVP: Monday 2th October  
by email: [bernie.flood@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:bernie.flood@wexfordcoco.ie)  
or tel: 053 9196020

**Speakers and Panelists:**

- MC:** Maryrose Lyons, Brightspark Consulting
- Ambassador:** Pauline Dunne, Killowen Farm
- Keynote Speaker:** Theresa Grant, OBE
- Panellist:** Deborah Brock, Nua Fertility
- Panellist:** Kate Dempsey, Aquilicene

**Partnership with:** European Union, ENTERPRISE IRELAND, Rialtas na hÉireann (Government of Ireland)



# PLANNING

## Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023.

No. of valid applications	133
No. of invalid applications	12
Extension of Duration	1
Exempted Development Declaration	2

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023.

No. of valid applications	1,013
No. of invalid applications	128
Extension of Duration	22
Exempted Development Declaration	51

## Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023.

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2023	253
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2023	256
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 22/09/2023	126
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	50 days

## Building Control (26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023)

- Validated Commencement Notices: **48**
- Number of Building Control Inspections: **28**
- Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: **14**
- Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts **00**

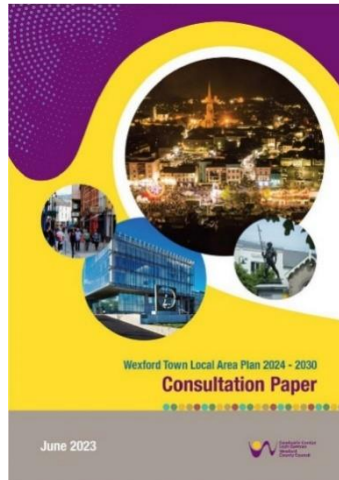
## Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023 are as follows:

- Live Cases **381**
- Cases Opened from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 **177**
- Cases Closed from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 **130**

## **Forward Planning**

### **Wexford Town Local Area Plan**



The pre-draft public consultation period commenced on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and **ended at 4.00pm on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. It was a very successful public consultation with in excess of seventy submissions and observations received. The submissions and observations are available to view on the Council's online consultation portal <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/node/1470/submissions>. A report on the issues raised in the submissions and observations is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration during the preparation of the Draft Local Area Plan. Internal and external stakeholder meetings are ongoing.

Work is progressing well on the Local Transport Plan and the baseline and context reports are almost complete. The team is currently preparing a Social Infrastructure Audit and an Infrastructural Assessment Report and other background work to inform decisions on land use and zoning. Tenders have been received for an Urban Design Strategy (including Master Planning) and a Rainwater Management Plan and a Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the process of evaluating the tenders has commenced.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Draft Scoping Report was circulated to the Environmental Authorities and the submissions received have been incorporated into the final Scoping Report. The Scoping Report is available to view on the Council's website <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/development-plans-and-local-area-plans/plans-in-preparation/wexford-town-local-area-plan>. Work is also progressing on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Local Area Plan.

The Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022 has been published and this will impact the format of the plan. The Planning section are reviewing the revised requirements of the Draft Bill and will advise further as soon as possible.

## **Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan**

Quotations have been received for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the Local Area Plan. Appointment is imminent. The Planning Section is also working with the Active Travel Team on the evaluation of tenders for the Local transport Plan which will inform the plan.

## **Wexford County Development Plan Monitoring**

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

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

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

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

## **Training**

The Forward Planning Section hosted a training day on flood risk management for planners and relevant engineering and technical staff on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2023. The training, presented by JBA Consulting Engineers, provided guidance on the application of flood mapping and data, the preparation of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for plans and the preparation and review of Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments for planning applications.

## **Built, Cultural & Natural Heritage**

### **Community Monuments Fund**

Wexford County Council received capital funding totalling €200,000.00 for works at Tellarought and Mountgarrett castles. Following a procurement process contractors have been appointed and works are on-going on these projects.

### **County Heritage Plan Scheme funding**

Wexford County Council has received funding totalling €37,223.00 from the Heritage Council for the following projects under the County Heritage Plan scheme: A phase 1 audit of the historic church and graveyard sites of Co. Wexford (€17,850.00), a conservation management plan for St. Nicholas' of Clonmines (€12,915.00), and facilitation for public consultation of the County Heritage Plan (€6,458.00). The historic church and graveyard audit is currently underway following a competitive tender process.



### **Historic Towns Initiative funding**

Wexford County Council has received funding from the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the undertaking of a heritage-led regeneration plan for Enniscorthy totalling €40,000.00. Following the procurement process, a consultant has been appointed and the project is on-going.

### **Irish Walled Towns Network**

Wexford County Council received €60,000.00 in capital funding from the Irish Walled Towns Network for conservation works at Wexford Town Wall, in the Bride Street and Ropewalk car parks. Following a procurement process a contractor has been appointed and the works have commenced.

### **Local Biodiversity Action Fund**

Wexford County Council received €25,000.00 in grant funding through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023 for the undertaking of a Phase 2 Wetland Survey following on from the Phase 1 survey in 2022. Following a procurement process consultants have been appointed and field surveys have commenced. Funding was also received to produce a Tree and hedgerow Strategy for Co. Wexford and following a procurement process consultants have been appointed.

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

Report from 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 (72)
- 37 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 13 Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- 15 Section 11 Notices posted on properties.
- 3 Section 8(7) Notices issues – Entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- 1 Dangerous Structure Notice issued.
- 12 properties submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.
- 5 Derelict Site cases closed.

### **Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting**

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023 are as follows: -

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Live Cases                                      | <b>11 (2020 - 2023)</b> |
| • Cases Opened since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 | <b>3</b>                |
| • Cases Closed since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 | <b>12</b>               |
| • Inspections Carried out                         | <b>4</b>                |

## **Planning CSO Returns 2023**

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Housing Developments (Total No. of units)</b>	<b>Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)</b>	<b>One-off Houses</b>
<b>January</b>	50	3	26
<b>February</b>	15	1	17
<b>March</b>	154	30	33
<b>April</b>	156	89	16
<b>May</b>	65	30	26
<b>June</b>	6	2	25
<b>July</b>	155	16	22
<b>August</b>	14	22	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>193</b>

- \* Figures to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

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

## **Disability Access Certificates (DACs):**

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023, totals **68**.

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	9	2	0	7	0
Gorey	20	3	1	16	1
New Ross	5	0	0	5	0
Wexford	18	2	3	12	1
Rosslare	16	1	1	13	1
<b>2023 Totals</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>

**Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.**

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	57
Major Pre-Planning (from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023)	8

## Access Related Items

## National Disability Authority (NDA)

## Code of Practice on Accessible Public Buildings

The Code for Practice for Accessible Public Buildings is a statutory instrument recently published by the NDA.

As a statutory instrument, the Code should be used and adhered to by those responsible for the management, maintenance and design of public buildings in conjunction with other legislation, technical documentation and guidelines concerning the accessibility of public buildings.

Section 4 of the Code relates to a public body ensuring that consideration of accessibility is embedded in their work plans and policies, such that accessibility is a core function of all the elements of the building.

The Code also details possible actions to achieve meeting the obligations of the code, this will require an organisational approach as the activities are across a number of different departments.

## Communications Boards

Delighted to inform that a pilot initiative of Wexford County Council to design and install a communication board in Min Ryan Park, the first of its kind by a local authority, will now form part of a national strategy to have these communication boards installed in playgrounds and parks throughout the Country. Recent correspondence from the LGMA informs “The Department is keen to advance an action under the strategy which would see a plan developed for the installation of communication boards in public playgrounds to ensure inclusive play spaces for children, including Autistic children that may be non-verbal or minimally speaking”. This action is key for all stakeholders in the development of play spaces the Access Section will be available to support such plans if required.





## **Our Lady's Island I.C.E project**

The Innovative Community Engagement (I.C.E) project in Our Lady's Island an example of department collaborative which included Health Ireland, Community Department and Cycle without Age, has been shortlisted for the Age Friendly Awards. Judges will attend a site visit at Our Lady's Island on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

The project highlights and supports the importance of not only inclusion and possibility for all members of community to engage in play but also focus on the importance of intergenerational activity.

## **National Housing Strategy of Disabled People 2022-2027**

A presentation of the new strategy took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September with Ms. Claire Feeney from the Department presenting an overview of the Strategy.

Under Topic 1 of the strategy – **Accessible Housing and Communities**

*And the requirement for setting targets for how many accessible homes local authorities need in their area and deciding what types of houses they need.*

One key element which Wexford County Council have led on to ensure the availability of accessible and adaptable units is to ensure developers supply a % of homes which are built to accessible/adaptable standards. Wexford County Council's Development Plan PO9 "a minimum of 20% of dwellings are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities" refers.



## **TOWN REGENERATION**

The Town Centre First Policy aims to create Town Centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

The Enniscorthy Town Team are meeting regularly. The Town Centre First Team received a presentation on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sept from Prof Theo Lynn from DCU on the Digital Town Blueprint for Enniscorthy Town. Prof Lynn was presenting on behalf of his team from DCU, UCG and .IE on the Digital Town blueprint for Enniscorthy Town. This blueprint was compiled after a comprehensive study, assessing the digital readiness of Enniscorthy Town. Enniscorthy has scored highly in comparison to other Town Centre First Towns.

This Digital strategy and the UN sustainability goals will be incorporated into the Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan prior to Launch in the coming weeks.

