



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 12.09.22

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local Enterprise Office



Kicking off the Autumn/Winter training programmes and the range of other supports available through the office, LEO Wexford has undertaken a marketing campaign including a 4-page spread in the People Newspaper Group, Social Media Marketing and targeted radio advertisement of specific new initiatives.



With an extensive range of training supports, including social media training, specific business clinics, sales and marketing training, podcasting for business and a series of webinars on topics such as “Sustainability in Your Business”, “Survive & Thrive through High Inflation” we have a compelling offering for the business community. We are also offering a number of Start Your Own Business Courses including a dedicated programme for Ukrainian refugees. Full details of all training and bookings can be made through the following link;

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wexford/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Women in Business

National Women's Enterprise Day 2022 will take place on the 13th October across the network of Local Enterprise Offices. Breege Cosgrave from LEO Wexford is National Coordinator and Chair of the Committee and the theme for this year is “Our Future, Our Way”. Sixteen network events will take place nationwide, a combination of individual and regional events focused on celebrating excellence in female entrepreneurship and inspiring future business women. Full details will be available in the coming week through both the national website www.localenterprise.ie/NWED and LEO Wexford's website. The Wexford event on the 13th October will take place in the Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey with an impressive line-up of speakers from MC Joanne Hession, LIFT Ireland, Chupi Sweetman, jewellery designer, Trudie Power, Trudie's Kitchen and Chair of Wexford Food Family, Michelle O'Neill, international soccer referee among others. Full details and booking through;

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wexford/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

DIGITAL START



The Digital Start is a new pilot initiative specifically designed to aid and assist those businesses wishing to expand their operations into the online sphere and have that digital edge - from optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business. The programme is open to manufacturing/internationally traded businesses offering

up to 4 days specialist consultancy **free of charge** to assess the business needs, develop a digital plan, examine digitalisation supports, competitiveness, productivity and value creation. It covers five main areas: data processing and analysis (i.e., gathering customer trends, values insights). Cloud computing (i.e., moving software/data to the cloud for accessibility). Cybersecurity (i.e., protecting records, information, IP and data from attacks). Internet of Things (software/technology connectivity). Industry 4.0 (i.e., process automation in manufacturing facilities and utilisation of AI).

GOING GLOBAL



Many businesses are overly focused on the domestic market which can impact negatively on sustaining market growth and profitability. They fail to see the opportunity that exists in expanding into the global marketplace. Globalisation offers a tremendous opportunity for Co Wexford companies across all market sectors, including digital and tech businesses. It can impact their production and reduce unit costs, provide a new lease of life and dramatically increasing market share and profitability. For businesses to build and achieve their export potential, two factors will be key — the strength of external demand and their ability to deliver high-quality, innovative products and

services. LEO Wexford in conjunction with Seamus Murphy, Gateway Consulting are offering a “Going Global” training programme designed for businesses with global ambition. The course commences on Wednesday, September 14th from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and runs for seven weeks at a cost of €100.

GREEN FOR MICRO



GREEN FOR MICRO is a **free** programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving them access to a green consultant who will show them the small changes that can have a big impact on their company - and the world around it. Developing a ‘greener’ policy can offer many benefits to businesses, including increased cost savings, improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water, and materials), reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services, increased access to customers, improved corporate image and reputation, and increased resilience to climate change impacts.

Economic

Town & Village Update;

Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys recently announced approval of funding under the Building Acquisition Measure (Town & Village 2022) to the following two projects

BAM22WX01	Rosslare	€150,000
BAM22WX02	Courthouse, New Ross	€220,000

The total awarded funding of €370,000 has a final drawdown date of the 11 November 2022. Separately to this in line with Department submission date of the 22nd July 2022, 5 applications were made under the Main Town & Village Scheme 2022 for the following:

- Rosslare Harbour Development Group
- GKMD with Gorey Youth Needs
- Fethard Community Development Association
- Cushinstown Community Development Group
- Enniscorthy Municipal District

One large application was submitted for Duncannon Fort and two project development applications were submitted for Taghmon Action Group and Glynn Parish Hall & Community Centre. An application was also submitted by the Economic Section under the New Marketing Measure to promote remote working hubs/broadband connection points. It has been indicated that a decision on projects will be communicated in September.

The approved Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 funding toward the following 5 projects must be completed and drawn by the 31st August 2023;

Ref Number	Town & Village	Project Description	Amount approved
TV21WX04	Craanford	Provision of a remote working hub in Craanford village.	€100,000
TV21WX02	Murrintown	Remote working hub and café.	€220,914
TV21WX01	New Ross	Renovation of Brennan's Lane and Shambles (multi-functional space).	€500,000
TV21WX05	Ramsgrange	Repurpose of former convent into a rural remote working hub.	€100,000
PDM21WX08	Dungannon	Masterplan that will consider use of immersive technologies to develop tourism at Duncannon Fort	€50,000

Tourism

Wexford Rose Tour



On 11th August we welcomed the 33 Roses from the International Rose of Tralee Festival to the sunny south-east where they began a 3-day Wexford Rose Tour of the Model County.

The 33 Roses met at the Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey and then travelled to Johnstown Castle for a Wexford County Council reception with local produce provided by Taste Wexford. They then visited Wexford Quay for a photoshoot. They finished their first day in Gorey where they were met with a lone piper, live music, Irish dancers and Rose-themed displays lining the Main Street.



Day 2 of the tour included a visit to Wexford Lavender Farm, Seal Rescue Ireland and they enjoyed a delicious lunch at Wells House and also visited Curracloe Beach before stepping back in time at the Irish National Heritage Park. The day finished with a Wexford Rose Tour Gala dinner in the Ashdown Park Hotel.



To gain maximum coverage across the county, the Roses were split into two groups on their final day in Wexford. Group 1 visited Ferns, the home of our Wexford Rose, Joy Quigley and then made their way to Enniscorthy Castle where they were given a rousing rendition of Boolavogue, before traveling to Campile to taste Ireland's best 99s at Henry's Ice Cream before visiting Hook Lighthouse.

Group 2 were given golf putting lessons at Bunclody Golf Club, tasted the famous Wexford strawberries at a Wheelock's Fruits roadside hut and visited Secret Valley Wildlife Park. After a relaxing sailing on the Barrow Princess River Cruise, the full group reunited at the Dunbrody Famine Ship where they had some lunch while enjoying some ceol caint agus craic.



To coincide with the Wexford Rose Tour, Visit Wexford created a Rose Tour landing page on their website which also encourages visitors to download the 3-day tour and follow in the Footsteps of the Roses in the Official 2022 Wexford Rose Tour.





The Wexford Rose Tour featured heavily in the 2 minute showreel which was shown on the final night of the Rose Of Tralee Festival which was broadcast on RTÉ One on Tuesday, August 23rd.



The Wexford Rose Tour was an outstanding success and to the end of August has earned a PR Value of €118,197 which excludes the RTE viewer figures. There was also a spike in Visit Wexford web traffic from Social Media Channels during the Wexford Rose Tour and Social Media performance increased by up to 221%

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

↑ 151%
677K+
IMPRESSIONS

↑ 221%
23.9K+
ENGAGEMENTS

↑ 25%
2.4K+
POST LINK CLICKS

#WexfordRoseTour 

The Wexford Rose Tour also featured on the Rose of Tralee Official Social Media Channels across channel audience of 130k+.which included 6 static feed image posts, 8 reel videos (12 minutes total), 3 Daily YouTube recap videos (8 mins total).

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 25th of June 2022 until the 26th of August 2022.

No. of valid applications	252
No. of invalid applications	5
Extension of Duration	5
Exempted Development Declaration	6

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2022 until 26th of August 2022.

No. of valid applications	1042
No. of invalid applications	102
Extension of Duration	24
Exempted Development Declaration	32

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 26th of August 2022.

No. of open pre-planning requests	155
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	181
Average waiting time to meeting	96 days

Built, Cultural & Natural Heritage

National Heritage Week

National Heritage Week took place from the 13th to the 21st August 2022. The theme this year was sustainable heritage and biodiversity. Nearly 50 events or projects for Co. Wexford were submitted as listings to the National Heritage Week website. These included local authority projects, community group projects and projects by organisations and heritage bodies. Wexford County Council projects included the successful return of Wexford Walled Towns Day, a family-friendly celebration of our medieval heritage, library talks and the launch of the ADAPP – Heritage Sites project where virtual tours have been created for a heritage site in each district. Digital projects include a storymap of Wexford's Wetland Wealth and a presentation on the Wexford World War II Defence Heritage Recording project.

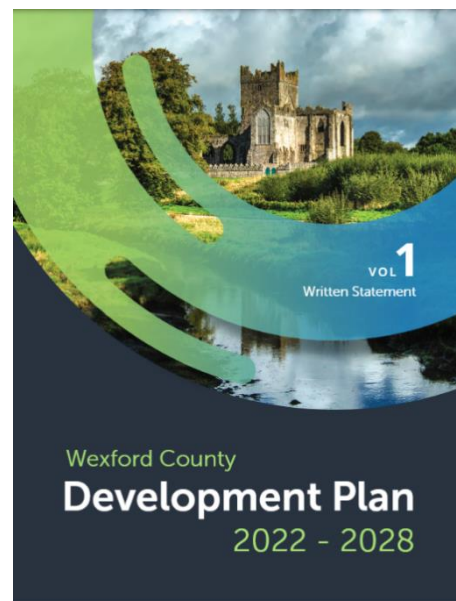
Update on Grant Projects

Work is on-going on a number of heritage projects for which funding was secured through department grants. Conservation work is almost complete on the medieval church ruin at Ishartmon which secured grant funding under the Community Monuments Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Work is underway on a World War II defence heritage recording project with funding under the County Heritage Plan Scheme from the Heritage Council. A heritage-led regeneration plan for Wexford town is underway with funding from the Historic Towns Initiative through the Heritage Council. Work is underway on a number of projects which received funding through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund including a barn owl survey of Co. Wexford, a wetland survey and dune restoration works.

Forward Planning

Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

Following receipt of confirmation from the Office of the Planning Regulator of its satisfaction with the Council's responses to the remaining outstanding issues, the new County Development Plan came into effect on Monday, 25th July 2022. New planning applications received from that date onwards will be assessed against the policies, objectives, and development management standards in the new Plan. It is proposed to hold information sessions on the Plan for Agents in September and October. The Plan is currently available to view online on the Council's website and in hard copy format at the Planning Department, Carricklawn. The graphic design and production of the Plan is underway and once this process is completed hard copies will be available for circulation and purchase.



Building Control (25th June 2022 – 26th August 2022)

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	82
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	51
➤ Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion:	43
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	3

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 26th August 2022 are as follows:

➤ Live Cases	327
➤ Cases Opened since 1 st January 2022	164
➤ Cases Closed since 1 st January 2022	196

Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting

The number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 26th August 2022 are as follows:

➤ Live Cases	24
➤ Cases Opened since 1 st January 2022	14
➤ Cases Closed since 1 st January 2022	35

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 25th June 2022 to 26th August 2022 as follows:

- 28 property inspections/visits conducted
- 1 property removed from the Derelict Site Register
- 3 Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties
- 1 Section 8(7) Notices posted on properties
- 2 Dangerous Structure Notices issued
- 2 Properties appraised as per Vacant Sites / Urban Regeneration and Housing Act

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2022 up to and including 26th August 2022, totals **41**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	4	0	2	2	0
Gorey	7	0	1	4	2
New Ross	5	0	3	2	0
Wexford	14	0	2	10	2
Rosslare	11	0	1	10	0
2022 Totals	41	0	9	28	4

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	93

Access Related Items

Enniscorthy Municipal District

A virtual tour and QR code for Enniscorthy Castle was launched on Saturday 13th August as one of the five heritage sites included in the '*Advanced Digital Access Participation Project*' (ADAPP). The launch, held in conjunction with National Heritage Week, was attended by Members and staff of Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

A virtual tour and QR code for Tulach a' tSolais on Oulart Hill was launched on Saturday 13th August as one of the five heritage sites included in the '*Advanced Digital Access Participation Project*' (ADAPP). The launch, held in conjunction with National Heritage Week, was attended by Members and staff of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District with additional representation by the Oulart Hill Development Group.

New Ross Municipal District

A virtual tour and QR code for Fethard Castle was launched on Saturday 13th August as one of the five heritage sites included in the '*Advanced Digital Access Participation Project*' (ADAPP). The launch, held in conjunction with National Heritage Week, was attended by Members and staff of New Ross Municipal District.

Borough District of Wexford

A virtual tour and QR code for St. Patrick's Church was launched on Saturday 13th August as one of the five heritage sites included in the '*Advanced Digital Access Participation Project*' (ADAPP). The launch, held in conjunction with National Heritage Week, was attended by the Cathaoirleach, Mayor, Members and staff of the Borough District of Wexford.

Rosslare Municipal District

A virtual tour and QR code for St. Mary's Church was launched on Saturday 13th August as one of the five heritage sites included in the '*Advanced Digital Access Participation Project*' (ADAPP). The launch, held in conjunction with National Heritage Week, was attended by Members and staff of New Ross Municipal District.

Water Services



**1. Irish Water Asset
Delivery**

2. Minor Capital

**3. Rural Water
Programme**

4. Water Conservation

Water Services



1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is complete ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model. ➤ A schedule of high priority works has now been identified and is to be considered for funding ➤ The concept design report for the required works to Enniscorthy Network was received Q4 2021 ➤ A new gravity main for Mary Street is required to alleviate flooding and has been agreed to be designed in 2022 and is progressing to site investigation
Enniscorthy Intake and Vinegar Hill Upgrade Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019 for the intake. Wayleave at agreement stage. ➤ A new raw water distribution main and full water treatment plant upgrade is now to be included in the works programme. ➤ Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be commence construction in 2023 ➤ Preliminary design report has been completed and under review ➤ A pre planning submission meeting with all parties has been completed and a submission is due shortly. ➤ Workshop 4 is due shortly.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Model verification ongoing.
Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system ➤ Tender evaluation January 2022, with start onsite Q2 2022 ➤ Consultants JB Barry appointed by IW. ➤ Stage 1 commenced July 2022

Newtown WTP Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including improved raw water treatment, instrumentation and run to waste facility ➤ Preliminary design ongoing, IW have appointed Glan Agua as part of their early contractor involvement programme to design and build the new works ➤ Onsite work to commence Q1 2023
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.
Creagh WTP Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment ➤ Project scope agreed with minor upgrades already completed ➤ Preliminary design complete, tendering ongoing
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun Plant In operational phase with Glan Agua
Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project is now at commissioning stage. Expect to enter 12-month operational phase with Sisk from start of October 2022. ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main contractor Sisk is on site to build the new wastewater treatment plant in Kilmore Quay. ○ Work is progressing on programme to date with the new pump stations and pipe network under construction. ○ Main Contractor is due to ramp up activity in early September. New traffic layouts in operation, with road closures in operation.
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find & Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on mains rehabilitation and will revert to Find & Fix as required. We have external finding resources at present with fixes being completed by WCC operational staff. • Mains Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Dublin Road in Enniscorthy 2.3km of mains rehabilitation is due for completion in mid-October.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Irish Water has advised that this project is to be re started with design works in April 2022. Further delivery dates to be confirmed. ➤ First meeting on site in August and it will be late September until IW are ready to move forward.


STVGP – Small towns and villages growth programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IW programme to deliver additional capacity to existing towns and villages serviced by IW. Wellington Bridge and Tagoat are included in national programme ➤ Initial options report meeting held with defined scope agreed
Coolree Reservoir Rehabilitation works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehabilitation works to the embankment, spillway and valve tower at Coolree Reservoir ➤ Preliminary scope outlined with ongoing feasibility studies to determine best solution

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treated Water storage programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Kiltaly. ○ Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; Tender documents ready for market with start onsite early 2023
IW Minor Wastewater Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pump controls at Keellogues WWPS will continue during Q2 2022. ○ Pump and controls upgrades are well progressed at Taghmon and Piercestown WWPSs. ○ Pump and control upgrades for Ryland Road WWPS Bunclody, Mauritiustown WWPS Rosslare, and Rosemary Heights WWPS Ferns have been designed and are out for tender. ➤ Stimulus Funding – SCADA Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCADA will be upgraded at 9 No. WWPSs across the Wexford Town collection network beginning December 2021. Six sites have now been completed, with the remainder underway and are now at snagging. ○ SCADA upgrades at 3 No. WWTPs (Ballymoney, Blackwater and Ballaghkeen) are now practically complete on site. ○ SCADA upgrades at a further 3 No. WWTPs (Carrick, Kilmuckridge and Bridgetown) have now received funding and are being priced. ➤ Stimulus Funding – WWTP Minor Improvement Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade works to improve resilience of the inlet PS at Ballymurn WWTP is currently underway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade of PS, valve chamber, kiosk, controls and hardstanding at Carne WWTP are practically complete. ➤ Invest to Save <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, with manufacture now complete, and installation currently scheduled for September 2022
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2022 has been adjusted to €2,3550,387 ➤ The latest available report from Irish Water shows spend to end of July at 1,426,193
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Connection works are ongoing county wide through August 2022
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works are currently taking place to improve primary treatment.
DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021 and 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kyle Close, Oulart- Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in Q4 2022. ➤ Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. Survey complete and full design underway. ➤ Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress ➤ Cois Cuan, Arthurstown ➤ Coolballow estate- Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS

<h3>3. Rural Water</h3>	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilanerin GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist recommended installation of nitrate monitoring to supply sufficient monitoring data ○ When this course of action is confirmed by GWS will request reallocation of funding from Dept.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage Tank - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants. ○ A report has been provided and assessed. ○ Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution. ○ GWS reviewing recommendations/options, awaiting managers position to be filled. ○ Reservoir Bypass -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works. ○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information. ○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December. Awaiting decision by Dept. ○ June 2022, spoke to the Dept. awaiting response. ➤ Kilanerin GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulk Meters - Submitted on etender system, no submissions received by closing. Requesting quotes from small works programme.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned ○ Stage 2 of the part XI process commenced on 23rd March when the documents were submitted to Planning. ○ Works currently in development are preparation of site investigation works and main contract tender packages. ○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. ○ Site visit and meeting took place in June with the committee and landowners regarding pumping station sites. ○ Application at Stage 2 in planning process - granted. ○ Committee engaging with landowners re pumping station locations
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme.

Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 24 new well grant applications were registered in August 2022. ○ 14 Well Grants have been paid in August, totalling €27,328 ○ Transition to a paperless system for Individual Well Grants complete. ○ IT is designing a Workflow to allow applications to be submitted via our website.
Measure A8 – Waster Water Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submissions requested from all local authorities – max two ○ Deadline 15th September 2022 ○ Two options finalised – Ramsgrange & Glynn ○ Feasibility study in progress

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consumption Countywide consumption for August 2022 was 46.81MLD. This figure is up 1.3MLD on 2021 figures, with usage up at 49MLD for some days during the hot weather period. Overall consumption is trending high in August.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repairs Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. ➤ Planned Leak Detection (PLD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planned leak detection was focused mainly in the South Regional, Fardystown and Gorey areas.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehab Submissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The next tranche of rehab is being prepared to be submitted to Irish Water. ➤ Find and Fix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LA Find crews were concentrated in South Regional and Gorey Regional areas. ○ Monthly total savings of 12.7m3/hr during August. ➤ BYS Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works underway in St John's Villas, Pearse Road Enniscorthy and Redmond Street by Irish Water's Contractor Shareridge. ➤ Pressure Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 nr PRV replaced on Forth Mountain in August 2022. ➤ First Fix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shareridge are conducting First Fix investigations and repairs around the county.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Ground Investigation Tenders have been received. Tender Recommendation report is being finalised and it is anticipated that fieldworks could commence by the end of September.
- Environmental surveys within proposed corridor are ongoing.
- Traffic studies and traffic modelling has commenced. Traffic model will be developed to allow for multi-modal approach, which includes consideration of demand responses (Trip Generation, Distribution, Mode Share, etc.)
- The overall design of the development is progressing, including junction and structures strategies. The resultant landowner impact is anticipated in Q4.

The Project Liaison Officer has been appointed to engage with all impacted landowners.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

- Section 177AE planning application & CPO Maps and Schedules were submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 5th July 2022.
- 3 submissions were submitted to An Bord Pleanála which may at its discretion hold an oral hearing on proposed development. Anticipated date for the decision by An Bord Pleanála is 7th December 2022.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2021 Pavement Schemes

HD28 Pavement Improvement Works N11 Oilgate Village

- Works through Oilgate Village were completed in August.

2022 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

- This scheme is 2 km in length and runs between the R739 Kilmore junction to the L7050 Orristown junction on the N25.
- Invitations to tender were issued on 30th August with a tender return date of 16th September.
- Pavement works will commence in Q4.

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 1

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

- The total scheme length is 3.7km. The allocation from TII for 2022 allows for the first 2 km at the southern end to be completed in 2022.
- Tender documents are being finalised for publication by the end of September.
- Pavement works will not commence before November.

2022 Safety Schemes

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

- Works commenced on 23rd May and should be substantially completed by the end of 2022.

2022 Additional Maintenance Allocations

N30 Forestwood Pavement Repair €250,000

- Additional maintenance funding was received from TII to carry out pavement repairs on the N30 at Forestwood.
- These works were tendered in August. Construction is due to commence in mid to late October.
-

Drainage and Verge Maintenance €110,000

- Additional maintenance funding was received for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11, N25 and N30. These maintenance works were completed during May and June.
- A consultant will be appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since the 25th December 2021

Former National - R744 Millpark Road Enniscorthy €350,000

- This allocation is for the upgrade of former national roads.
- Pavement repairs will be done on Millpark road from Castle Hill to Arnolds Cross.
- This scheme was tendered in August with a tender return date of 7th September.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 15 February 2022. Wexford's allocation was €23,749,787 up €4,529,827 on 2021. This allocation included €4,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2022 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 31st January 2022 at Bola Beg, Ballindaggan.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month:

- Hollyfort to Marshalstown & Davidstown Village; (Enniscorthy District);
- Aughclare & Kilhile to Ballyhack; (New Ross District);
- Orristown; (Rosslare District).

Surface Dressing Works

The 2022 surface dressing programme commenced 10 June in Enniscorthy MD.

Roads surface dressed in the last month are:

- Enniscorthy District: Ballyeden; Ballinakill; Ballyshonock/Johnstown; Brady's Hill; Bessmount; Moneydurtlow; Cooladine;
- Gorey-Kilmuckridge District: Baltyfarrell; Wells; Killeagh to Ballyvaldon; Castlellis towards Blackwater; Clonroe Upper; Pallis; Ballynabarney to Wingfield; Tinnacross to Effernogue; Milltown to the Harrow; Scarnagh to Plattenstown; Prospect; Clonsilla; Money Lane; Milshoge; Cahore Castle; Seaview to Cahore; Stable to Kilmichael; Monamolin; Courtclogh, Castleellis; Ballynamonabeg; Bog Road; Ballywater / Ballinahorna.
- Rosslare District: Longraigue to Glenroe; Grange to Carrick; Carrick to Coolhull; Tenacre to Bargy; Twelve acre to Greenfield; Glebe to Walshestown; Newcastle to Mulrankin; Woodgraigue; Chour; Kilrane to Kisha; Ford of Ling; Cleariestown to Tracystown; Forth Mountain.

Community Involvement Schemes

€614,350 grant has been allocated to County Wexford for 2022. Six roads are to be resurfaced in 2022.

Those resurfaced to date as follows:

- Rossard; (Enniscorthy District);
- Carrowreagh Lane; (New Ross District);
- Ballyharren; (Wexford Borough District).

Local Improvement Schemes

Wexford County Council was allocated €431,760 grant in May 2022 to resurface 13 private lanes. An additional grant of €349,267 was allocated in August 2022 to resurface 10 additional lanes. The total 2022 grant is €781,027 to resurface 23 lanes.