The New Ross Town Team has also been meeting regularly. The Draft New Ross Town centre First Plan is complete and was presented both to the Town Team and New Ross Municipal District Council. The Consultants Cunnane Stratton Reynolds and "A playful City" presented to both bodies in Sept and took on board suggested amendments. There was a Town hall meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Sept when members of the Public were invited in to give their views on the draft plan. This was a very successful evening and the feedback received very positive. We expect to have this Plan complete by the end of Sept/early Oct.

## **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

### **MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS**

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

- Ground Investigation on-site works are expected to be completed in the next few weeks.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- Archaeological Geophysical Survey is due to start in the coming weeks. Permission from landowners to access land for the survey are being obtained at present.
- Additional Topographical Survey Tender has been awarded. A kick-off meeting with the successful tenderer is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023. On-site works are expected to commence by the end of October 2023.
- The overall design of the development, including bridge options is substantially completed. Departures from standard applications are being prepared and shall be submitted to TII for approval in due course.
- Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports required by the TII's Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines is ongoing.
- Engagement with the ESB/EirGrid, Irish Rail and other stakeholders is ongoing.
- Preparation of the Periodic Report in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding has commenced.

#### **N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road**

The position on this project remains unchanged.

The decision from An Bord Pleanála, has not been received as anticipated (i.e., on or before the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2023). Correspondence from the Bord has been received, that application 177AE for N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road is currently at Board level awaiting a decision. No estimated date has been given as to when this may be decided.

## **NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES**

### **2022 Pavement Schemes**

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme

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

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

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

### **2022 Safety Schemes**

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

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

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

Works outstanding:

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

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

Retexturing Works was tendered in June with works arranged for October 2023.

### **2023 Pavement Schemes**

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

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

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

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

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

This has been tendered and is under review, construction expected in April 2024.



## **2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Former National Roads Grant 2023**

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

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

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

This allocation will be assigned to Rosbercon R723 as a former National Road currently under design. The tender is currently being prepared for these works.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

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

Roads resurfaced in the last month were:

Graiguebeg; (Enniscorthy MD); Coolintaggart; Ballybeg Great; Carrig; Brideswell Big; Knockduff; (All in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Lower William Street; Nunnery Lane; Millstown Road; (All in New Ross MD); Curracloe; (Wexford Borough MD).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

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

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

€502,650 was allocated in 2023. Roads resurfaced in the last month were:

Madoran and Ballinure; (Both in Enniscorthy MD); Glen Lane; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD).

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

Wexford County Council was allocated €610,000 to repair 17 bridges in 2023. Six bridges are complete at; Boley Upper Bridge; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Kings Bridge, Cullenstown; Newcastle Bridge; (Rosslare MD); Abbey Bridge & Barmoney Bridge (New Ross MD); Badgers Hill Bridge; (Wexford Borough MD).

## **Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges**

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. Both are submitted for Part 8 Planning and it is hoped work will commence in quarter 4 of this year.

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



***Wilton Bridge Repairs 21 September***

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

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

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. All concrete repairs are complete. Steel repairs are ongoing to the steel part of the bridge. There was a substantial increase in the number of concrete and steel repairs required. This led to the temporary road closure being extended from 31 August to 20 October. It is anticipated the works will be fully complete by the end of November 2023.



***Deeps Bridge 25 September 2023***

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

Wexford County Council was allocated €682,000 for 15 projects in 2023. Four projects are complete to date:

- Road edge protection on Regional Road at Lucas Park (Enniscorthy District).
- New Culvert at Tomnalossett (Enniscorthy District).
- Upgrade a culvert near Ballywilliam (New Ross District).
- Upgrade a culvert to relieve flooding on Duncannon Line (New Ross District).

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

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

21 lanes will be resurfaced in 2023 and 8 lanes have been resurfaced to date.

Boolabeg; Ballindaggin Village; (Both in Enniscorthy MD); Newtown; Coolback; Ballygalvert; (New Ross MD); Corramacorra; Harpoonstown; Hardygregan (Rosslare MD).

### **General Maintenance**

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



## **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

### **Newtown Road (Part of the Pathfinder Project)**

The proposed Newtown Road cycle scheme will commence in October. The tender for this project was awarded to Glas contractors who will mobilise to be on site at the end of October. The expected duration of the construction phase will be nine months. The project will result in segregated cycle paths on both sides of the road from the Maldron Hotel to the Racecourse on Newtown Road.

Continuing on from the first phase of the Newtown Road Cycle Scheme, the second phase will be the section from the Racecourse to the Hospital Junction with Newtown Road/Beechlawn/Clonard. This is currently on public display as a Section 38 and went live on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Closing date for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

The third phase will be the section from the Hospital junction to town, terminating at Wygram. This section of the route went to Section 38 earlier this year and received the approval of the Elected members.

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)**

Safe Routes to School – St. Mary’s National School Rosslare - construction has commenced on site to provide for reduced car parking in front of school, improvements to walking infrastructure and safe crossings of the public road, all with the aim of encouraging more walking to school and less car dependence.

WX/21/0015 Safe Routes to School - Scoil Naomh Abbain, Adamstown National School – works are well underway and approximately 85% complete. We will shortly be engaging with the school to plant a range of pollinator friendly perennials in newly created green spaces. These will assist in holding on to surface water run off and releasing it slowly to the drainage network, thereby reducing flood risk in times of heavy rain.



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

St. Aidan's SRTS is also well under way with works outside St. Aidan's National School to enhance the environment for pedestrians, thereby encouraging more walking to school. It is hoped this will lead to less congestion around the school zone and enhance safety for children and parents.

### **Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)**

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

### **Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)**

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

Wexford Town ABTA is currently underway by Atkins Consulting Engineers and at Draft Options Development stage.

## Car Free Day

Car Free Day takes place worldwide, each year on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. This year the Active Travel Department marked the day by working with the Gorey Pedestrian and Cycling Association to run an event in Gorey Town Park.

The public were invited to come to the park for a picnic and those who travelled on foot, by bike, scooter, park and stride or any active travel means were rewarded with complimentary refreshments in the Coffee Pod.

We were fortunate to have a lovely afternoon of sunshine and the event was very well attended. Sports Active kindly did an Activator Pole demo; the Bike Shop from Selskar in Wexford town brought some eBikes for people to try out and Active Travel brought along the Trishaw as part of the Cycling Without Age project to try out on the day.

Balance Bike Buddies from Courtown provided balance bikes for small children to try out with children as young as two having a go.

All in all it was a successful day which we hope to repeat again next year.



*A range of bikes on display for Car Free Day in Gorey Town Park*





## Public eBike sharing scheme

The public E Bike Sharing Scheme is going from strength to strength with big demand for the bikes, particularly from residential areas to travel to the town centre.



*Bolt eBike parked at County Hall*

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September the Cycling and Walking Officer gave a talk in Wexford town library as part of the ALL-Adult Literacy for Life programme in Co Wexford. The talk will be aimed at those who may require assistance with the technology to enable them to access the bikes. This talk led to demand for a try-out of the bikes in a safe environment.

As a result, in association with Sports Active, and to mark Active Aging Week, there will now be a number of training sessions on how to cycle the bikes. The training will take place in a safe off-road environment in the car park of County Hall grounds to ensure people can gain skills before they cycle on the public streets.



## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

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

Design works are completed.

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

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

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

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

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

It should be noted that quotations are sought from the four recognised public lighting contractors in the country for these public lighting schemes.

All four contractors are now working on the 3 National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP) contracts across the country. This is leading to a delay in getting our Development Fund lighting contracts designed, tendered and completed.

### **Gorey Town Park**

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

## HOUSING Local Authority Direct Build Units

### Capital Projects

#### Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete to date	50
Dwellings under Construction	106
Dwellings Funded in Programme	157
Dwellings yet to be funded in Programme	15
Medium Term	104
Affordables	90

Dwellings Complete under Housing for All					
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Position	Comment	Unit Type
4 Projects	26	Various		Dwellings complete in 2022	Various
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare		Dwellings complete in May 23	3 x 2 Bed 20 x 3 Bed
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy		TAP Dwelling complete August 23	1 x 2 Bed
Total	50				
Dwellings Under Construction					
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current position	Comment	
Whiterock Hill <i>Phase 1</i>	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete in Q4 2023.	6 x 1 Bed 12 x 2 Bed 4 x 3 Bed
Women’s Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23.	12 x 1 Bed
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction commenced June 23	12 x 2 Bed
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced April 23	18 x 3 Bed 4 x 2 Bed
Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow)	1 x 1 Bed 1 x 2 Bed 6 x 3 Bed
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Construction commenced July 23	12 x 1 Bed 11 x 2 Bed 7 x 3 Bed
Total	106				

Dwellings Funded in programme under Housing for All					
Francis St.	2	Wexford	SS approved	Part VIII approved September 23. Prepare tender documents Q4 2023	2 x 2 Bed
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete. Stage 3 and Tender in Q3 2023.	2 x 1 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Stage 2	Tenders due 22 <sup>nd</sup> September. Expect to contract and commence by end of 2023.DB contract.	6 x 1 Bed 4 x 2 Bed 8 x 3 Bed
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Combined 1 and 2	Design Build tenders due October 2023.	4 x 1 Bed 16 x 2 Bed 2 x 3 Bed
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Enabling Contractor appointed. Enabling works commence August 23	15 x 1 Bed 10 x 2 Bed 9 x 3 Bed 4 x 4 Bed
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Stage 3 and tender documentation for submission Q4 23 subject to Part VIII approval.	18 x 3 Bed 12 x 1 Bed 24 x 2 Bed 6 x 3 Bed
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monomolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Submit Part VIII August 23.	1 x 2 Bed 4 x 3 Bed
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding application Q4 23.	2 x 1 Bed 2 x 2 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding Part VIII and funding application Q4 2023	2 x 1 Bed 2 x 2 Bed
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157</b>				

Dwellings yet to be funded in Programme					
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment		
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Appoint Archaeologist. Other appointments will follow Archaeology report. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q3 2023	3 x 1 Bed
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Demolitions complete. Funding application to DHLGH Q3 2023	1 x 1 Bed 1 x 2 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. Part VIII lodged August 2023 SS Submission Q4 2023	
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Lodge Part VIII Application Q4 2023	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>				

### Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment
Clonard	40	Wexford	A proposal has been submitted by a neighboring developer. Pre Preparing Q4 23. Part VIII Q1 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 35 social dwellings due in by end Oct 23.
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys Q4
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>		

### Affordable Dwellings

	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tenders received Sept 23. Tenders being assessed to complete in 2 weeks. Contract Q4 2023.
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 70 affordable due end Oct 23.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>		



# **1. Projects at Planning Stages**

## **1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:**

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

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

Moloney O' Beirne has been appointed to prepare preliminary designs and Part VIII planning application for the Market Square and the Castle Quarter. Roughan & O'Donovan have been appointed to undertake the design for town centre traffic alterations. A Part 8 application for Market Square and town centre street enhancement works will be submitted in the coming week, with preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project commencing thereafter, to support a Part 8 submission before end of 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

## **1.4 Gorey District Park**

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

The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a contract awarded. Completion is expected in November.

## **1.5 John Street Building Regeneration Project, New Ross**

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

## **1.6 Gorey Market House**

As agreed at the December meeting of Gorey - Kilmuckridge MDC, WCC publicly invited Expressions of Interest for the re-development of the Market House. A Competitive Dialogue procurement process to identify the best option for a town centre development, including a performance space, was advertised on eTenders and OJEU in February 2023. Following tender assessment, no suitable candidate was identified to proceed to the negotiation stage. The tender process has now been concluded and closed out.

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

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

### Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

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

### Hook Lighthouse

The tender competition for interpretative design services for the Hook Lighthouse was advertised in February with closing date for tenders on 30/03/23. Tandem Design have been identified as the successful tenderer and it is expected they will start work on the project shortly.

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

### New Ross Tourism Project

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

A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment is now complete with 3 candidates successfully moving onto Stage 2. The Norman Visitor Centre will be the first project from this framework, with award planned in Q4 2023.

## **1.8 Esmonde Street, Gorey**

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans, with works expected to commence on-site in January 2024. €2m of own funds is committed to the Esmonde Street project. Following the September district meeting, we are reviewing options with a view to progressing the project to site as soon as feasible.

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

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

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

## **1.10 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway**

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022. It is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q1 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is likely to happen in early 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **1.13 Crescent Quay – Dredging**

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete and results have been assessed.

Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

### **1.14 Enniscorthy Sports Hub**

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. A redesign process for the project is now ongoing, with further 'top-up' funding have being sought under the LSSIF scheme.

### **1.15 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility**

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

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



### **1.16 Ferndale Gymnasium, Wexford:**

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tender period ended on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Received tenders are currently being assessed. It is intended to commence works on site in Q4 2023.

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

### **1.17 Adoration Convent Wexford**

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

## **2 Projects Under Construction**

### **2.1 South East Greenway**

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glás Civil Engineering and works are now substantially complete. Snagging works are now nearing completion. Fencing, public lights ducting and temporary car parks works for the greenway section from New Ross to Glenmore, i.e. Phase 1, are complete.

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

The works contract tender for Lot 5a – Ferrybank to Curraghmore (5.5KM) was advertised in March. Tenders have been received and assessed. A tender award recommendation for Lot 5A (works) has been submitted to TII for approval with the award of contract to follow TII approval.

Wexford County Council's Arts Office, in partnership with the Southeast Greenway Project Team, has commissioning designers 'Elements Of Action' with visual artist Aoife Banville, to develop a pilot creative public art project for the Raheen to Glenmore section of the greenway. This works is expected to complete prior to the opening of this section. The process to procure replacement technical advisors for the completion of the Southeast Greenway project has commenced. The first appointment will be for the technical advisor to act in the role for Employer's representative duties for the works contract lot 5A. Tenders have been received and assessed. A tender award recommendation has been submitted to and approved by TII, with the appointment of the consultant for Lot 5A to follow.

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

## **2.2 Trinity Wharf**

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2<sup>nd</sup> March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Works are ongoing on site with completion expected in Q4 2023. Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The preferred tenderer is identified, and the standstill period has expired. The formal appointment of the design services consultant is imminent.

## **2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park – Oil Tanks Site**

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site. The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was complete in July 2021.

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The main works contract has been awarded to MJS and works are at an advanced stage. Completion is expected in October.

## **2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford**

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

## **2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford**

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

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

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

### 3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

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



## **4. Flood Defence Schemes**

### **4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme**

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

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

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

### **4.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme**

The contract for engineering and environmental services for the for the Wexford Town & Environs contract was signed by WCC and Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd on 23rd March.

Officials from the OPW, the sponsoring agency for the scheme, including the Minister Mr Patrick O'Donovan, attended. A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will fully funded.

The appointment includes flood risk modelling; assessment of options for flood prevention; preliminary design; the preparation of planning and other statutory consent applications; detailed design; tendering for works contractors and construction management services.

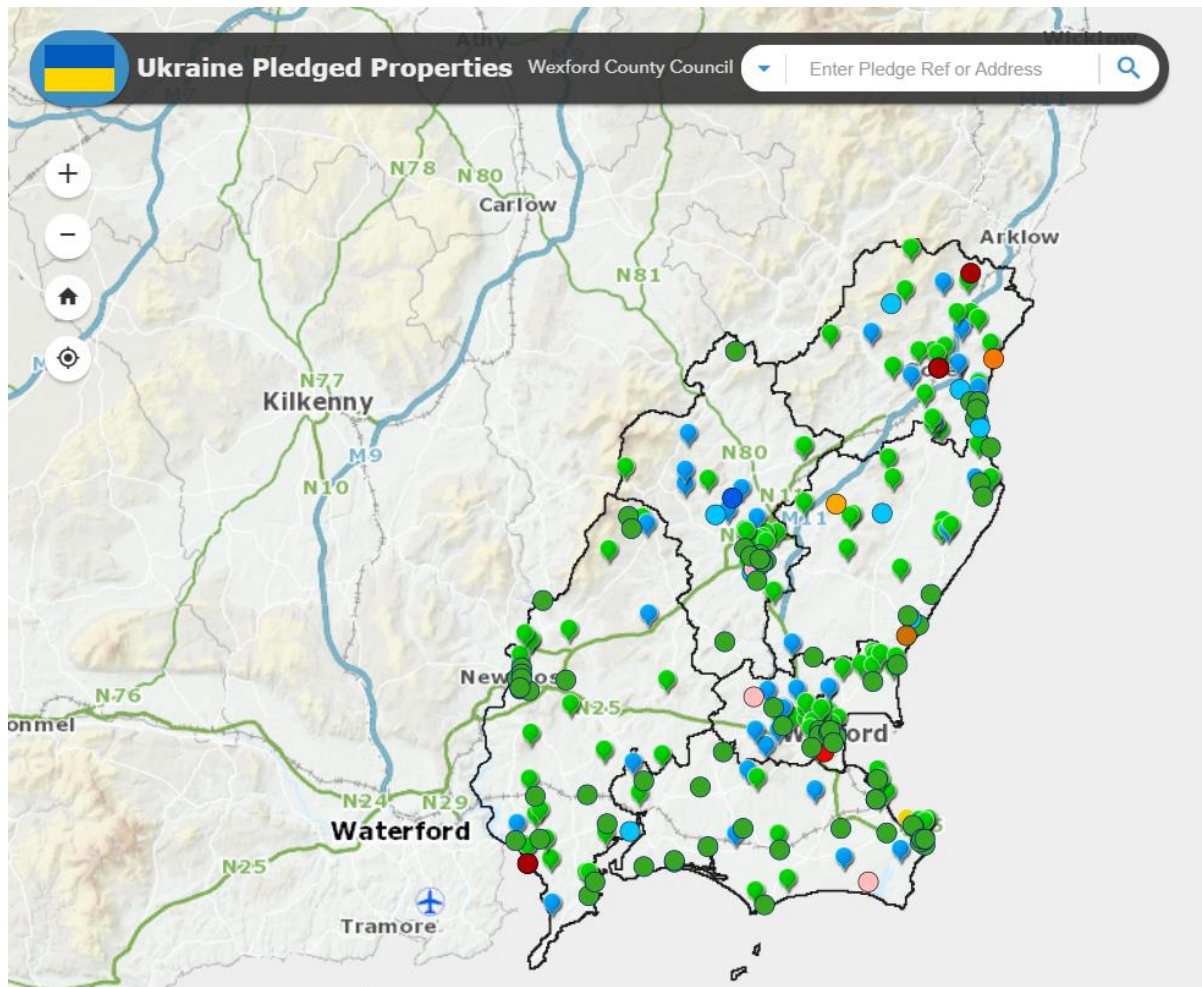


# UKRANIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

## Offer a Home

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas. To date some 136 properties have been allocated, housing 475 Ukrainian people who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTP's).

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



## Irish Red Cross (IRC) Pledged Accommodation

The Team also assists Ukrainian families in pledged accommodation. There are 68 IRC pledges accommodating 198 Ukrainian people.

## Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The next meeting of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Forum has been asked to review the initial Terms of Reference to incorporate the work of the Local Authority Integration Team and future meetings of the Forum will include this new remit.

## CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

### FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	7
Customer Complaint	6
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	2
Data Access Request	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

### PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

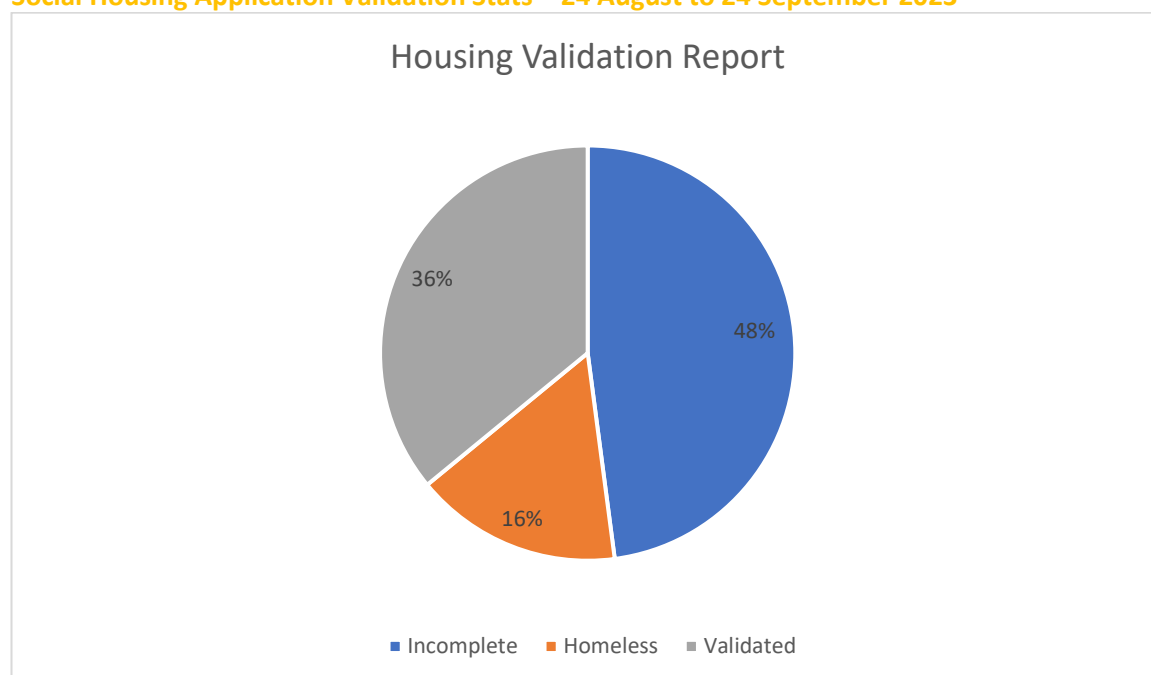
Tenders from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

No. uploaded	10
No. of tenders received	25

## CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 24 August to 24 September 2023

Area	24 August to 24 September 2023
Phone Calls	5340
Environmental Complaints	336
Change of Circumstances	23
Housing Validation	192
Quick Calls	2852
Roads Fault Log	58
Emails (Received & Sent)	3497
Web Updates / Consultations	54
Newspaper Adverts	72

## Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 24 August to 24 September 2023



**Members Portal Queries by Section – 24 August to 24 September 2023**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Community</b>	0	1	1
<b>Customer Service</b>	0	2	2
<b>Enniscorthy Municipal District</b>	0	2	2
<b>Enterprise and Tourism</b>	0	2	2
<b>Environment</b>	1	5	6
<b>Finance</b>	1	0	1
<b>Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District</b>	0	1	1
<b>Housing</b>	1	137	138
<b>Planning</b>	0	4	4
<b>Roads</b>	0	2	2
<b>Roads – Enniscorthy MD</b>	0	5	5
<b>Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD</b>	1	9	10
<b>Roads – Rosslare MD</b>	0	7	7
<b>Roads – Wexford MD</b>	0	7	7
<b>Water – Non Irish Water Queries</b>	0	2	2
<b>Water – Rural Water and Well Grants</b>	0	1	1
<b>Wexford Municipal District</b>	0	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	190	194

## Communications

### Top Performing Posts

#### Greenway Photo



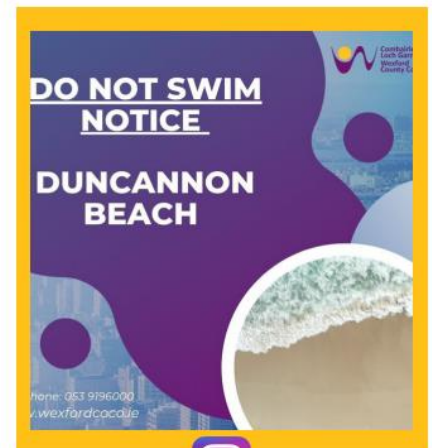
43.1K views

#### Storm Agnes



7,717 Impressions

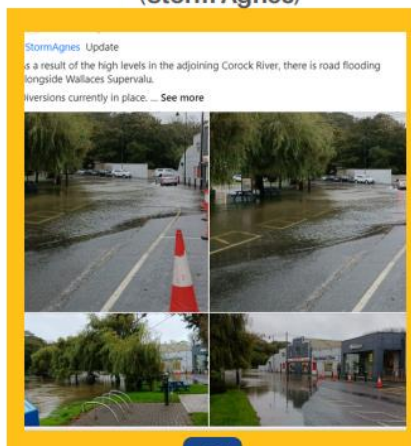
#### Do not Swim - Duncannon



10K views  
(Paid Advertising)

### Top Performing Posts

#### Wellingtonbridge Flooding (Storm Agnes)



14.4K views

#### Storm Agnes



6,841 impressions

#### Storm Agnes Update



1.6K views



## Monthly Social Media Stats



### PAGE REACH

83,888

### PAGE VISITS

11,511

### PAGE FOLLOWS

7,577

### NEW PAGE LIKES

219

### NUM OF POSTS

52



### PAGE REACH

3,211

### PAGE VISITS

687

### PAGE FOLLOWS

2,612

### NEW PAGE LIKES

131

### NUM OF POSTS

49



### IMPRESSIONS

141.2K

### MENTIONS

N/A

### NUM. OF TWEETS

N/A

### PAGE FOLLOWERS

14,094

### PAGE VISITS

N/A

### NEW FOLLOWERS

62

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

## Monthly Social Media Content

- Storm Agnes
- Expression of Interest - Supply of Social Housing & Development Land
- EOI - Gorey & Enniscorthy Christmas Markets
- Chinese Delegation Visit
- Competition Winners - Medieval Walled Day
- Recruitment
- Industrial Action
- Car Free Day - 22nd September
- Culture Night
- Hedgerows Talk - Library
- CCAP - Information Evenings
- The Ploughing (LEO)
- European Mobility Week
- Water Posts - WCC Responsibility V Irish Water
- Trees for Wexford Campaign
- Weather Warnings
- Do Not Swim Notices
- Bolt Bike - New Locations

- Emergency Exercise - Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge
- Local Authority Home Loan



## Monthly Engagements

### TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.

**Paul Maguire**  
Send someone down to courtown to empty the bins it's a disgrace at the weekend!!!

Like Reply Hide 2d 2

**Wexford County Council**  
**Paul Maguire** Hi Paul, thanks for getting in touch, I will log a call with the Gorey Team. Thanks again.

Like Reply 1d 2

**Wexford County Council**  
**Paul Maguire** Paul our Gorey District has responded to your query, "There was a crew in Courtown on Saturday and again on Sunday to do litter pick and empty the bins. The crew were there again this morning (Monday) doing the same. We installed new bins in Courtown last week to increase the capacity of the storage in the bins and also to prevent birds from taking rubbish from the bins and scattering the rubbish around the ground. I understand it was exceptionally busy in Courtown last weekend due to the unusually warm weather."

@wexfordcoco tree down in Westgate Park, behind the tech school!



**Comhairle Contae Loch Garman**  
**Wexford County Council**

**Teresa** @Teresa40794340 · Sep 28  
Replying to @wexfordcoco  
What about Ballycullane area,???

2 11

**Wexford County Council** @wexfordcoco · Sep 28  
Teresa, our engineer contact Irish Water. The pumps at Ballycullane were down and have now been reset. However there is a leak in the area that will be repaired today so outage will be until 3pm. An outage notification has just gone up.

1 32

**Teresa** @Teresa40794340 · Sep 28  
Thanks for your your reply. All back now 🙏

6

## Press Releases September 2023

**Comhairle Contae Loch Garman**  
**Wexford County Council**

- 07 Sept - Do Not Swim Notice Duncannon Beach
- 07 Sept - New Community Climate Action Programme for County Wexford
- 07 Sept - Wexford Local Enterprise Office Launches Owner-Manager Programme
- 13 Sept - Culture Night to return on 22nd Sept
- 25 Sept - Chinese Delegation
- 27 Sept - Schools across County Wexford are being encouraged to sign-up for this year's Student Enterprise Programme
- 29 Sept - Post Event Press Release Wexford Rose Tour 2023

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

Press Queries  
September 2023

7 Press Queries received in September. 5 responses issued.



# HOUSING

## Housing Strategy & Services

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



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

The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report.

## Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. The most recent expression of interest advertisement closed on the 29/09/2023, with the intention to open the next Expression of Interest Process in mid-October. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Project Address	No of Units	Unit Profile	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross 2(includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	8 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2	2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2023
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	ESB resolved -Road's issue. To deliver Q1 2024
Old Forest, Bunclody		4 x 3-bed 4 x 4-bed	Enniscorthy	Developer withdrawn EOI application. No longer proceeding

Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q1 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Mangan, Hollyfort	2	2 x 3-Bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q 3 2024
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q3 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>			

## Part V Acquisitions

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



## Approved Housing Body Delivery

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cluid</b>				
Bridgemeadows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024.
Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q3 2023.
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	86	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q2 2026
<b>Tuath</b>				
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q2 2023
Ramstown, Gorey	74	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units Delivered Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q2 2024. An additional 6 units will also deliver Q2 2024
<b>Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)</b>				
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units delivered Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q1 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>336</b>			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 527 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	164
Gorey	100
New Ross	43
Rosslare	38
Wexford	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>

## **Housing Maintenance**

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023:

<b>Repairs</b>	<b>Enniscorthy</b>	<b>Gorey / Kilmuckridge</b>	<b>New Ross</b>	<b>Wexford</b>	<b>Rosslare</b>	<b>Total</b>
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023)	138	80	134	175	94	621
Repair Requests Year to Date	1028	674	1123	1113	726	4664
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023)	109	67	99	140	63	478
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	805	532	811	826	517	3491
<b>CLOSED</b> Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023)	94	57	85	118	63	417
<b>CLOSED</b> Repairs Requests Year to Date	758	448	782	722	493	3203

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

## **Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors**

A capital funding provision of €1.5million was made available to advance a planned maintenance programme across the County across a 3 year programme. This is targeted particularly at replacing windows and doors in properties with a small number of kitchens being provided. Where this funding is exhausted, housing will seek an additional allocation for this programme through the budget process.

<b>Status update Jan to September 2023</b>	<b>Status</b>
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	Contract awarded
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – windows and Doors	Contract awarded
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	At Tender Stage
Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford District 1offs	Tender Preparation

## Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

The figures below represent the total number of calls to the HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.

There were <b>1,168</b> calls to the HSSU from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 the following is the breakdown of same:-	
931 (79%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
73 (7%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
124 (11%)	Ineligible at the time presentation for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise housing situation.
40 (3%)	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.

## Choice Based Letting

Wexford County Council recently introduced Choice Based Letting, all applicants approved for social housing supports including approved transfer applicants received a login to the system.

To date there has been significant positive interest. The adjacent table shows the current status of the properties that have been placed on CBL, including properties currently advertised showing the number of views by applicants and the number of expressions of interest in same.

Enniscorthy MD - 6 properties			New Ross MD - 6 properties		
Property Type	No of views	No of expressions of interest	Property Type	No of views	No of expressions of interest
3 bed semi	180	16	3 bed semi	478	31
3 bed semi	677	17	2 bed apt	407	35
1 bed apt	382	35	2 bed apt	278	45
2 bed bungalow	1247	60	2 bed apt	1132	46
3 bed semi	493	68	2 bed tce	415	56
2 bed bungalow	1195	93	2 bed bungalow	1010	80

Gorey MD - 9 properties			Rosslare MD - 3 properties		
Property Type	No of views	No of expressions	Property Type	No of views	No of expressions
3 bed apt	200	24	3 bed semi	356	25
3 bed semi	572	44	2 bed semi	591	54
2 bed apt	427	82	2 bed semi	830	113
2 bed apt	1298	90			
2 bed tce	797	112			
3 bed semi	821	124			
2 bed apt	538	147			
2 bed apt	740	147			
2 bed semi	970	175			

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN -

As in line with the approved guidelines, members of the LECP Project Team in conjunction with appointed project consultant KPMG Future Analytics continued the development of the 2023 – 2028 Plan.



Feedback on the proposed Actions and Objectives was received from key stakeholders, the Municipal Districts, the LCDC, Housing & Community SPC, and Economic & Enterprise SPC, which was considered and incorporated into the LECP Framework Document. Following the Southern Regional Assembly meeting on 8th September, the Assembly considered the LECP Framework Document and agreed a Statement of Consistency as provided for under Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The LECP Project Team and KPMG Future Analytics are working on the following next steps:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report, which are requirements for the LECP.
- The Implementation Plan, which documents the prioritised actions for the implementation plan period and identifies Action Owners and Key Performance Indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP) 2024–2028



The tender submission deadline for the SICAP 2024-2028 has now passed, and the Tender Evaluation process is ongoing.

### LEADER PROGRAMME

*LEADER FINANCE – 01/09/2023 – 22/09/2023*

The Article 48 team processed **6** LEADER claims in September. The value of these claims was **€195,045.91** which will support **4** community groups and **2** enterprises throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
New Ross Needlecraft	€18,637.50

Payment Processed	Processed Total
1. Visit Wexford	€57,121.63
2. Jardiner's View	€33,614.79
3. Trudie's Catering Kitchen	€45,000.00
4. Fethard Community Development Assoc.	€17,712.00
5. WLD – Community Blueway Training	€22,959.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>€176,408.41</b>

### **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE –**

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 11th of September 2023.

Matters discussed during this meeting:

- Proposed Implementation of the Westmanstown Roster by An Garda Síochána
- Quarterly crime figures and trends, as outlined in the Chief Superintendent's Report
- Progress on CCTV schemes in Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Bunclody
- Proposed joint meeting with Wicklow JPC to take place in December. Exact date to be agreed.



The JPC Annual Report for 2022 was also agreed and adopted at this meeting.

### **WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP) –**

#### **Technology Project for Older People**

At the Wexford Integrated Programme for Older People (ICPOP) service based on the St. Johns in Enniscorthy on 18th August, we had the first participants in a pilot project using a smart tablet designed to support the needs of older people. ACORN who supply the smart tablet and ALONE Ireland assisted the Wexford ICPPOP team with training the participants.

This project is supported and funded by the Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The pilot project will also include devices from Tunstall Emergency Response to assist those at risk of falls and frailty including a smart watch that detects falls and gps location and is linked to a 24 hour monitoring centre. This pilot project will run for 12 months.



Sláintecare.  
**Healthy  
Communities**





## **HEALTHY WEXFORD –**

### **Healthy Ireland Round Four Funding Progression**

Work has commenced on a number of the 2023-2025 Projects. Some are at planning stage but two projects have already commenced with key targets as follows:



**Healthy  
Wexford**

### **Lets Get Moving Project**

The Age Friendly Wexford - Lets Get Moving Project commenced with a five week series of social dancing lessons offered in each of the five municipal districts.

### **Healthy Home Environments**

This pilot project rolls out September to November in Campile, hosted by Campile Area Development Group



## Social Farming Placements for People with Disabilities

This project also commenced with the first programme rolled out in August through Social Farming Ireland in collaboration with Reach Ability.



## Healthy County Committee

The Healthy County Committee met in September, and reviewed projects under Healthy County Activity, including updates from working groups and partner activity. The meeting also had a presentation on the Community Climate Action Fund, with highlight of the twin health and climate benefit of Climate Action activity.

## Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

Healthy Wexford, supported by Wexford County Council, recently collaborated with Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer to offer some free exercise classes using the new [calesthenics](#) equipment in St Mary's Maudlintown.

This was part of our **Making More** initiative to support increased usage of existing public exercise equipment and resources. Classes ran during August and September.

Seven '**Meet Your Neighbour**' events are planned in Q4 2023, following expression of interest having been gathered by Healthy Wexford in July. September included events in Campile and Yola, with October events planned in Taghmon and New Ross.



In collaboration with Sports Active Wexford, Healthy Wexford have supported delivery of the **MenoWell** programme by EduFit which commenced on 26th September.

MenoWell is a free 6 week online programme for women with a special focus on perimenopause and post menopause. Included in this programme is 2 live exercise classes per week, along with one health education workshop per week. There is also an on demand library of exercise videos and recipes, as well as recorded health education workshops.



**FREE MenoWell**

A 6-week online evidence-based exercise, nutrition, and health education programme promoting wellness for women in all stages of life, with a special focus on perimenopause and post-menopause.

**WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

- 2 LIVE ONLINE WOMEN-SPECIFIC MULTIMODAL EXERCISE CLASSES PER WEEK**  
These 40-minute classes will take place on **Mondays and Thursdays at 8pm** via Zoom and are suitable for women of all ages and fitness abilities and for those living with clinical conditions.
- 1 LIVE ONLINE EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOP PER WEEK FOR WOMEN AGED 30 YEARS+**  
These 30-minute workshops will take place on **Tuesdays at 8pm** via Zoom, with time allocated afterwards for Q&A with the experts. Practical take-home resources will also be provided.
- AN ON-DEMAND LIBRARY OF SPECIFIC EXERCISE VIDEOS AND NUTRITION RECIPES, AS WELL AS RECORDED HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOPS**

**HOW DO I SIGN UP?**  
Please click the link in the description or visit [www.edufit.ie/menowell-wexford-signup](http://www.edufit.ie/menowell-wexford-signup)

**HEALTH EDUCATION TOPICS:**

- MUSCLE MATTERS IN MENOPAUSE
- NUTRITION FOR A HEALTHY MENOPAUSE
- BUILDING BONES IN MENOPAUSE
- HEALTHY HEARTS IN MENOPAUSE
- SLEEPING SOUNDLY IN MENOPAUSE
- SELF-CARE IN MENOPAUSE

**FOR WOMEN AGED 30+ YEARS LIVING IN WEXFORD**

**STARTING TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 8PM FOR 6 WEEKS**

If you have any questions, please contact the EduFIT team at: [programmes@edufit.ie](mailto:programmes@edufit.ie)



Following sign up of our first primary school to the **'Not Around Us'** campaign back in June we released our promotional sign up video in September, in an effort to encourage further schools to sign up.