Ballyclemock lane has been resurfaced in the New Ross District.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

There are 19 bridges for repair with a grant of €603,000. This excludes bridges funded under Christmas day 2021 storm damage.

Bridges completed to date:

- Kiltrea Bridge; Kiltilly Bridge (Enniscorthy District);
- Gurlins Bridge; (Rosslare District).

Flood Damaged Bridge Repairs

Repairs are complete at the following bridges:

- Enniscorthy District: Kilcarbry, Kiltilly, Ballinavary. Kiltrea Bridges
- New Ross District: Garraun, Paisleyhall

Temporary structures in place pending statutory consents:

- Chapel Bridge, Adamstown and Cullenstown Little

Ongoing construction works at Raheen Bridge to be complete in October.

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. An underwater inspection of the bridge structure was carried out in 2021 and no defects were found below the water.

An Bord Pleanála has granted permission for the remediation project to proceed. The design and tender documents are being developed at present. It is expected to go to tender for construction in September. Works are expected to commence Q 4 of 2022 or Q1 of 2023.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES

The National Transport Authority provided an allocation of €4.44m to Wexford County Council for projects in 2022. This funding is for a variety of projects around the county, many of which commenced in 2021 and are now at design or construction stage.

Three new staff members have joined the Active Travel Team based in the Roads Department. An Executive Engineer, a Walking and Cycling Officer and a Senior Executive Technician will assist in the roll out of the Active Travel projects funded by the National Transport Authority.

- Newtown Road, Wexford: A design incorporating 1km of segregated cycle lanes, footpaths and junction improvements has received Part 8 Planning approval. This project is proposed to complete the cycling and footpath infrastructure and create a link from Wygram, Wexford town to Barntown village, a distance of 4.8km of paths and 2.8km of cyclepaths.
- Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue Options Assessment Reports have been forwarded to the NTA for review. This will be a 1.7km crosstown cycleway forming a spine across the west of Wexford town and will ultimately provide links to three town schools – Coolcotts Lane NS, Kennedy Park NS and Loreto SS. It will also serve one of the main residential areas in town.
- Designs are also being finalised for Roxborough cyclepaths which will provide safe cyclepaths from Sinnottstown Lane to Maudlintown giving a safe cycling option to the many users of this road (3.5km Wexford Borough District).
- Oaklands to Kents Cross in New Ross proposed 2km cycleway is at Options Assessment Stage, and expected to advance to final design shortly following review by the NTA.

Safe Routes to Schools

- Carrowreagh school improved access works are under construction with footpaths, bollards and a delineated car parking being provided.
- Rosslare Strand National School and Adamstown National school: details will be finalised with schools in September.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

- Over 12,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.
- Works are almost complete bar installing LED trays in the Heritage decorative lanterns across the county. It is hoped to complete the upgrade of these remaining lanterns on non-national roads and housing estates by late 2022.
- Plans are being considered for upgrade to the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years.

Public Lighting Development Fund

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

- Ballygarrett Village – Works completed.
- Balintray, Courtown – Works completed. One ESB connection made. Awaiting a second ESB connection.
- Killinick Village -Completed
- Wexford Town – Mulgannon

Further works planned are as follows:

- North Parade Gorey – infill lighting on ESB Network poles. Lights installed. Awaiting ESB connection.
- Clonattin Road Gorey – infill lighting on ESB Network poles. Lights installed. Awaiting ESB connection.
- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school and Ballagh Cove to regional road.
- Killenagh Village
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly Rundabout to Spawell Road
- Rathgarogue Village
- Davistown Village

Just One Life Road Safety Campaign

For the past 15 years Wexford County Council and Wexford Rotary Club have jointly presented a unique road safety event entitled Just 1 Life. Aimed at Transition Year students, the objective of the **Just One Life** programme is to prevent young drivers' lives being needlessly lost in a road traffic collision. Described by some as a "shock and awe" approach, the no-holds-barred initiative features a series of interactive videos and presentations from An Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service, the Health Service Executive, Mental Health Ireland and Wexford Fire Service.

The Just 1 Life 2022 / 2023 campaign will commence with a launch event to be held here in County Hall with 150 pupils from Bridgetown Vocational College and Youth Train Wexford attending. This will be followed by 4 more events to take place at the National Opera House in December, January, February and March. In total approximately 1,500 Transition Year and 5th year students will attend from all second level schools in County Wexford. These students, who are the next generation of drivers on our roads are unfortunately the age group most likely to be involved in a serious injury or fatal road collision and we feel that it is vitally important for our speakers to share their experiences with these young people.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

1.1 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark

Final snag works and additional works to improve accessibility along some of the existing trails has now been completed.

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

The activity centre building was lodged for Part 8 planning in March by WCC's Architects Department and the period for public comment closed on 20/04/2022. A response to a request from An Bord Pleanála for further information relating to the project has been completed and submitted to the Board.

The proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site have completed pre-planning and the Part 8 planning documents are being prepared. The Part 8 application will be advertised in October.

1.2 Min Ryan Park

Sole Sports and Leisure has been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA is now complete and open to the public. Works on the Skate Park recommenced in July and is progressing towards completion in late September. Public lighting at these installations will follow.



1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1

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

1.4 Gorey District Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12th August 2021 and the new playground and adult gym equipment is fully installed and in use. The final landscape planting is now virtually complete. Work on the building has recommenced and is due for completion in September 2022 with the final snagging outstanding.

1.5 South East Greenway

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glas Civil Engineering and works are now substantially completed on site. Landowner agreements on accommodation works are progressing and it is planned that Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) will be tendered for works in coming weeks. Lots 6 and 5b will follow before Q4 2022. The detailed design of Lot 4 (New Ross to Mount Elliott) is also being advanced.

1.6 Trinity Wharf

Due to significant inflation in the market since tenders were received, the original tender process for the access road undertaken in 2021 was abandoned. A revised tender invitation issued in December 2021 and tenders have been received and have been assessed. Works are expected to commence in Q3 2022.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The pre-qualification process is completed, and the successful design firms have been issued with tender documents. Tender submissions were received on 31/03/2022. Appointment is expected in October.

1.7 New Ross Fire Station

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station was awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site in May 2021 and the works are now substantially complete.



1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension

The main works contract has been awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site in May 2021. The works are on-going and substantial completion is now expected in September 2022, with the Arts Centre due to reopen for the Opera Festival.

1.9 High Hill, New Ross

The Contract was awarded to MJS Civil Engineering and works are nearing substantial completion with the park expected to open in September 2022.



1.11 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme

The main works contract was awarded Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering Ltd in February 2022 and works commenced on site on 21/03/2022.

The works are continuing and are expected to be substantially completed in late September 2022 with the last parcel of the works to follow the diversion of overhead electrical infrastructure by the ESB.



1.12 New Ross Public Realm – 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 completed in July 2021.

A Part 8 development consent application for the development of the public realm space on the site was confirmed at the Council's meeting in March 2022. Tender documents for the works contract are expected to issue in September.

An application for category 1 capital funding under the RRDF scheme was submitted in April 2022.

1.13 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:

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

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

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

WCC is engaged with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to a further funding application to support regeneration in Enniscorthy. The planning Department is working in collaboration with Special Projects to develop a strategic plan for Enniscorthy and is currently being drafted.

1.14 John Street Building Regeneration Project

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

A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement. The CPO for the project has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and the acquisition of the outstanding property to facilitate the development is progressing. The CPO is proceeding, the Notice to Entry has been served and the site is now in our possession. The Preliminary design will follow with the Part 8 consent process planned to commence in 2022.

1.15 Esmonde Street

RPS is progressing with the detailed design. Site investigation works are now completed. Irish Water have now approved proceeding with the design of the sewer upgrade and CCTV and survey works has been completed. The detailed design for the sewer upgrade being progressed. Irish Rail has requested additional site

investigations to the abutments of the bridge for the sewer upgrade which will be tendered for in the coming weeks.

WCC submitted an application for category 1 funding under the current call for RRDF for this project.

1.16 Gorey Market House

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

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

WCC will prepare new documents seeking expressions of interest from the private sector for developing this project. KPMG has been appointed to advise on this process and requests for tenders will issue in September 2022.

1.17 Mechanics Institute

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. The invitation to tender has been re-advertised and tenders received. Tender assessment is underway and it is expected that a works contract will be awarded in Q3 2022. Construction works are scheduled to take 6 months.

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

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

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on the preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála in early 2023.

The process of negotiation for tourism design services with the preferred tenderer from the 2017 Hook Heritage Ltd competition has closed without an award of contract following the withdrawal of the preferred tenderer in December. WCC has advertised for tourism coordinator services for the project through the existing multi party and Tourism Development International has now been appointed. The tourism coordinator will assist with the procurement of interpretative design services and we would expect an appointment of interpretive designer later in 2022.

The environmental consultant has been appointed and is commencing initial studies and investigative works.

The contract for tourism co-ordination and management services for the New Ross Tourism project was awarded to Alan Sherwood & Associates in November 2021 and he is currently reviewing the outline interpretive design and developing a plan for procurement of detailed design services.

1.19 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

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

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

Tenders for preliminary design and planning consent services have been received for Phase 1 of the project and are currently being assessed.

1.20 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

Priority Geotechnical Ltd. have been appointed to carry out the Marine and Land based surveys and Boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the 23rd May the site investigation work is expected to last two to three weeks subject to weather and tides. Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited.

1.21 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

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

WCC is reviewing advancing the Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section as a stand-alone project that could link to the EuroVelo and the Wexford to Rosslare greenway project.

1.22 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

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

The scoping and route options process has commenced and a presentation was given to the joint Wexford and Rosslare MDCs in late March on this project. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options will commenced on 11th May 2022 with the window for receipt of submissions closing on June 10th.

Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Stand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works which has been carried out over the past two years by Irish rail. An ecological survey is on-going.

1.23 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford

A Part 8 submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site and for construction of a temporary surface level car park. The Part 8 was confirmed at the March 28th full Council meeting.

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

Procurement of detailed building surveys is ongoing. A tender advert for the initial works contract (demolition works) is planned to be published in September, with works to commence early in 2023. The main car park works contract will follow.

1.24 Crescent Quay – Dredging

An award of contract was made to RPS Consulting Engineers in June 2021 for design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications in respect of this project. RPS are currently specifying and procuring investigative works to inform the dredging strategy. The tender report for the appointment of a marine sediment sampling contract is expected in October 2022.

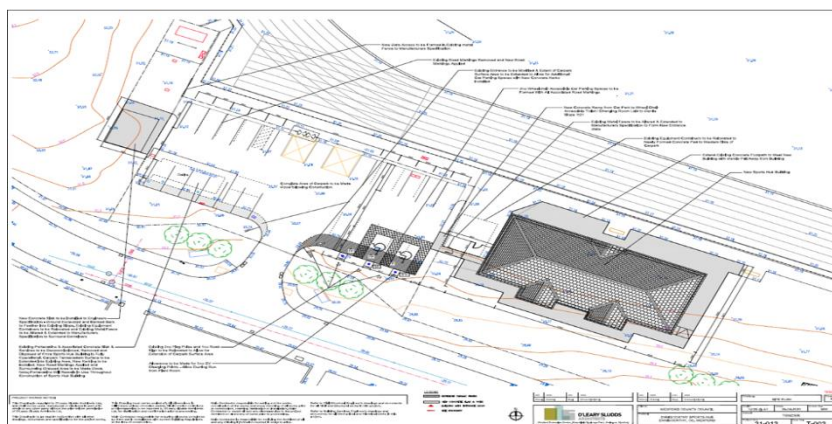
1.25 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

The final masterplan has now been completed and presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October 2021 meeting. A contract for the initial phase 1 works was advertised in January 2022, these works include new footpath, pedestrian crossings, new entry signage and landscaping. The Phase 1 works contract has been awarded to Hughes and Hennessy. Works commenced in July.

A further application for funding of the masterplan was made to the NTA's active travel programme in January 2022.

1.26 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. The tender documents issued to the Department for Tourism, Culture, Art, the Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAG) have been approved and the works tendered, with tenders received on 6th July. Tender assessment is ongoing. It is expected that a works contract will be awarded in Q4 2022.



1.27 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

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

The tender for design services was advertised in Jan 2022, the tender evaluation process is now complete and an appointment of a consultant is imminent.

2. Flood Defence Schemes

2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme:

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

The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme.

The minister supported a WCC proposal to progress the new River Slaney Bridge and the Flood Defence Scheme as two separate standalone projects.

Flood Defence Scheme - The scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. MMD have issued a programme of work – the preferred option report & environmental assessment reports are scheduled to be completed in Q2 2023. At that stage planning options will be reviewed, and the preferred planning route selected.

New River Slaney Bridge - The ecology baseline data is currently being updated. ROD have issued a programme of work – planning is expected to be submitted in Q3 2023."

2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:

The project brief for design services for Wexford Flood Relief Project was advertised on Etenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9th July 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process has been advertised with tenders received on July 11th. Tender assessment is ongoing.

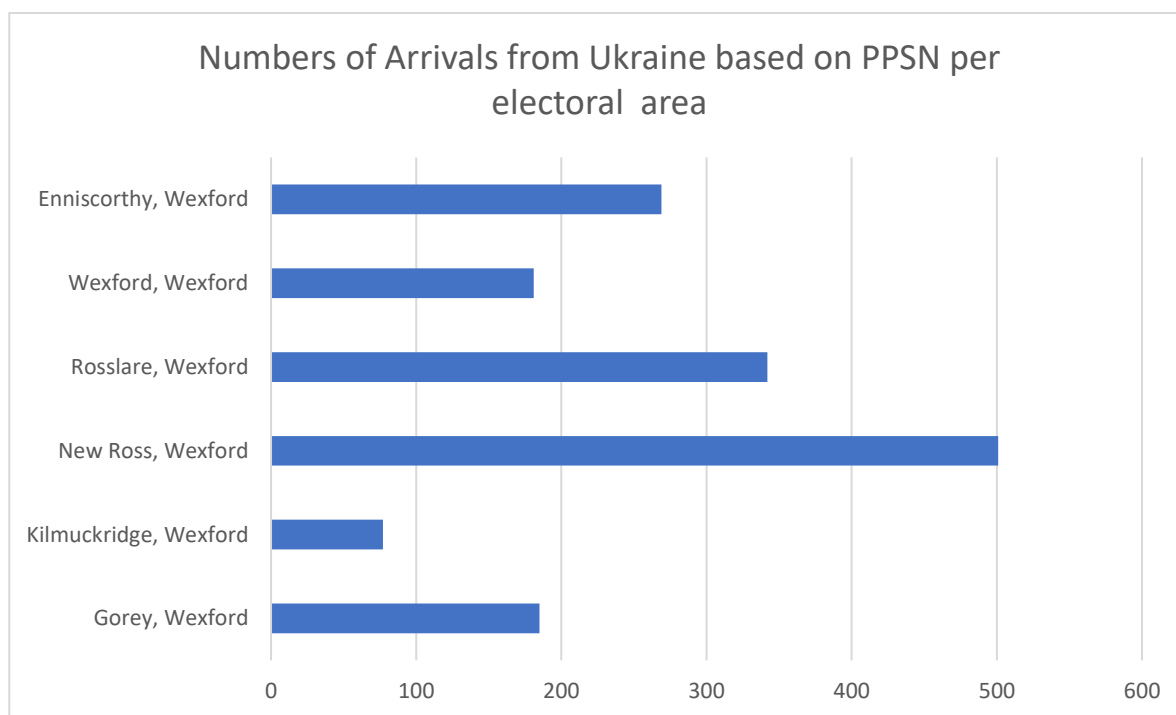
UKRANIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

Ukraine Update (01.09.2022)

The Ukraine Team is led by Ms Amanda Byrne A/Director of Services with the following staff; Mr. Michael Sweeney, Senior Staff Officer (commenced June 27th), Ms Olga Bodnaruk, Clerical Officer (commenced June 6th), finishing on September 9th, Mr. Billy Dobbs, Station Officer, Fire Services (commenced March 26th) and Ms. Niamh Bolger Assistant, Staff Officer (commenced March 26th) finishing on September 9th.

Information Update

Table No. 1 Total to-date for arrivals from Ukraine based on PPSN per electoral area CSO 09/08/2022



Some 707 people arrived in Ireland from Ukraine during the week ending the 28th of August with approximately 100 of those arriving through Rosslare Port.

The focus for the team continues to be co-ordinating community supports and delivering accommodation solutions.

Providing support and coordination for the Community Response Forum.

The Forum met on August 10th, and meets at least every month to share experiences and learning from work on the ground with the Ukraine community. Forum membership includes staff from the Department of Social Protection, HSE, Waterford Wexford Education Training Board, Wexford Local Development, Wexford Volunteer Centre, Wexford Civil Defence, the Irish Redcross and the Order of Malta. Representatives of the different local 'Friends of Ukraine' groups also attend. A process is also underway to appoint Ukraine nationals to the forum.

There are always many examples of goodwill and support from communities across Wexford while some of the recurring difficulties are access to English classes, GP services and the need for more public transport in rural areas. Issues that cannot be resolved at local level are escalated to national working groups.

The Wexford County Council Ukraine team collate information and circulate via MS Teams on a weekly basis. Information is collated based on the thematic areas, each of which has a designated lead who reports to the Forum.

Thematic Areas	Lead
Accommodation	IPAS
Social Welfare Supports	Department of Social Protection
Employment	Department of Social Protection
Childcare and Education	WWETB
Healthcare	HSE
Community Supports	Wexford Local Development
Other Supports	Community Response Forum

No.2 Red Cross Pledged Properties

The list of potential self-contained properties provided to the council for assessment has increased to 150 with some local additions. A further list of 270 shared accommodation pledges have been given also. On average from both lists 65% of the offers do not materialise for several reasons.

Wexford County Council staff have assessed all the vacant properties that are available for occupancy and some of the 'shared' properties with Garda Vetting in place.

Some 275 beneficiaries have been moved and a further 72 are planned.

All staff on the team are involved in this process. The properties are often in rural and remote locations so priority is given to placing families coming into the country via Rosslare as many have their own car.

It is anticipated that approval will be given for a Local Authority led accommodation pledge 'offer' call by mid-September. Additional temporary staff resources are in place to manage this call and to work through the remaining properties to be inspected and placed.

Wexford County Council and Wexford Local Development will host an information for host families and those interested in becoming hosts on Tuesday the 6th of September in the Riverbank Hotel Wexford, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. A clinic will be held on the afternoon of the 6th in the WLD offices at Spawell Road.

wexford local development
Forbairt Áitiúil Loch Garman

wexford County Council

Nasc
Migrant & Refugee Rights

THE OPEN COMM-UNITY

HOSTING REFUGEES IN WEXFORD COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 2022
6.30PM - 8.30PM
RIVERBANK HOUSE HOTEL, WEXFORD TOWN, Y35 AH33

Information Session & Discussion

Whether you are already hosting or interested in getting involved; or simply looking to meet other hosts, you are very welcome to join us

Helping Irish Hosts

Irish Refugee Council
30 years

Doras
Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

SICAP

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

No.3 Other Accommodation Options

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government are preparing a funding programme for potential longer term communal accommodation projects. We have properties identified and will progress those subject to funding becoming available.

HOUSING

SSHA 2022

Wexford County Council is currently carrying out a review of the Social Housing Supports List (Housing List) and will be writing to existing approved applicants requesting that they update their details. To remain eligible for Social Housing Supports, existing approved applicants who receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA 2022) review form must return the form with the relevant documents on or before **Wednesday, 16th September 2022**.

Applicants who have applied, or been reassessed, since 3rd September 2021, will not receive a form. Also transfer applicants, including those in Private Rented accommodation receiving HAP (Housing Assistance Payment), will not receive a form. Any applicant, whose circumstances have changed and don't receive a SSHA form, are advised to contact the Customer Service Unit or any Area Housing Officer for a 'change of circumstances' form.

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

Any household member in employment	Any household member in self-employment
Evidence of 12 months' income prior to the date of application must be submitted through a combination of the <u>following</u> :- Current Year Payslips for all employments or Pay and Tax Summary (Year to date). This can be obtained from Revenue's online service, <u>myAccount*</u> and will include all employments in this current year to date. Previous Year Statement of Liability for 2021. This can be obtained through Revenue's online service, <u>myAccount*</u> or your local tax office and Employment Detail Summary document (s). This can be obtained from Revenue's online service, <u>myAccount*</u> .	A minimum of 2 years' accounts with an Auditor's Report and A Notice Self-Assessment document entitled " <u>self assessment</u> - Chapter 4 of Part 41a TCA 1997" for the preceding 12 months
	Any household members in receipt of social welfare
	A recent statement from Department of Social Protection detailing all welfare payments received and commencement date of receipt of such payments. If a household is in receipt of social welfare for less than 12 months, a Statement of Liability for the preceding year and, where applicable, payslips for the intervening period must also be provided.

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

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

Adverts have been placed in the local newspapers advising applicants of the SSHA 2022 and the recent changes to the income requirements.

Mid-Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Housing Department are currently conducting a mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 as per Dept Circular 28/2022. On the 15th July 2022 a letter was sent to stakeholders (ie adjoining Local Authorities, Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC), Approved Housing Bodies and the HSE) inviting submissions together with an advert placed in the local papers inviting submissions from members of the public. Only one submission was received. It is proposed that the draft mid-term review report will be presented to LTACC in early September and to the SPC thereafter.

Croí Cónaithe

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund is a fund of €50 million to support people to live in towns and villages in Ireland by providing a grant to refurbish vacant properties. A grant of up to a maximum of €30,000 will be available for the refurbishment of a vacant property for occupation of the homeowner, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential, as a principal private residence. The grant is inclusive of VAT cost of the works.

Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €30,000, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 will be available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e., structurally unsound and dangerous) or if the property is already on the Derelict Sites Register, bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €50,000.

Wexford County Council appointed a Vacant Homes Officer, Mr. Tom Fox on 29th August, 2022 who can be contacted by e-mail on vacanthomes@wexfordcoco.ie

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Houses Complete	Houses complete July 2022
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Houses Complete	House complete June 2022
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	House Complete	House complete June 2022
Carleys Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Houses Complete	Houses complete in February 2022
Rosetown, Rosslare (<i>deliver units in 2 phases</i>)	23 P1 12 P2	Rosslare	Phase 1 Under Construction	Phase 1 of 23 units due to complete in Q4 2022. Phase 2 Stage 3 approved July 2022. Expect to tender 9 th Sept 2022

Whiterock Hill (<i>deliver units in 2 phases</i>)	22 P1 22 P2	Wexford	Phase 1 Under construction. Phase 2 Stage 4 to be submitted	Phase 1 (22 apartments), on schedule to complete in May 2023. Design Team preparing costs for Phase 2 for stage 4 submission to DHLGH in Q4 2022.
Marconi Park	1 TAP	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	To Complete June 2023
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 3 lodged with DHLGH. Tenders to issue in Q4 subject to funding approval.
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Part VIII approved. Stage 3 Q3 2022. Awaiting ESB pole relocation before further progress can be made.
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 approved for €8.3m. Stage 3 documents submitted to the Department for approval in July 2022.
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 3 funding approved 25 April 2022. Out for construction tender. Tenders due in on 16 th June.
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Revised Stage 1 approved for €11.2m by DHLGH 3 June 2022. Enabling Works to be tendered in Sept 2022.
Francis St.	2	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 1 approved on 4 th Oct. 2021. Consultants appointed. Stage 2 in Q3 2022
Killeens	45+	Wexford	Stage 1	Design Team appointed. Reviewing densities presently in context of Development Plan. Site cleared and site surveys complete.
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q3 2022. Part VIII lodged in July 2022. Proposing Design Build contract. Tender to OGP in Q3 2022
TOTAL	265			

Pre-Development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Costing to inform decision pending.
Monamolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Diversion enabling works in design for services. IW have confirmed feasibility. Stage 2 will be submitted in Q3 2022.
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Demolitions complete in July 2022. Levels Survey complete, Funding application to be submitted in Sept 2022.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Derelict house on site to be demolished. Pre-Planning approved. Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 application and Part VIII Q3 2022. Irish Water have approved Feasibility.
TOTAL	14		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. Part 8 lodged in July 2022.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Decision on cost and procurement of the main road pending. A proposal has been submitted by a neighbouring developer.
TOTAL	44		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken	1	New Ross	Funding approval received. Design underway for new dwelling.
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition tenders received. Appoint Contractor in September 2022. Design of replacement 2 houses is complete.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal being developed for Q4 2022
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys.
Grogan's Road	4	Wexford	Pre planning approved. Stage 2 in Q4 2022 subject to IW feasibility. approved 16 th Nov 21.