This can be accessed on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieOvQbMhSHY> and on our social media.

## **Community Recognition Fund –**

An Administrator for the Community Recognition Fund, was appointed to the Community Development section on 01/09/23. Progress reports for each project have been sought. To date, 7% of the fund has been drawn down, with an estimated further 20% in the process of being accessed. Most projects are in the Tender stage or have yet to start; with some not scheduled to commence until early 2024.

## **Projects**

- Gorey Family Resource Centre - completed
- Templeudigan Parish – completed
- Enniscorthy Community Allotments - completed

## **Meetings**

Members of the Community Team visited the successfully completed installation of the Geodesic Dome at Enniscorthy Community Allotments and promoted the project on the LCDC social media (see attached photos and links).





[Instagram – CRF](#)

[Facebook – CRF](#)

## Events

Enniscorthy Community Allotments 'The Dome – training centre' will launch at an event scheduled for Saturday November 4th 2023.

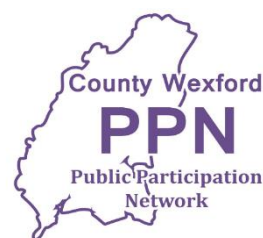
## County Wexford PPN –

### **National Ploughing Championships**

Wexford PPN exhibited at the National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

The stand was part of the DRCD's exhibit Our Rural Future – Supporting People and Communities.

It was a great opportunity to promote the work of the PPN and network with some of the other PPNs and attendees at the show..

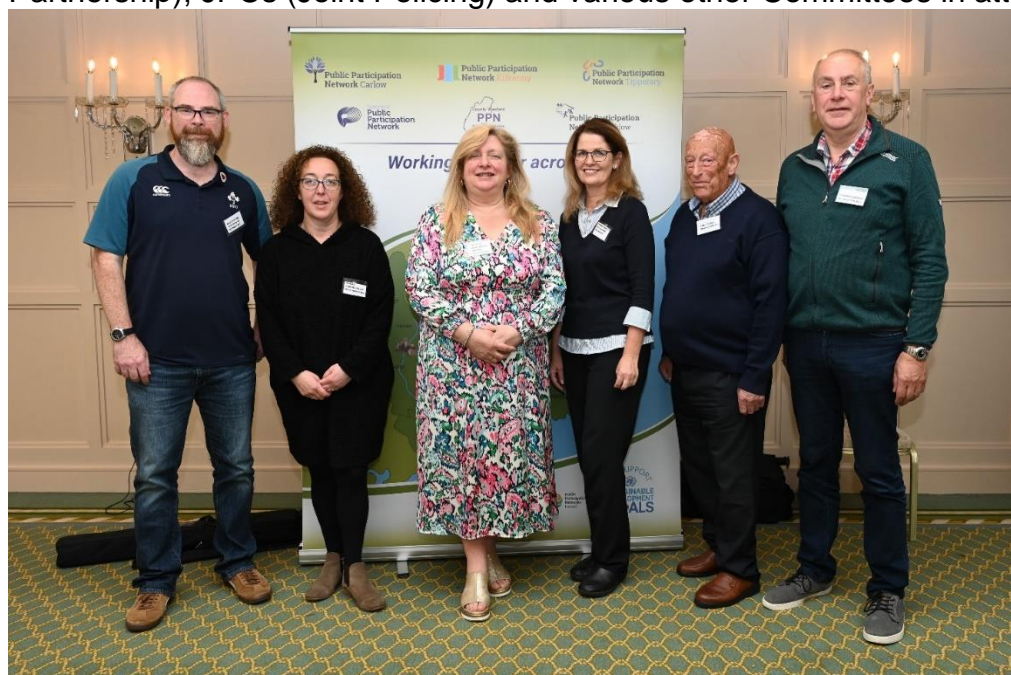




*Wexford PPN at the National Ploughing Championships*

### **PPN Reps Training**

Wexford PPN joined with the South East Region PPNs to host a Training Workshop with Brian Harvey, Social Researcher, in Kilkenny. The aim of the workshop was to assist PPN Representatives to have stronger voices and develop strategies on committees. The South East Region PPNs had representation from their Secretariats, SPCs (Social Policy Committees), LCDCs (Local Community Development Committee), CSP (Community Safety Partnership), JPCs (Joint Policing) and various other Committees in attendance.



*Wexford PPN Representatives & Staff at Brian Harvey Training Workshop*



## Updates

- Wexford PPN is currently advertising vacant positions on the Secretariat and various committees.
- Upcoming October PPN District Meetings are currently being organised and dates/times will be confirmed soon.
- The National PPN Conference is due to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October and Wexford PPN is sending a delegation to attend.

## Sports Active Wexford –

### Yoga Autumn Series

A yoga Autumn series programme commenced on the 13th of September in partnership with Wexford Town Library. This four-week programme has had 10 female participants sign.



### Activator Pole Walking Programme

An Activator Pole Walking programme commenced on the 5th of September in partnership with Healthy Wexford and Wexford Town Library. This 6-week programme has had 10 female participants sign up.

### Playground Leaders

Seven Playground Leader Courses were conducted in the month of September. Approx 140 children have participated so far. The schools included:

- Ballymurn NS,
- St Garvan's, Caroreigh
- Courtnacuddy NS
- St Joseph's, Gorey
- Coolcotts NS
- Ballycanew NS
- Davidstown NS



### Strong and Steady

Strong and Steady classes started back on the 27th of September in Coolcotts Community Centre. The initial 6-weeks are led by physio's in WEXICOP. The remaining 14-weeks are delivered by Sports Active Wexford. Currently 8 participants have registered for the programme.

### Innovation Fund (Dormant Accounts)

Walton Institute have completed final prototype augmented reality app. The AR app is expected to be tested among focus groups in the mental health services in October. With the final completion and report due by December 2023.

## Traveller Women's Exercise

- A 6-week traveller women's yoga group will begin on Monday 25th of September at 6pm in Cloncroche Community Centre.
- A 6-week traveller women's exercise group will begin on Monday 25th of September at 2pm in New Ross with Shirley's Fitness.

## Safeguarding

- 12 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 183 participants.
- 1 x Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 27 participants

## Activator Poles during Car Free Day Event, Gorey

CSDO Nicola performed an Activator pole demonstration during the Car Free Day Event, in Gorey Town Park on Friday the 22nd of September.

*Steering Committee Chairperson, Garry Laffan with St. Fintan's Camogie Club, one of the successful 65 applicants who have been approved our PAP grant.*

€39,000 has been approved in 2023.



# ENVIRONMENT

## A. COASTAL MATTERS

### **Harbours -**

Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 25 projects under this scheme with total construction cost of €1.79m. A number of the projects are completed, with remainder at various stages.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Consulting engineers are appointed to progress the detailed design. A planning application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála, a decision date of 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 was published on their website; however following correspondence from ABP this decision date is likely to extend by a number of weeks. The foreshore consent has to be finalised once the planning process is complete. This development is part of the above BALAMI scheme.

### **Operations - New Ross Port**

ISPS approval for both dry and liquid cargoes has now been achieved for Marshmeadows Jetty.

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

A new traffic management system and weighbridge upgrade is due to commence in September.

KIMO AGM is being held in Falkenburg Sweden in early October, Wexford County Council will be represented. KIMO have tentatively enquired about Wexford hosting the next meeting in April / May 2024.

### **Beaches –**

Bathing water: weekly bathing water samples ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The water quality results are published on beaches.ie website. There have been 6 water quality incidents in Summer 2023 – at Courtown (2 no.), Carne, Duncannon, St Helen's and Baginbun. These incidents were followed up with investigations and discussions with HSE.

Bathing water: An Taisce carried out inspections of blue flag and green coast beaches throughout 2023 bathing season. The inspector had a positive experience at all beaches he visited in Wexford and noted in his report... “very impressed with all of the beaches I visited in Wexford this year, keep up the good work.”

### **Coast -**

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

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being finalised.

The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

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

Seaview, Kilmore: Preplanning application was submitted to Wexford CC Planning Dept in August 2023, with application for full planning permission to follow. Preplanning meeting was held with Planning Dept on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Further correspondence was issued to OPW in order to progress the funding of the scheme.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. Septic Tank Inspections:**

139 inspections were carried out in 2022. A minimum of 130 inspections are required for 2023. 88 inspections have taken place up to the end of August with 45 passes and 43 fails. Further inspections will take place in October 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 60 files have been closed during 2023 so far. 22 extensions of time were granted in

2023. There are currently 59 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 29 open for 2023, a total of 88 open cases. 60 files have been closed in 2023.

Fourteen applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date of which twelve have been processed for payment.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2023
2019	156	48	108	11	3
2020	111	38	73	6	4
2021	91	24	67	17	9
2022	139	50	89	16	25
2023	88	45	43	29	14

There are currently 11 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 2 of these are for hearing and 9 are currently for mention.

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

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 5 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 4 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange. 2018 has 4 open files with good progress on 2 of these, 2 are in court. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above.