Park TAP	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Commence design for Stage 1 in Q4 2022
TOTAL	42		

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	All units delivered
Cuil na Dara, Clonard	25	Wexford	DHLGH approval received May 2022. To deliver 2023/2024
Cluid			
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2022.
Tobar Muire Place	17	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver late 2022 /early 2023.
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	New Ross	DHLGH Approval in Principle received June 2022. Planning application lodged
Tuath			
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver on a phased basis from 2022.
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2022/Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	10	Enniscorthy	DHLGH Approval received June 2022. To deliver Q4 2022
Peter Mc Verry Trust			
The Quay, New Ross	6	New Ross	DHLGH Approval received May 2022. CAS Acquisition of 6X1 bed Apt
Clanmil			
Fearach Cnoic, Enniscorthy	10	Enniscorthy	On Hold indefinitely due to lack of IW capacity
Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)			
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received June 2022. To deliver 2023
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2 of Pairc na Daire)	25	Wexford	DHLGH Approval received June 2022. To deliver 2023
TOTAL	363		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	18 units complete. Remaining units to deliver Q3 2022.
Cluain Beag, Clonard	6	Wexford	All units delivered.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022. (Issues with IW resulting in reduced number of units. Reduced number of units to be constructed. Currently engaged with developer.)
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	All units delivered
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023.
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered, 2 to be delivered by end of 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023.
Ard na hAbhann, Newtown Rd	2	Wexford	Under Construction. Funding approval received May 2022
Pearson's Brook, Creagh, Gorey	2	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
TOTAL	72		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	4 units delivered. Remaining units expected to deliver in Q4 2022
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. 10 units delivered. Remainder to deliver by end of 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Commenced onsite. Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	10 units delivered. Remaining units to deliver Q3 2022.
Ard Uisce (Ph 3)	8	Wexford	4 units delivered. Remainder expected Q3 2022.
Castlelands, Ferns	20	Enniscorthy	DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Under Construction. Expected to deliver Q4 2022
Haughton Place, New Ross	13	New Ross	DHLGH Approval received Jan 2022. Expected to deliver 2023 (includes 1 Part V) On hold – developer may apply for permission for increase in unit numbers
TOTAL	152		

The Housing Dept. continue to periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey acquisition. Future calls will be targeted at smaller unit types in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) and will include proposals for land. All proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 31st July, 2022:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1st – 31 st July 2022)	94	73	98	100	61	426
Repair Requests Year to Date	862	609	968	947	487	3873
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st – 31 st July 2022)	75	55	83	77	43	333
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	507	356	502	570	273	2208

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LEADER PROGRAMME

The Article 48 team processed 9 LEADER claims in July and August. The value of these claims was **€194,471.92** which will support **7** x enterprise and **2** x community groups throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
1. Lantern Events	€38,719.32
2. Euri Frank Mannion	€26,047.50
3. Kiltra School of Music	€6,632.09
4. Fresh Today Catering Ltd	€40,767.83
5. Cloughmills Project	€12,705.00
6. EURI Morris Manufacturing Ltd	€18,562.50
TOTAL	€ 143,434.24

Payments Processed	Claim Payment
1. Enniscorthy Community Allotments	€9,642.90
2. Kilcannon Industries CLG	€4,194.78
3. Write by the Sea Literary Festival	€37,200.00
TOTAL	€ 51,037.68

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) MEETING

A hybrid meeting of meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 21st of July 2022.



Agenda items included –

- SICAP – Including Mid-Year Review & Ukrainian Support
- PPN - LCDC/PPN Liaison Committee Update
- Chief Officers Report – Including Wexford ‘Sláintecare Healthy Communities’
- Healthy Ireland – ‘Presentation Funding Update to LCDC - July 2022’
- LCDC Beach Mat Pilot Initiative (see update below)

July 12th, 2022, Cathaoirleach of the Rosslare Municipal District (RMD) and Chairperson of the County Wexford LCDC Councillor Lisa McDonald officially launched an LCDC ‘Pilot Beach Mat’ Initiative in Rosslare Strand.

“Today is about accessibility and inclusiveness,” said Cllr McDonald. “We are here to launch the Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) lead initiative of mobility beach mats funded by the Community Development Section of Wexford County Council (WCC).”



“This is a key piece of equipment that may assist in supporting individuals in accessing the beach; something stable and non-slip, which a lot of us take for granted. Beaches can present challenges, particularly if you have a disability. But we must not deny a section of our community the health benefits, the wellbeing and recreational joy of visiting the beach.”

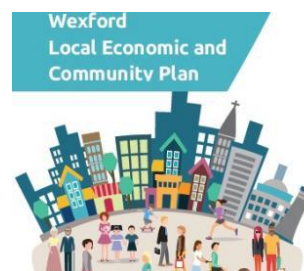


The project/launch, which included members of the Rosslare Municipal District Committee, LCDC, Irish Wheelchair Association, Community, Environment and Access departments of Wexford County Council, was also included on the Ray D'Arcy Show and RTE News.

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is to be agreed.

WEXFORD LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The Community Development and Economic Development Section have published a tender competition on the eTenders public procurement portal inviting tenders from suitably qualified and experienced consultants to assist with the drafting of the new County Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan.



An RFT was published on the 29th of August with the closing date for applications - 16.00, the 19th of September 2022.

LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) MEETING -

A hybrid of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 21st of July 2022.



Items discussed included – the LEADER Transitional & EURI Programme with the members of the LAG approving funding for 16 Community and Enterprise projects totalling **€485k** for the July Meeting, with collectively over **€1 million** of project funding being approved by the Committee over the summer period.

July 29th, 2022, Cathaoirleach of the Enniscorthy Municipal District and LCDC/LAG Member Cllr. Aidan Browne and Chairperson of the County Wexford LCDC/LAG, Councillor Lisa McDonald at the launch of Leader funded 'Enniscorthy Community Allotments' project in Enniscorthy.



The project also received national endorsement winning the 'Best Garden Transformation Award' in the Energia Get Ireland Growing awards.

The next meeting of the Local Action Group is to be agreed.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING -

County Wexford Joint Policing Committee

A hybrid meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on the 11th of July 2022. The agenda included all statutory agenda items including a *Garda Division Update, Preventative & Operational Policing* from the

Chief Superintendent, a presentation from Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Eddie Wildes, JPC Annual Report 2021 and report of *Gardaí interaction with the Municipal Districts*.



The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is now scheduled for the 10th of October 2022.

Celtic Routes

The Celtic Routes website has been refreshed and realigned. Additional content to the Asset Library will be added in the coming weeks as part of our current photography contract. The 360 degree photography and drone contract is being fulfilled during late August and early September. A six part TV series is also being filmed by an international contractor. Travel Journalists, Bloggers and Influencers are availing of curated itineraries through the late summer and autumn, with their content being shared on social and print media in the coming months. Our work with Celtic Experience Collection businesses can be seen on our website, with further Thematic Group meetings to take place in the Autumn. An integrated marketing plan has been created to support this activity.

The Project Officer will be presenting updates to Elected Members in Wicklow County Council and Waterford City & County Council over the coming months.

Through the work of our media contracts, 133 million people have had an opportunity to view Celtic Routes Content.

PPN Monthly Reports 2022

Wexford PPN held 5 Municipal District Meetings in June and July and a positive feedback was obtained from its members at all meetings.

Wexford PPN was represented at the Health and Wellbeing evening in Camross, Gorey Agriculture Show in Gorey and the Bannow and Rathangan Agriculture Show in Killag over the summer period.

Allen Holman and Kevin Molloy have been deemed elected as PPN Representatives for Environment and Climate Change SPC.

Maria Gore and Mark Rodgers have been deemed elected as PPN Representatives on the Sport Active Committee.

Information bulletins were emailed to all PPN members on 1st June, 15th June, 23rd June, 7th July, 19th July, 29th July, 11th August and 19th August.

Wexford Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme

In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, working with the HSE and local authorities and community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to provide increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. In Wexford the following areas are included in the programme:

Electoral District	Pobal Deprivation Index Score	Population 2016
Enniscorthy Urban	-15.69	2666
Enniscorthy Rural	-8.68	9985
Wexford Rural	-3.26	12505
Wexford Urban. 1	-7.19	1613
Wexford Urban. 2	-11.29	4087
Wexford Urban. 3	-5.40	1243
Taghmon	-16.05	1026
Edermine	-4.97	1491

Over a 3 year period initiatives will be delivered through partnership working with a range of partners (Wexford County Council, HSE, and other state, voluntary and community groups) working together to provide dedicated services to build lasting improvements in health and wellbeing and health outcomes.

Ann Marie Laffan, WCC Community Section has been appointed as the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer to manage this project. Work has commenced on a number of capital projects in each of these areas as well as engagement with community groups and the establishment of a number of projects.

Age Friendly

Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022 – Day Care Centres

An application for grant funding submitted by Wexford County Council to the Creative Ireland Programme under the Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022 was successful and secured funding of €32,140 to run a series of art and cultural activities in all Day Care Centres in the county over a 20-week period in 2022. The project is a joint initiative by the Community Section (Age Friendly Programme) and the Arts Department as part of their work on the WCC Culture Team. Artists including Nicky Bailey (Extreme Rhythm), Caoimhne Dunne, Emily Redmond, Vivian Brody Hayes and Joe Brennan started visiting Day Care Centres from 4th July. Activities will include drumming, craft, singing, dance and storytelling.





Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022/23 – Residential Care and community settings

Following on from the success of last year's music therapy programme for older people both in residential care and in the community, funding was received from Creative Ireland for a project which combines music and dance and is aimed at older people with mental health difficulties based in both in a residential setting and living in the community. These are a different group of older people than the 2021 project and include the following:

1. Residents of St John's Community Hospital in Enniscorthy (HSE hospital)
2. Residents of Psychiatry of Later Life Team, Farnogue Residential Healthcare Unit in Wexford – 20 bed specialist mental health services for people over 65 (HSE hospital)
3. Psychiatry of Later Life Team – community outreach aimed at adults aged 65 years who live independently at home but who generally have a range of mental health difficulties from depression and anxiety to addiction and many have cognitive impairment due to dementia.



**Healthy
Wexford**

September 2022 Report

Healthy Ireland Funding

Round Four of the Healthy Ireland Fund has been confirmed. The Healthy Ireland Fund 2022-2025 Grant Agreement includes an allocation of:

- €40,000 for the period 1st June to 31st December 2022 to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives, and to support the planning process relating to HIF 2023-2025.

- Indicative allocations of €40,000 per annum for the 2023-2025 period. The final annual allocation will be confirmed in Q4 of each year.

The Healthy County Committee met on 12th July to discuss and agree initial spend and planning activity, making recommendation to the LCDC which was approved in their meeting of 21st July. Q3 2022 will see a needs review and planning process undertaken.

Wexford Sports Active	
Swimmin' Women	Swimmin Women concluded during HER Outdoors week on the 10 th of August in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool. This is aimed at middle aged women. Participants: 22 Women
Swim For A Mile	Swim For a Mile continues in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool on Wednesday evenings aimed at men and women to increase their swimming ability over 12 weeks. This will end on the 24 th of August with the Swim For A Mile event. Participants: 2 men and 15 women
HER Outdoors Week	HER Outdoors week took place from the 8 th to the 14 th of August. During this week we organised events for women that took place in the outdoors. We had a hike in Forth Mountain, Kayaking in Bunclody, Orienteering in Duncannon, Golf, Rugby and Swimming. Courtown Golf Taster session: 3 Ladies Forth Mountain Hike: 9 Ladies Beach Yoga: 20 Ladies Bunclody Kayaking: 5 Ladies New Ross Rugby: 14 Ladies Orienteering: 40 Participants – families both male and female Swimmin Women: 10 Ladies
Rosslare Summer Fest	SAW provided an inclusive games session to support Rosslare Summer Fest on Sunday 24 th of July.
School Completion Camp	Sports Active supported the school's completion summer camp for 14 disadvantaged children at the start of July - 11 boys and 3 girls.
Innovation Project (Dormant accounts) 'Nature walk'	The MoU has now been signed with the Walton Institute (SETU). Sports Ireland are keen for Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund recipients to conduct appropriate research to help better define the most appropriate project outputs. The project is seeking to research, design and develop an Augmented Reality experience.
CAMHS Health and Fitness Module	SAW delivered the health and fitness module to 12 CAMHS participants in RAG Tree Equine Therapy Centre on Fridays. 10 females, 1 male and 1 transgender.
GAA Inclusive Camp	SAW supported the delivery of the Wexford GAA Inclusive camp in partnership with the Cottage Autism Network. 180 children attended the camp over the 3 days (2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th of August).

Go All Out Week	<p>1 Activator Pole Taster Session was delivered to Windmill Therapeutic Centre in Min Ryan Park on Wednesday 20th July. 8 Participants attended (3 males and 4 females).</p> <p>1 Activator Pole Taster Session was delivered to Havenview Residents in St. John's Campus. 4 males attended.</p>
Fun In The Sun	<p>Fun In The Sun took place over 7 days in July and August. The venues in designated disadvantaged areas were: 26th July Enniscorthy, 27th July Riverchapel, 28th July New Ross, 29th July Duncannon, 4th August Bunclody, 5th August Wexford and 6th August Rosslare. SAW will link with GAA, FAI, Leinster Rugby, Cricket Leinster and local tutors to organise these sports fun days. A total of 690 children, including children from the Traveller community, Ukrainian community and 43 children with disabilities attended over the 7 days</p>
Ukrainian Support	<p>SAW have organised four weeks of sport for Ukrainian children in the Hookless village. This programme commenced on July 25th and is supported by the GAA, Leinster Rugby and the FAI.</p> <p>Participants: 17 male and 13 female children</p>
Safeguarding	<p>10 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2022 with a total of 148 participants.</p> <p>2 x Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2022 with a total of 18 participants</p>

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) announced funding approval for projects under a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 23 projects with a total construction cost of €1.4m in Co. Wexford; works are now underway to progress these projects. The DAFM issued a call for a second tranche of funding in August 2022 with the application deadline of 30/09/2022. Wexford CC is preparing an application for suitable projects.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Part XI planning was submitted to Planning Department on 5th April 2022. The public planning notice was in the local newspaper on 20th April 2022. This scheme was included in the above DAFM approved projects. Following submissions received during the planning process, An Bord Pleanála is now assessing the requirements.

Ports Past and Present: the Project Team had a presence at the Wexford Maritime Festival on 3rd & 4th September, 2022. There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists and our project partners in University College Cork and two Welsh universities. Regular updates and further information is available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

The regularisation of the public lighting system on the Barrow has commenced.

Beaches –

The final routine sampling of bathing waters will be taken on 5th September 2022 at 18 bathing waters in Wexford. All bathing water results are shown on www.beaches.ie website. There were a total of 4 bathing water incidents with elevated levels of bacteria to date this year – 3 of them at Kilmore Quay Small Beach and one at Grange beach. There are ongoing investigations at Kilmore Quay to establish a cause of contamination. The incident at Grange appears to be an isolated one.

Ballymoney – consulting engineers were appointed to do a feasibility report on improving accessibility on the path to the blue flag beach. Report will be produced in Q3 2022.

Ballyconnigar Bridge: a new footbridge was installed at the start of the summer. Upgrade works were carried out along the path to the main beach. Wexford CC monitors this regularly.

Coast -

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers was appointed on 13th Dec 2021. Steering meetings with WCC, OPW and the consultants are now underway and are held on a monthly basis. Topographic surveys to determine house and property levels will start in September 2022.

Seaview, Kilmore: emergency works to protect the access road were completed in Jan 2022.

Ecological, bathymetric and seabed surveys on the overall coastal protection scheme are complete. University College Cork is undertaking coastal modelling; this information will form part of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála, to be submitted later in 2022.

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.

Morriscastle Dune Restoration: The project involves installation of fencing and maram grass planting to restore and manage the dune system at main beach entrance. All works under phase 1 of this scheme are complete. Additional grant monies were received to extend the dune restoration works and this will progressed over the coming months.

St Helen's Bay Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: this report looked at the risk to 23 properties and golf course at St Helen's. Consulting engineers submitted the report to Wexford County Council at the end August 2022. The contents of the report will be presented to the Rosslare MD meeting.

Ballyhealy Preliminary Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study: This project involves assessing the erosion risk of 5 properties and look at options to mitigate the risk. Consulting engineers are appointed and the report is to be submitted Q4 2022.

Grange, Fethard on Sea: works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion went to tender. Arrangements for funding and contract award are being finalised with Roads Department.

B. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Septic Tank Inspections:

86 inspections have been carried out to date this year. Wexford have a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on a number of sites in order to close outstanding Advisory Notices.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 24 files were closed for 2022. 28 extension of time have been granted in 2022. There are currently 86 open files for the years 2017-2021 and 38 open for 2022.

Sixteen new applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date, fifteen of which are paid and one is currently under review.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2022
2019	156	48	108	20	2
2020	111	38	73	16	5
2021	91	24	67	33	20
2022	86 to date	24	62	38	24

There are currently 23 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 3 of these are for hearing and 20 are for mention.

2. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 99 active Discharge Licences. Two new applications have been received and are currently under review.

Invoices for the annual statutory Fee for discharge licences were dispatched in June with reminders to follow later in the year for those which remain unpaid.

3. Climate Action

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Local Authority to prepare their own Climate Action Plan. The plan must cover both mitigation and adaptation measures and must be updated once every five years. Wexford County Council is also tasked with developing a decarbonisation zone which will become the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the proposed Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford.

The Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan 2021 sets an ambitious target of 50% energy efficiency by 2030 and an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51%. In terms of Energy efficiency, there has been an increase of the organisation performance in 2021 with 42% improvement in energy against 39% in 2020. WCC is ahead of the target glidepath to 2030. The increase of performance is mainly due to a reduction of the public lighting consumption. Carbon emissions in 2021 are 28% below baseline level.

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is now collecting Climate Action KPI data from all local authorities. The data was submitted in April. The main indicators for Climate action are training completed for staff and elected members and details of the Climate Action team.

The local Authority Climate Action Training Programme continues to be rolled out. 392 staff members having completed Climate Training. Training was provided in the areas of Planning, Flood Risk Management, Community Engagement & Championing Leadership. Training under the pillar of Green Public Procurement is currently underway.

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) have applied to the SEAI for funding to complete their Energy master plans. Wexford County Council through a MOU has committed to the provision of Bridge funding for finance applied to the SEAI.

Wexford is involved in two Creative Climate projects to raise awareness and promote behavioural change. The first project through the Wexford County Council Arts Office is on the theme of the pilot Decarbonisation Zone in Enniscorthy and has a biodiversity and rewilding focus. The second project is called Linte na Farraige and is through the Creative Climate Fund and is in collaboration with the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and third level institutions. It aims to connect the public visually to the risks from future sea levels through a large scale lighting project.

4. Duncannon EIP Project

Wexford County Council is currently lead partner in the Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Communities Scheme. We were successful in receiving funding of €550,000 to run this project for 3 years. We were successful in a 12 month extension to the project for 2022.

The project is now engaging with 35 farmers covering over 950ha of the 1300ha catchment. To date, engagement with all farmers continue with approximately 4 visits to each farm every year where baseline and final “Pollution Potential Zone” surveys are carried out.

The project runs a results based reward scheme where an annual payment is made to each farmer based on their PPZ survey which ranges from €1,000 & €4,000. The farmer can also avail of a water protection improvement works grant which can be used to carry out like fencing watercourses, establishing arable grass margins, resurfacing clean yard areas, hedgerow establishment, riparian margins etc. To date, the EIP project has paid €220,000 in annual payments to farmers while funding of approx. €29,000 has being paid to farmers that have completed works.

No. of farmers	35
No. of visits/ engagement	620
Area signed up to EIP	955HA/1300HA
Km’s fencing of watercourses	5.4km
Establishment of arable grass margins	1200m

C. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Landfills:

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

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

2. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites July, 2022	Recycling out (End July) 2021 (t)	Recycling out (End July)2022 (t)
Glass bottles		2652	2281
Aluminium Cans		61	57
Total	110	2713	2338

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan- July 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan -July 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-July 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-July 2022(t)	Recycling out Jan- July 2021	Recycling out Jan - July 2022	Recycling out Jan - July 2021	Recycling out Jan-July 2022
Total Recycling out	385	349	423	423	544	503	348	304
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1650	1432	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-July	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	72	69	117	111	148	141	80	77

1 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 (as per previous Council report):

Activity	To end May 2021	May 2022	To end May 2022	% +/_
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	1,735	155	1,177	-32%
<i>Gorey *</i>		35		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		44		
<i>Wexford *</i>		29		
<i>New Ross*</i>		27		
<i>Rosslare</i>		30		

Total Bring Site Inspections	5,135	748	5,240	+2%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>187</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>184</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>243</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>111</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>23</i>		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	9,366	1,536	10,158	+8.4%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>448</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>1,088</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	2,808	547	3,638	+29.5%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>85</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>191</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>175</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>60</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>36</i>		

2 LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

As of the 1st of July 2022 the public can now pay environmental fines online relating to litter fines, waste bye laws fixed payment notices and waste collection permit fixed payment notices. Our Wexford County Council website has been amended accordingly to accommodate the update. On the homepage the public can click on “Pay for it” and make full payment as per their fine received. An automated receipt is issued with relevant members of the environmental team thereafter made aware of payments received to update our records accordingly.

A payment option courtesy slip has also been created to send with fines issued to encourage the public to pay by providing them with the three options to pay; online, in person or over the phone.

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2021	TOTAL UP TO AUGUST 2022
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	199	156
Fines Paid in Full●	69	51
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	71	40
Successful Prosecutions**	15	14
Legal Proceedings In Progress	61	44
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€10,220	€10,100

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

● Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

January 2022: We have had one successful waste management case under section 18 of the Act with a €250 fine awarded and €550 in legal costs and one litter case whereby €250 fine was awarded with €250 in legal costs.

February 2022: We had five successful cases, one under the Litter Management Act with a fine of €350 euro and €250 in legal costs along with 4 successful cases under the Waste Presentation bye-laws 2018 where we were awarded a total of €400 in fines and €1400 in legal costs.

March 2022: Gorey District Court cases were not heard on the day due to courtroom timeframes and will be heard in April. There were no cases for hearing in Wexford District Court this month.

April 2022: Four cases this month are listed between Wexford District Court and Gorey District courts. Two were listed for hearing and two were listed for mention. Seven cases have been withdrawn, due to defendants obtaining bins or completing necessary works following inspections by our Water Services team. Wexford County council had one case under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws and were awarded legal costs of €550 and a fine of €120. A defendant pleaded guilty to our case under the Litter Pollution Acts and was given until June to reimburse our Legal costs and pay the litter fine of €150.00

May 2022:

10 cases overall were listed for mention this month between Wexford District court and Gorey District court. There was two cases listed for hearing one of which was adjourned for the defendant to obtain legal aid and a legally binding agreement was made outside the Court in relation to the second case.

June 2022:

Due to COVID-19 Gorey District Court was cancelled this month, new dates for hearing are being determined on the 6th of July 2022. Wexford District Court proceeded as normal on the 27th of June where cases listed for mention were provided with hearing dates for July and September 2022.

Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2022(June)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2022- to June	105	19	1510 (down 26%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

F.GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. A 'Members' Portal' was also added in December 2020 to the DASH system.

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan-August 2022
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	5136	2844
Closed	3526	4563	4114	4401	4358	1802
Closure Rate	98%	99%	86%	88%	84%	63%

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	2022 (up to July)
Dogs collected	532	429	249
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	47
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	182
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	20
Dog Fines	5	18	13

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

To date in 2022 18 horses have been in-pounded and all have been rehomed or reclaimed.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools:

School Workshops: 4 classes from Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare participated in a Marine Workshop & Seashore Safari in June. The workshop involved a classroom based talk and a visit to the seashore. It allowed children the opportunity to learn through discovery and exploration, as well as being able to benefit from engaging group work and hands on activities in the field.

Climate Literacy Programme:

The Environment Section are funding 5 schools to participate in a Pilot Climate Literacy Programme. Expressions of interest was sought from all secondary schools. This 10 week course includes in-school teacher training, resources, lesson plans and an interactive student workbook. The costs of the 10 week course are covered by the Environment Section and a different topic is explored each week including climate change, sustainable development, climate justice, biodiversity loss, taking action, fast fashion, sustainable transportation, food, soil and plastic pollution. Students run an action project on the last two weeks of the course. The facilitator leaves the school at the end of the course and the teacher continues to teach the course with a new group of students. This course can be run in schools for many years once the teachers are trained.

National Food Waste Recycling Week: National Food Waste Recycling Week ran from May 30th until the 6th June 2022. It is a new national campaign from MyWaste.ie to encourage people to recycle their food waste. The week was officially launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy at Enniscorthy Household Recycling Centre on Saturday 28th May. An information day was held on food waste and free food waste caddies were distributed. The event was supported by Enniscorthy Tidy Towns and Sustainable Enniscorthy. The week focused on how segregating food waste was a positive climate action and posts went out on social media over the 7 days.



Bannow Rathangan Agricultural Show: The Environment Section held an information stand at the show promoting food waste segregation, food waste prevention and composting. 800 food waste caddies were distributed on the day. Information was also provided on septic tanks. 3 Counties Energy Agency also supported us on the day and provided information on:

- supports available to carry out energy efficiency upgrades on your home and farm buildings,
- ways to save energy on your farm and become more sustainable. about home energy grants on offer.
- Information on discounted energy audit offer for SMEs and farm food producers based in the South East of Ireland.



Gum Litter Awareness Campaign: The campaign was officially launched by An Cathaoirleach Councillor George Lawlor, and Mayor of Wexford Councillor Maura Bell on Friday 15th July in Selskar Square. The campaign is to encourage all to dispose of their gum responsibly.



Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups will continue in 2022. 1331 community cleans ups were supported in 2021.



Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN): Funding was sought and approved for water refill dispenser at Blue Flag beaches and accordingly the process of installation has begun.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

September 2022

LIBRARY SERVICE

Visits to Libraries

This month saw a vast increase in usage of Wexford Libraries, with over 54,884 visitors in July & August with an active event programme. Issues continued to rise in line with increased footfall.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Wexford Library Service is part of the County Community Response Forum and is working with agencies and volunteers to support Ukrainian families use all library services. Translators accompany groups and library staff on library tours, to help adults and children join the library and learn to use the library App and all eResources. These eResources include Borrowbox for literacy and reading, Transparent Languages to learn english, Libby and PressReader. The book collection provides fiction for children in the dual languages Ukrainian and English languages. Adults are introduced to the Wexford County Council website translation service Recite. Children are invited to join storytime, the Summer Stars Reading Adventure and to take part in all summer events. A guide to use the library is translated into Ukrainian and is available on the website. Libraries are also used as venues for group and one to one tuition.

IT Literacy

Wexford Libraries' Age Friendly Digital Ambassador Programme continues to grow with training courses returning for older users throughout the libraries. People had the opportunity to ask questions and practice with Tekcentral training providers. This aims to provide senior citizens with help accessing the internet, downloading library apps and accessing our online resources. Local Libraries will provide tutoring sessions over the phone and in person, for older people. Through these tutoring sessions, participants will be empowered to access the range of online library services, particularly BorrowBox which is used to download books and audio books to a phone, tablet, or laptop/computer.

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Visit to Wexford Library

On Friday 29th of July, 38 librarians from across the globe, came to the Southeast to visit Wexford Library, the National Opera House and Wexford Town. They were in Ireland to attend The World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), organised by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), held at the Convention Centre Dublin from July 26th to 28th.

As part of the conference the librarians visited libraries throughout the country and one of the tours travelled to visit the libraries and towns in Wexford and Arklow. On arrival in Wexford Library they were welcomed by the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr. George Lawlor. He spoke about the important role of the library service in the rich cultural and historical heritage of Wexford town and county. He referenced the cultural spine, from Selskar Abbey to Mallin St. library to the National Opera House. County Librarian Eileen Morrissey also welcomed the delegates, introduced them to the new purpose-built library opened in 2012 and invited them to view the library.

Library staff provided guided tours to the group, showing the services and resources available on all three floors and the new sensory courtyard garden created in 2021. Included in the tours were our Library App, 3D Printer, children services and sensory toy collection, Home Energy kits and Digital Radon Monitors which are available for the public to borrow. Also our VR headsets and Microbits which are used by groups in the library. In the adult section the wide range of fiction and non-fiction was highlighted as well as the business section, oral history collection and local studies and genealogy services.

They visitors were very impressed with the range of stock, facilities and technologies available and to learn that Wexford Library Service now operates with a 'no fines' system. Retired library staff member Celestine Murphy spoke about the Town Wall which can be seen clearly from the library premises. The group also visited Wexford Opera House where they had a guided tour presented by Rosemary Hartigan. The tour concluded with a brief walk along the Main Street.

IFLA is the largest global library organisation and represents libraries and librarians all over the world. This was the first time the conference was held in Ireland, and it attracted nearly 2,000 delegates from over 100 countries.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Summer Stars 2022

This year we had our highest ever number join our Summer Stars reading adventure with a hugely impressive number of children taking part over 2,242 taking part. Summer Stars is a free non-competitive reading programme which encourages children to keep reading over the summer months. It takes place in all public libraries nationwide from mid-June to the end of August. Every child who reads even one book gets a certificate of participation, those who read two books or more get prizes as they bring back each two books to the library. **Summer Reading Adventure ends Wednesday 31st August.**

Science and Technology (Week programme)

Get coding with Tek Central - summer coding camp for children.

A series of four summer camp sessions started in July and will continue into August throughout Wexford libraries. The sessions are based on Scratch and Microsoft's Makecode arcade blocks system. The children had a chance to make 4 games and they received their own copy of the coding notes to bring home and practice, they also received a Scratch online account with all necessary templates.

Rhymetime and Storytime

Rhyme time and Story time continued to take place in Wexford libraries each week in July and August, with rhyme time taking place different mornings in each library. Parents/guardians and children attended story times.

Little Library Book Bag: Initiative for all children starting school in September 2022.

To help children to navigate starting school, libraries put together a bag of books for children to be collected at any library. As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' was available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for the big step. Children and their parents or guardians collected the bags at their local library throughout the country. The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

Sensory Toys & Assistive Resources Collection (STAR)

Wexford County Council Public Library Service is committed to providing quality information and resources to support parents, children, and young people. A collection of toys and assistive resources has been established to respond to the growing demand for intervention services for children and young people with extra needs. This service supports parents, health care professionals and teachers in working together to support the children in their care. The project is grant aided by The Department of Rural and Community Development through the DAF (Dormant Accounts Fund) programme.

Sensory Reader Pens: A new addition to the STAR collection and introduced in February. C-Pens (Reader) were added to the STAR collection. The pen can read words along with full lines of text aloud with a natural speaking voice for independent reading. Suitable for people with dyslexia, reading difficulties or pronunciation, and people learning languages with vision problems. The devices have built-in dictionaries, offering users the option to access definitions of the words as they read.

Mobii Vista Interactive Magic Table.

The Library provides a Mobii Omi vista magic table which is an interactive sensory projection system that can be used for games, music and social activities to motivate all generations on a table or floor surface. The projection system more familiarly known as a Magic Table, is used to provide sessions for children and adults with learning difficulties or people with Dementia and Alzheimer's. It offers fun and interactive floor and table activities and games. The magic table has been designed to provide a diverse selection of meaningful person-centred activities for all adults with learning disabilities, regardless of age or ability, with all the elements necessary to stimulate, engage, relax and provide enjoyment. Several groups including Cumas, Family Liaison Officers and various primary schools have expressed interest in visiting with several children from their Special Needs Units. Wexford Libraries has invited many groups in their community to use the magic table and this include pre-school aged child and autism groups in the community.

Business Work Matters

Libraries continued to promote Work Matters Business eResources online in the e-mail newsletters, giving mention to business and employment eBooks and eAudiobooks on BorrowBox, and business training courses on Universal Class.

Heritage

Heritage Week took place on 15th August and all of Wexford libraries had a number of events that took place throughout the week.

Local author Maria Nolan spoke about her latest book “The Shadow of Freedom” to an enthralled audience.

Local Studies

Throughout July and August there were 69 genealogy enquiries and 66 local studies enquiries dealt with in Wexford library. There were also 78 local reference books issued and 56 microfilms accessed in the library.

Decade of Centenaries

Historian in Residence program

An online talk by Barry Lacey entitled “Battle for Enniscorthy and the Outbreak of Civil War in County Wexford” was released online on July 1st. Barry also delivered this talk in person on:

21st July in Wexford library branch (32 attended)

August 18th in Gorey library branch (18 attended)

Community Projects Funding

Community funding was made available for local groups and local cultural and sporting institutions throughout County Wexford to play their part by developing a project to mark the centenary of historical events in their local area.

Heritage societies, local historians, and local community groups were invited to make applications.

The successful applicants were:

- *Kilanerlin-Ballyfad Community Development Association* - Inch Historical Site Information Board and Site Improvements.
- *Nolan's Forge Bunclody* - Day of Culture: This will be a cultural event with themes around life in early 20th century Ireland.
- *North Wexford Traditional Singing Circle* - Kathleen A. Browne: a community research, song composition and film project.
- *St. Kearns Commemoration Committee* - St. Kearns Commemoration of the participation of Cumann na mBan in the shaping of local history.
- *The Gap Arts Festival* - Discovering Caravaggio: in an imaginative live presentation, and video online, in Irish and English, award-winning writer and actor, Garrett Keogh traces his personal discovery of Carravaggio. This original project brings the audience on a unique journey that includes physics, art, history, the Garden of Gethsemane, Chinese and Arab astronomers, World War 1, the Easter Rising, and the shooting of Percival Lea Wilson in Gorey 1920.
- *The Gap Heritage Group* - Liam Mellows Centenary Commemorative pamphlet.
- *Wexford Literary Festival* - Re-enactment of the Battle of Enniscorthy, 1st - 4th July 2022.

The Archivist delivered a talk for Heritage Week in Enniscorthy library on 18 August on 'The 1921-23 period in County Wexford as reflected in the holdings of Wexford County Archive'. An illustrated presentation, the event was an invaluable means of publicising a number of important collections from the period, with particular emphasis on the range of documents, photographs and artefacts pertaining to the Enniscorthy area. Twelve people attended the event.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 135 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 10 researchers visited the Archive during July and August. Research topics included: research through Quaker burial records (1812-1920); research through Wexford Festival Opera programmes, photographs and correspondence for information on WFO volunteers (1951-2000); research on planning matters in Wexford County Council's minute books, 2005-07; assessment of collections in the county archive relevant to the revolutionary period (1916-23).

Outreach

The Archivist contributed an article to *History Ireland* for its July/August issue. Entitled 'Archives of detention in Wexford County Archive for the revolutionary period', the article showcased the range of prison memorabilia across many of the private collections from the 1916-23 period in the county archive. Material included prison correspondence, autograph books and a range of prison handmade craftwork and their importance as a research resource when identifying men and women from the period, particularly those who may not have featured in mainstream sources.