#### 4. Air Quality:

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

##### **No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:**

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. Issued in 2023 (to end Aug)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)
Vehicle Refinishers (59sites)	19	24	16	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions (80)	22	22	11	N/A
Solvents (9 registered)	3	5	0	N/A



### Low Smoke Fuel Areas

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

## 5. Agriculture:

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

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

## C.WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. Recycling Services:

#### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites Aug 2023	Recycling out (End Aug) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End Aug) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles		2616	2600
Aluminium Cans		65	66
Total	108	2282	2666

## Household Recycling Centres –

### Summary of Activities

WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-aug 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-aug 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan-aug2022	Recycling out Jan - aug 2023	Recycling out Jan-Agu 2022	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2023
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	405	<b>419</b>	449	<b>444</b>	596	<b>537</b>	351	338
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1673	<b>2182</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers Jan-Aug	2022	<b>2023</b>	2022	<b>2023</b>	2022	<b>2023</b>	2022	<b>2023</b>
	69	<b>72</b>	112	<b>117</b>	144	<b>155</b>	81	<b>82</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.

## 2. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end Aug 2022	Aug 2023	To end Aug 2023	% +/-
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>-15%</b>
Gorey *		30		
Enniscorthy *		27		
Wexford *		59		
New Ross*		22		
Rosslare		27		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>5,988</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>+14%</b>
Gorey		170		
Enniscorthy		197		
Wexford		237		
New Ross		124		
Rosslare		62		

<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>11,694</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>11,794</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>544</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>1097</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>4,021</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>5,283</b>	<b>+31%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>81</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>202</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>212</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>183</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>89</i>		

Other Works are as follows.

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

### 3. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as submitted to the EPA on 28 February 2023. The 2023 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,597 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, Mercury etc.

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

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

## D LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-AUGUST 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	151
Fines Paid in Full●	111	48
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	38
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	19
Legal Proceedings In Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	46
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€7523 litter / €3,375.00 Waste – total €10,898
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€4,400

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

### June 2023:

Wexford County Council had 7 successful litter prosecutions in June 2023 under the Litter Pollution Act, total fines of €1650 were awarded and €1750 in Legal costs.

### July 2023:

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

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

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

## Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2023(August)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
to August 2023	151	20	1591
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

## E. CLIMATE ACTION

A special workshop was held on 4<sup>th</sup> September to present the draft Climate Plan actions to the elected members and TDs. The actions were also presented at the Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Observations and Feedback was given by the members at these sessions and further comments were welcomed. The draft plan will go for public consultation in October once approved by Council.

### Community Climate Action Programme

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

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

Information evenings were held in each district to explain how the fund can work for communities and provide guidance on how to prepare an application. Further details on the programme are available [here](#)



## 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:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – Aug 2023
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>3896</b>	<b>3043</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>4628</b>	<b>4830</b>	<b>4990</b>	<b>3404</b>	<b>2370</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>78%</b>

### Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023 (February – July )
Dogs collected	532	429	546	307
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117	72
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370	268
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51	19
Dog Fines	5	18	21	13

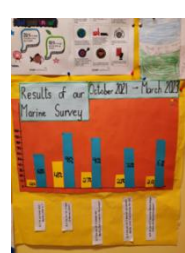
There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

To date in 2023 two horses have been seized.

### Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** Preparations are underway for the 2023/2024 academic year. A green schools seminar covering all themes will take place October 3<sup>rd</sup>.



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


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

**Planting Grant:** The 2023 planting grant scheme was advertised in all local papers website and on social media with a closing date for receipt of applications of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 84 applications were approved and all will receive a grant of €300.

**Trees for Wexford:** Applications will open for the Trees for Wexford Scheme week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Heritage Stewardship Fund/ Hedgerow Survey:** The baseline hedgerow survey of Co. Wexford funded by the Heritage Council under the Heritage Stewardship Fund continues. An information talk will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 2.30 pm in Wexford Library. The talk will be given by ecologist Billy Flynn from Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants and will explore the importance of the hedgerows in our landscape and their role in helping biodiversity in County Wexford. Billy will talk us through some of the key findings of the survey, the species that make up our hedges, how they can be managed and protected for everyone's benefit.

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

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/08/23 – 31/08/23	89
	01/01/23 – 30/06/23	810

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



**Green Dog Walker:** The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website. Packs are provided to community groups for promotion at events. 50 packs were provided to The Great Global Greyhound Walk which took place in Gorey on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES**

### **Digital Help Hub**

WWETB, WLD, and Wexford County Council Library Service have worked together to bring this Pop-Up initiative to County Wexford. WWETB tutors were available to help the public on a one-to-one basis. Wexford Library was the anchor location every Thursday this month and the Pop-Up relocated to four other venues around Wexford town every Wednesday. Digital Help Hub is an initiative of the ALL-Adult Literacy for Life national strategy. There were demonstrations on how to use devices such as phones, tablets and laptops, how to get online and use apps and how to access multiple services like eGov, MyWelfare, the National Childcare Scheme, Revenue, SUSI and more. The Digital Help Hub moves to Enniscorthy in October with Enniscorthy Library being the anchor location.

### **National Literacy Month and Adult Literacy Day 2023 – Friday 8th September.**

Members of the public were invited to Enniscorthy Library to hear Dr. Aislinn Brennan and learners from VTOS Enniscorthy talk about their experiences of returning to education as adults. Wexford Library hosted an Open Morning for WWETB Literacy and Language Tutors and Learners.

### **‘EU 50’**

For the month of September Gorey Library hosted a travelling 12 panel exhibition from the Department of Foreign Affairs, titled ‘**EU 50**’ which commemorates Ireland joining the EEC (EU) 1973. The exhibition panels describe in both Irish and English how Ireland has benefited from membership and matured into the nation it is today.

### **My Open Library**

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

## **Community**

### **Wexford Volunteer Centre**

A drop in information morning was held in Gorey, Bunclody and Enniscorthy Libraries where Volunteer Development Officer John Bird was available to answer any questions people had regarding volunteering.

A Wexford Volunteer Centre information stand for people looking for volunteers, or those seeking information on volunteering, will be available in Wexford Library on the first Monday of every month until December.

## Environment

### Community Climate Action Programme Information session

Information evenings took place in Enniscorthy and New Ross Libraries on the new community grant scheme which will support the development of projects and initiatives that facilitate climate action within local communities. The session explained how the fund can work for the local community and provided guidance on how to prepare an application.

In Wexford Library ecologist Christopher Doyle spoke about the importance of the hedgerows in our landscape and their role in helping biodiversity. Wexford Library also hosted a 'Try a BOLT e-Bike' event. A demonstration was given on how the bikes work, and information given on cycling, using and booking a BOLT e-bike.

Carmen Sanchez from FETAC and WWETB gave a demonstration on zero waste reduction in Bunclody Library.

### A "Library of Things" – Circular Economy

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

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

**Digital Radon Monitors** are currently available free to library members in all five library branches in the county.

## Health and Well Being

### Healthy Ireland at Your Library

New Ross Library hosted a talk by Liz O'Leary entitled 'Eating Well for Menopause' Gorey Library held a talk also with Liz O'Leary discussing 'Healthy lunches for back to School'.

Wexford Library hosted 'Healthy Eating' with dietitian Therese Hogan, about ways to eat and live a healthier lifestyle.

A six-week Activator Poles Programme and Autumn Yoga Classes, a 4-week Beginners Yoga Programme, both in collaboration with Sports Active Wexford, were held in Wexford Library.

## Science and Technology

**Special Relativity:** with Brendan Wallace in Wexford Branch. Two simple postulates from Einstein about light speed and relativity have had enormous consequences for our understanding of time, length, and mass.

**Talking about Oppenheimer:** Wexford Science Café held a discussion prompted by the success of the film about Robert J. Oppenheimer and the Manhattan Project.

## Age Friendly

"Movies Memories" part of Gorey Library's official Age Friendly Event programming took place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## Heritage

New Ross branch held 'The Geological History of New Ross' with Dr. Jonathan Derham who discussed the geological history of the building stones of New Ross. Wexford Branch held 'The IRA War on Entertainments' with Historian John Dorney and 'Irish is a Foreign Language' with Dr. Pádraig Óg Ó Ruairc.

## Local History

A total number of 31 local studies enquiries were responded to, along with a total number of 26 genealogy enquiries completed in Wexford library in September.

## Services to Ukrainian Nationals

'Any News' Conversation Group, for adults who want to learn and improve their English language skills, continued and Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine held a weekly English language class facilitated by volunteer tutors in Wexford Library.

## Children's Services

### Class sets for Back to School

Wexford Libraries have added 30 new class sets to our book stock. Each class set contains 30 copies of a title. Titles range from colourful picture books, engaging stories for early readers, fiction of all sorts for older readers and a selection of books for Dyslexic readers that the whole class can enjoy reading together.

Sets are selected in consultation with local libraries and their partner schools to engage young readers. The wide variety available encourages them to explore a variety of authors and subjects and supports the development of a love of books and reading in every child. Sets are supplemented with reading guides and resources and part of the large collection of resources Wexford Library Services offers to every school countywide.

### Summer Stars Reading Adventure

Summer Stars 2023 concluded in September with a celebration in all the library branches. Every child taking part received a Summer Stars certificate of achievement.

### Sensory Friendly Hour

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

## ARCHIVES

### Collections management

In addition to 48 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 6 researchers visited the Archive in September. Research topics included a study of Church of Ireland matters through issues of the *Wexford Journal* and the *Wexford Evening Post* for the period 1800-15; family history research through the archives of O'Flaherty Solicitors, Enniscorthy; burials in



Bunclody and Ferns cemeteries in the early 1900s; personal correspondence in the PJ Roche collection (1880s-1900).

### **Acquisition**

A collection of photographs, slides, VHS tapes and notes/articles related to the centenary of 1798 were deposited in the Archive – the collection includes material related to Comóradh '98, which will complement a significant Comóradh collection already housed in the Archive.