ARTS

Local Live Performance Scheme: Round 4 of the Local Live Performance Scheme (LLPPS) funded by the Department and managed by the Arts office is currently being delivered around the 5 districts. The first event held by Wexford Municipal District in the Mini Ryan Park on August 19th – 21st. 'Park Live' was a series of open-air gigs at Min Ryan Park and hosted live music over 3 nights including the Stunning, The Corona's, The Two Johnnies and many more local artists. St. Michaels Theatre, New Ross will host the High Kings in September and St. Mary's GAA, Rosslare will host a Mike Denver Country and Western event supported by local acts. Enniscorthy and Gorey are currently finalising their programme and more events will be announced in the coming week.

Irish Writers Centre's National Mentoring Programme – Wexford writers, Brendan Fahy & Marty Cotter have been selected as "mentees" and will benefit from a literature mentoring relationship. The mentoring process four meetings between the selected 'mentee' and their chosen professional writer. This programme is supported by Wexford Arts Office.

Summer 2022 Professional Development supports for Artists delivered by Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) in partnership with Wexford Arts Office

- **A Visual Artists Guide to Funding and Applications** a webinar (via zoom) for Wexford artists on 4th July presented by curator and writer on art and architecture,

Marianne O’Kane Boal. This webinar takes a closer look at all things 'Funding and applications.

- **Demystifying the role of the Curator** – in person event at the Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy, held on 7th July presented by Kate Strain a curator of contemporary art

Festivals supported through the Small Arts Festival Scheme

Jazz at Johnstown was held the weekend 15-17th July with a series of outdoor stages – the Castle Stage, the Sunken Garden, the Visitors Centre, the Courtyard – which accommodated two full days of jazz on Saturday and Sunday. This festival was well attended by the public over the 2 days. Supported by the Arts office Small arts festival scheme.

One Voice Drama Festival: held over two weekends in August in Wexford Art Centre’s Annex Courtyard. Building on success of the inaugural ‘Tales from the Quay’ in 2021 directed by Paul Walsh One Voice featured new writing by 8 Wexford writers delivered in short monologues on stage. The overarching theme of the festival explored hidden aspects of Irish life and the stories spanned history from 1798 through penal times, 1930s and 50s and right up to modern day.

The inaugural New Ross Guitar Festival 2022. Curated by classical guitarist David Creevy, took place in August, and brought Irish and International guitarists of the highest calibre to New Ross with the aim of promoting the various genres of guitar and inspiring a new generation to experience the benefits of pursuing a dynamic instrument. The festival included live performance, workshops in St Michael’s theatre and the commencement of the New Ross Guitar Orchestra which is open to all ages, styles, and levels of ability.

Write By the Sea Literary Festival was launched on 22nd July in The Street, Wexford County Council. This literary festival takes place in Kilmore Quay from 23-25th September 2022 and comprises a weekend of readings, conversations, workshops, and interviews with some of our most celebrated writers.

Wexford Arts Festival 2022, supported by the Arts Department of Wexford Co. Council and the Borough District of Wexford, and the Arts Council, will facilitate an extensive programme of the arts for three weeks in tandem with Wexford Festival Opera. An Open call took place in July for inclusion in this Wexford Festival programme and the Wex-Art trail which is free. The deadline for submissions is Friday, September 9. The festival will produce and publish a colour Arts Festival guide to all events taking place during the festival and a Wex-Art visual arts trail as part of our commitment towards helping promotion and marketing.

Cultural Companions: The Cultural Companions Group supporting older people’s engagement with arts and cultural activities has been active and ongoing over the summer months.

In addition to the monthly Coffee & Chat mornings that took place in Whites Hotel and the National Opera House café in July and August 2022, the group visited Tintern Abbey in August, and plan a tour of Johnstown Castle in early September.

Music Generation (MGW)- Summer activities

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

- **Wexford Children's Opera-** Young people explored composition, writing, movement, singing, and environmental awareness in a two- day workshop series which took place in the National Opera House on 14 & 15 July led by director Elizabeth Drwal and composer Andrew Synnott. Special guests were Climate Ambassador Adam Stapleton and Poet Laureate for Wexford, Sasha Terfous. The art created from these workshops will feed into creation of the Wexford Youth Opera which will be produced as part of the Wexford Festival Opera in 2023.
- **Summer Sessions** Partnering up again with the Wexford Arts Centre this Summer to run the Summer Sessions | Young Voices. MGW sought submissions from young singer/songwriters, bands, rap, spoken word performers in Wexford to be included in Summer Sessions - Young Voices, held outdoors in Annexe Courtyard on Friday 22nd July & Friday 29th July. These sessions were hosted by singer songwriter Rachel Grace and performers were mentored by Music Generation Wexford's musician educator Justin Cullen. As part of the professional experience for the young people, the performances received a review by Jackie Hayden in the Wexford People.
- **Summer Song Lab** is a song-writing workshop for teenagers aged 13-18 years old. The young people explore lyric writing, create new songs, play music together. The workshop led by Music Generation Wexford musician educators Justin Cullen, Karen Dunbar & Gayle Murphy and ran from 9th, 10th to the 11th of August at the Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy.
- **Youth Opera Workshop** took place on 24th August in the National Opera House for 10- 18-year-olds. This workshop focused on exploring movement through circus skills as well as developing story and characters.
- **Music Instrument Bank**
MGW are pleased to announce that we have an official instrument storage room for over 4000 instruments owned by Music Generation Wexford in Head Office Ardavan. They received support for this especially from the buildings team and the carpenters led by Dave Colfer, who designed and produced the shelving with such expertise. They have moved most of their instruments into this room, ready for new deliveries and outgoings.

Screen Wexford

Screen wexford is supported by the Arts & Economic departments of WCC to develop film industry in Wexford.

- **New Voices Short Films award**
The aim of this award is to provide funding and support to emerging filmmakers based in County Wexford. Funding will be available through the scheme to support several short films. Open call was issued in July 2022 and entries from drama, documentary and animation are being sought. A €10,000 fund will be shared between a selection of successful applicants. Closing date in September 2022.
- **Super 16mm Film Camera** was a workshop organised by Screen Wexford in August and presented by with JP Quil, Cinematography acclaimed nationally and internationally. The workshop gave aspiring filmmakers an opportunity to practice loading/unloading, exposure, shooting film, post-production workflows and using different film stocks in Arriflex and Bolex cameras

Wexford Arts & Culture Plans 2023-27 Public Consultations – In August an invitation was extended to Wexford communities to take part in Arts & Culture Consultations taking place in person in the 5 municipal districts in September. These consultations will feed into the next County Arts Plan and well as the next Culture & Creativity strategy, both of which support Wexford County Councils work with communities, artists, arts, culture and creativity . In addition, there is an online questionnaire. Online bookings currently on [Arts & Culture Plans 2023-27 Public Consultations | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/Arts-Culture-Plans-2023-27-Public-Consultations):

Creative Ireland: Southeast Greenway Art project Wexford County Council's Arts Office and Special Project Team funded through Wexford's Creative Ireland and Per Cent for Art Programme commissioned landscape architect Esther Gerrard and visual artist Aoife Banville, to lead a public art commission along the new Southeast Greenway, after an open call in July 2022. The focus of this project is on collaborative art with artists developing public artwork in collaboration with local communities in New Ross and surrounding areas. The work will respond to the context of the Southeast Greenway and related themes. This process will result in public art presented along the Greenway for visitors to experience and share. An open call to local groups took place in August with 6 workshops planed for Sept – November 2022.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties

We completed 11 civic duties to include

- 2nd July Adamstown Show
- 6th July Sports Hub Enniscorthy
- 9th July Relay for Life
- 14th July Killag Show
- 31st July Enniscorthy Rocking Food Festival
- 31st July Community Games, Sports Hub
- 7th August Colour Run, Courtown Hockey Club
- 11th August Rose of Tralee, Wexford Tour Day1
- 12th August Rose of Tralee, Wexford Tour Day 2
- 13th August Rose of Tralee, Wexford Tour Day 3
- 13th August Wexford Walled Town Event

Instructor Retirement

Celestine Swords, Instructor with the Gorey Unit retired after 36 Years' service with Wexford Civil Defence. A presentation will be made to him in recognition of his service at the annual presentation dinner.

Depart of Defence Additional Funding Items

Funding was received from the Department of Defence to procure the following

New Ford Ranger 222 WX 427

Purchase from grant from the Dormant Funds Account, a total grant of €36,000. The new jeep will be based with the Wexford Unit, primarily for use in support of the drone unit.

Sonar Unit

We have received a 100% grant to upgrade out boat sonar unit, a grant of €8,603.00. The new sonar unit will greatly improve our search capabilities for water-based search operations. The unit can be mounted on either of the two boats we operate.

FIRE SERVICES

Wexford Fire Service Report July 2022

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls July 2022	Calls to date 2022	Calls to this period 2021
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 1 (1)	51	83
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 3 (3)	45	43
Road Traffic Accident	19	95	46
Industrial fire	0	5	7
Commercial fire	0	3	1
Assembly fire	1	4	3
Agricultural fire	0	3	7
Motor Vehicles	7	23	17
Forest/bog/grass etc	12	61	60
Rubbish	4	20	36
Non-fire rescues	14	44	58
False alarms – good intent	24	139	122
Malicious false alarms	0	1	1
Miscellaneous	11	58	27
Total	96	552	511

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	14	11	10	13	3	51
DOMESTIC FIRE	20	9	4	10	2	45
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	27	18	31	11	8	95
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	3	0	0	2	0	5
COMMERCIAL FIRE	0	1	2	0	0	3
ASSEMBLY FIRE	3	1	0	0	0	4
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	0	1	2	0	0	3
MOTOR VEHICLES	5	10	4	3	1	23
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	16	24	8	2	11	61
RUBBISH	6	6	4	4	0	20
NON-FIRE RESCUES	18	9	11	6	0	44
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	67	24	26	16	6	139
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	23	12	12	10	1	58
TOTALS	202	126	115	77	32	552

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in July 2022: 8

Number of Applications received to date: 77

Number of Applications to this period 2021: 73

Finance:

Q2 Finance Report – to 30th June 2022

The Q2 Finance Report has been circulated to members. There is a reported deficit in the revenue position for this quarter which is largely informed by factors associated with the ongoing emergency events together with pressures emerging from the inflationary position of the economy. Energy Cost increases, including public lighting, which is a significant cost for the council, will be a particularly worrying aspect of operational costs for the second half of 2022 and the position on this element will be kept under close review in the coming months as the OGP work on the national tender for energy. The finances and cash flow of the council continue to be carefully monitored and managed as we move through the year and every effort will be made to protect the financial position of the council against any deterioration in the overall position to be reported at year end.

Budget 2023

Work has commenced on the preparation of Budget 2023 with the public consultation exercise completed in respect of the Local Adjustment Factor (LAF) for Local Property Tax applied to County Wexford property owners in 2023. There have been some changes notified in relation to the Local Adjustment Factor process for 2023 following the issue of the **The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations** which came into effect on 18th July, 2022 and have made some changes to the way the Local Adjustment Factor (LAF) works. These changes are set out in the update report included on the agenda and will be discussed at the September meeting of the Council.

Circular Fin 08/2022 has also been received confirming Wexford County Council's provisional LPT Allocation (pre LAF decision) for 2023 and providing information on the outcome of the Local Property Tax revaluation exercise and is also notifying the council of some changes to the LPT allocation process which are also outlined in the update report included on the agenda for the September meeting.

The prescribed periods for the holding of the statutory budget Meeting and GMA Meetings in the districts have also been notified with the issue of Circular Fin 09/2022 and in light of changes referenced above a draft schedule of meetings has been included in the Update report for members for discussion and agreement at the September meeting.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2022. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2023 will be reviewed in the coming weeks as a formal application will need to be submitted to members in October to secure council approval and ministerial sanction for any extension of the facility into 2023.

Audit

- Audit of Accounts 2021 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2021 Accounts is ongoing and moving to completion. 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 October 2022, and may include a discussion with the Local Government Auditor on the 2021 Audit. Following their meeting with the Local Government Auditor the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.