### **Outreach**

The Archivist participated with Howard Keeley (Director of Irish Research and Training with Georgia Southern University, Savannah) in a video promoting the Wexford college as one of the highlight initiatives in the GSU's capital programme for 2024.

Holdings from the Archive were showcased during the brief recording which included handwritten correspondence from a business collection in the Archive pertaining to emigration to Savannah in the 1850s, and advertisements from issues of the *Wexford Independent* in the mid-1840s and early 1850s relating to vessels sailing to Savannah.

## **ARTS**

### **County Arts Plan 2023-2027**

Wexford County Council's County Arts Plan 2023-2027 was launched in County Hall by Sinead O'Reilly, Head of Local, Place & Public Art at The Arts Council, and Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council Cllr John Fleming on 13th September. Over 100 people attended this launch including artists, community groups, key stakeholders, SETU students and elected members. This ambitious five year arts plan came about after an extensive consultation process throughout County Wexford in 2022, which fed into the current County Arts Plan and The Culture and Creativity Strategy. Copies of the Arts Plan are available from the Arts Office and digital copies are available online.

### **Wexford Culture Night Friday 22nd Sept 2023**

Culture Night is a partnership between the Arts Council and Local Authority Arts Offices in Ireland. Over 60 free arts and cultural events took place countywide in Wexford as part of this year's Culture Night in Wexford. This year's celebration focused on several live events in all 5 Municipal Districts, in association with our venues and cultural organisations, across County Wexford.

Highlights included 'The Lighthouse Project' in Hook lighthouse funded through the Creative Ireland programme. Wexford Folk Orchestra performed a unique mix of traditional and folk music, songs and recitations in St Peter's Square, Wexford.

There were free Guided Tours in Johnstown Castle, A Living History of Enniscorthy Castle and a pop-up event on High Hill Norman Park, New Ross, presenting a musical performance by various artists. There was a strong youth focus this year with a Youth Poetry Slam in Red Books in Peter Square, Wexford, Yellow Bellows from Music generation and a Youth film showcase in St Michael's Theatre, New Ross.

## **Creative Places Enniscorthy**

The Presentation Arts Centre in association with Wexford County Council Arts Office and Enniscorthy Municipal District, was awarded a Creative Places Award from the Arts Council for a three-year programme to develop arts and creativity in Enniscorthy. This award offers over €300,000 in investment from the Arts Council over the 3 years.

## **The EMERGENCE Visual Art Award 2023.**

Wexford Arts Centre in partnership with County Wexford County Council's Arts Department and Southeast Technological University announced an open call for applications for the EMERGENCE Visual Art Award 2023. This award is to support visual artists with the development and promotion of their practice. The award has a monetary value of €15,000 and includes additional mentorship support over the award cycle and a solo exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre in September 2025. The closing date was 21st September 2023.

## **Music Generation September activities**

**Schools programme** – this saw the resumption of vocal and instrumental workshops in 25 primary schools countywide.

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

**The Yellow Bellows**, a singing group for teenagers 12-18 years, performed for Culture Night audiences at the St. Peter's Square Wexford bandstand. Led by Music Generation Wexford musician educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford, an uplifting and fun mix of songs for all ages was performed.

## **County Wexford Youth Film Project**

The County Wexford Youth Film Project supported by the Arts Office, was delighted to meet Lenny Abrahamson at The Kennedy Summer School in New Ross. Lenny met with them before and after his session and was kind enough to answer everyone's questions. A recording of his interview can now be listened to on Spotify.

CWYFP presented a special screening of short films in St. Michael's Theatre on Culture Night which showcased the talent of filmmakers from across the country.

## **Screen Wexford**

Funded by the Arts and Economic Departments of Wexford County Council to develop film industry in Wexford, Screen Wexford held a coffee and networking morning at the Presentation Centre 22nd September to welcome new and emerging crew to Screen Wexford. Screen Wexford provides ongoing support to the screen industry in Wexford for film permits etc.

## **Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2023 recipients:**

**New Ross Piano Festival** – took place from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September and celebrated the best of classical piano with local, national and international performers, and included recitals and workshops. This scheme supported the jazz piano element of the festival.

**‘Write By the Sea’ Literary Festival** –this festival brought a hive of literary activity into Kilmore Quay from 22nd to 24th September by presenting readings, interviews, discussions, storytelling and workshops with international, national and local writers.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

### Creative Ireland Arts Awards 2023

Following an open call in early August, the selection panel met at the end September to review applications. These awards will provide support to cultural organisations and artists collectives to provide innovative arts programmes and events that foster cultural participation in communities throughout County Wexford.

## FIRE SERVICES

### Wexford Fire Service Report August 2023

#### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls August 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	2 (0/2)	51	51
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	6 (1/5)	40	47
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	2	5
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	0	2
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	6	3
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	2	0
School	0	3	0
Other Institution	0	1	2
Factory	0	2	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	9	4
Shop/Supermarket	0	1	1
Office	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	1
Restaurant	0	1	2
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	7	34	35
Unoccupied Building	1	2	6
Agriculture Business	0	5	4
Forest/Bog/Grass	5	43	90
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1	4	18
Outdoor Storage	2	7	1
Outdoor Rubbish	8	22	24

Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	1	6	8
Gas/Chemicals	0	3	1
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	9	33	39
Other rescue	20	56	41
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	2	6	5
Road traffic accident	11	121	111
Water pumping/flooding	2	4	8

Incident Type	Calls August 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	34	206	177
Malicious	0	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>692</b>

### Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	22	8	11	8	2	51
Other Fire in House	7	9	11	10	3	40
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	1	0	0	0	2
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	1	0	2	0	6
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	0	1	0	0	2
School	0	0	3	0	0	3
Other Institution	1	0	0	0	0	1
Factory	0	0	1	1	0	2
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	4	1	4	0	9
Shop/Supermarket	0	0	0	1	0	1
Office	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	10	9	6	7	2	34
Unoccupied Building	1	0	1	0	0	2

Agriculture Business	1	2	1	0	1	5
Forest/Bog/Grass	10	12	7	4	10	43
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	0	1	0	0	4
Outdoor Storage	1	2	2	2	0	7
Outdoor Rubbish	9	3	7	3	0	22

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	2	2	1	1	1	6
Gas/Chemicals	1	2	0	0	0	3
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	5	7	12	8	8	33
Other rescue	25	12	12	6	6	56
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	3	1	2	0	0	6
Road traffic accident	38	26	31	19	19	121
Water pumping/flooding	2	1	1	0	0	4
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	73	42	55	25	11	206
Malicious	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>674</b>

### Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in August 2023:	17
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	114
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	85



## Finance:

### **Budget 2024**

Work has commenced on the preparation of Budget 2024. Circular Fin 07/2023 has been received confirming Wexford County Council's provisional LPT Allocation (pre LAF adjustment) for 2024 at €15,126,453. This is an increase of €1,578,937, following the outcome of the Local Property Tax baseline review which was carried out in 2023.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2024 requires a formal application which is included in the October meeting to secure Council approval and Ministerial sanction for an extension of the facility into 2024.

### **Audit**

- Audit of Accounts 2022 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2022 Accounts is ongoing. Once complete, the Local Government Auditor will prepare the statutory audit report to be submitted for consideration of the Council as soon as possible thereafter.
- Audit Committee - The next meeting is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. The Audit Committee will also meet with the Local Government Auditor before the end of the year to discuss the outcome of the 2022 Audit. Following this the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the Council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

### **Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL)**

Circular 35/2023 has confirmed that due to an increase in the cost of finance from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA), the fixed rate for all new loans drawn down under the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) increased from 1 pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

Circular 34/2023 has also confirmed that the variable interest rate for existing variable mortgages increased from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2023.

The following table provides a summary of the changes now being applied to all new loan drawdowns

Loan Type	Duration	Existing Rate	New Rate	Increase	Effective Date
RIHL/LAHL Fixed)	Up to 25 years	3.35%	4.00%	0.650%	1pm 28/09/2023
RIHL/LAHL(Fixed)	25 to 30 years	3.45%	4.05%	0.600%	1pm 28/09/2023
All Variable Loans	n/a	3.80%	4.00%	0.200%	01/10/2023

## **Vacant Homes Tax (VHT)**

The Minister for Finance announced the introduction of a **Vacant Homes Tax (VHT)** in his Budget statement on 27 September 2022. The legislation providing for VHT is contained in Part 22B of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. This legislation was introduced in the Finance Act 2022 and the first chargeable period for VHT will be 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. The amount of VHT chargeable for this period is three times the basic rate of LPT payable for 2023. The Local Adjustment Factor (LAF) does not apply to the Vacant Home Tax.

VHT will be a self-assessed tax and it will be the responsibility of the property owner to assess their liability and submit a VHT return for their property to Revenue where they deem a liability to exist. Where a property owner assesses that they have no liability for a vacant property in their ownership they are required to gather and retain evidence of their reasons for making this assessment as they may still be asked by Revenue to justify the reason for determining there is no liability. The Revenue website indicates that the evidence must be kept for a period of six years commencing from the end of the year in which the chargeable period ends or the date of completion of any enquiries made by Revenue.

VHT is an annual tax that applies to residential properties in use as a dwelling for less than 30 days in a 12-month chargeable period. An exemption may be available in certain circumstances. Any liability to VHT is in addition to a liability to LPT. Further details on the Vacant Homes Tax are available at [Vacant Homes Tax \(VHT\) \(revenue.ie\)](https://www.revenue.ie/en/vht/)

To date, the Council have not been notified of any role in the determination of VHT and no information has been received about any additional income that might arise from this tax for local government. Members will be kept informed as soon as any such information comes to hand.

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