



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**September 2021**

# Economic Development & Planning:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Measures 2021

The Department of Rural and Community Development has announced funding of €260,000 for Streetscape Enhancements for County Wexford in a maximum of five towns/villages. The scheme is designed to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades of defined areas within selected rural town/village centres under of the Government's 5-year strategy "Our Rural Future".

The five towns/villages nominated by Wexford County Council for funding under the scheme are

- Gorey Town
- Enniscorthy Town
- New Ross Town
- Kilmore Quay
- Wexford Town

The scheme is open to applications from owners of commercial, residential or unoccupied buildings in the nominated towns who may have suitable premises for consideration under the Scheme. The maximum grant per building is €8,000.

**Table 1. Eligible Works under Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021**

Green enhancement of entrances/ terraces with planting	€500
Painting of building/shopfront in carefully selected colours which will complement the host building and streetscape.	€1,500
Mural (agreed in advance with Local Authority)	
Decluttering and repair of shopfronts. (Decluttering can include such works as removing unnecessary signs, flagpoles, wiring etc.)	€2,000
Careful illumination and lighting of architectural features of buildings. Improvements to shopfront window displays and staging. Replacement of signage with traditional wooden fascia with wooden/hand painted lettering OR contemporary design Canopies/Awnings complementary to the materials of the shopfront and building (including street furniture). Replacement of existing shopfront with traditional painted wooden shopfront OR contemporary design	€4,000
Maximum per building	€8,000

Grant funding will be provided at the following rates:

- 70% for Individual premises – 30% matched funding to be provided by building owner
- 80% for Joint applications (groups of 3 or more adjacent premises) - matched funding 20%
- 100% - Where painting is undertaken by direct labour by applicant.

Applications forms are available to download from [www.wexfordcoco.ie](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie) or from the Economic Development Department. Applications must be accompanied by a current photograph of the building and a letter of consent from the building owner if the owner is not the applicant. The closing date for receipt of application forms in the Economic Department is 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021, with works to be completed and all funding requests submitted to DRCD by mid-November 2021.

This funding cannot be used to replace existing schemes or existing financial commitments already approved by the Local Authority.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021**

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

**Table 2: Projects Submitted for funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021**

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Town/Village</b>	<b>Project Proposal</b>
<b>Project funding applications</b>		
New Ross	New Ross Municipal District	Refurbishment of derelict site Brennan's Lane and development of the shambles to communal outdoor dining space within town centre
Gorey Kilmuckridge	Craanford (No T&V Funding previously)	Reopen vacant shop as village hub - Tea Room & Exhibition space, Local shop & Farmers Market Days, Remote Working Centre, Digital Hub & Training
Enniscorthy	Kiltealy	Refurbish unused squash court into multi-purpose activity room, further development of new community park, addition of polytunnels
Enniscorthy	Caim (No T&V funding previously)	Establishment of Caim Community Park
Rosslare	Murrintown	Establish Digital hub, support sport infrastructure, community café, led lighting, solar panels, insulation and rainwater harvesting,
Rosslare	Rosslare Strand (No T&V Funding previously)	Replace existing sheds in Community centre grounds to provide remote working space, workshop for CSP, TUS, CE, tool storage sheds and toilet facilities.
New Ross	Ramsgrange	The regeneration of unused derelict space within the former convent at Ramsgrange Centre through the development of a rural remote working hub with high speed broadband.
<b>Product Development</b>		
New Ross	Duncannon Fort (no T&V funding previously)	Project Development

## Small Business Assistance Scheme Phase 2

The Small Business Assistance Scheme Phase 2 closed on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The most recent stats are below

DATE 20 August 2021	22-May-2020 to 20-Aug-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
SBASC Q2 STATISTICS €4000 GRANT		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	4	€16,000
APPLICATIONS PAID	65	€260,000
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	15	N/A
GRAND TOTAL	84	€276,000

DATE 20 August 2021	22-May-2020 to 20-Aug-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
SBASC Q2 STATISTICS €1000 GRANT		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS PAID	20	€20,000
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	5	N/A
GRAND TOTAL	25	€20,000

## Book Launch

Vinegar Hill “The Last Stand of the Wexford Rebels of 1798” edited by Ronan O’Flaherty & Jacqui Hynes was launched at Vinegar Hill on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August by An Cathaoirleach, Barbara-Anne Murphy. The launch was the culmination of the “Longest Day Research Project” – the largest battlefield survey ever undertaken in Ireland. This included both historical research and an archaeological study of the battlefield” supported by Wexford County Council and a Steering Committee of National and International Experts.

## Local Enterprise Office

### Trading Online Voucher Survey

Applications for the TOV voucher remains strong with 50 approvals in 2021 to the value of €84,469 to date.

### Green for Micro

This pilot scheme has been extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. The programme is free of charge and delivered over 2 days offering practical guidance to micro-enterprises on how to make their business more sustainable. There is a centralised application process through the following link; <https://leo.submit.com/show/1> and applications are assessed locally.

## Technology

The second phase of streamlining applications for assistance to LEO Wexford such as mentoring and trading online voucher applications is now underway. All applications for funding will now be submitted online through <https://leowexford.submit.com>. In line with Lean principles this will increase efficiencies and offer a higher level of services to both our clients and mentors who carry out mentor assignments on our behalf. It will automate processes and reduce physical paperwork.

## Training/Mentoring

LEO Wexford are offering a comprehensive range of training which will be delivered online over the coming months.

## Training Schedule

**September – December 2021**

[www.localenterprise.ie/wexford](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wexford)

**053 919 6020**

[info@leo.wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.wexfordcoco.ie)

### SEPTEMBER

- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 01/09/21
- Business Advice Clinic 02/09/21
- Facebook for Business - Beginners 08/09/21
- TikTok for Business 10/09/21
- Start Your Own Business 14/09/21
- Twitter for Business 14/09/21
- How to Tender Successfully 15/09/21
- Business Advice Clinic 16/09/21
- Manual & Computerised Payroll 17/09/21
- Owner/Manager Programme 20/09/21
- Wellbeing Clinic 21/09/21
- Working with WordPress Beginners 22/09/21
- Get more Visitors to your Website 23/09/21
- Effective Telephone Sales Techniques 24/09/21
- Introduction to Google Ads 28/09/21
- Achieving Results Through Happy Workforce 28/09/21
- Big Red Cloud Computerised Accounts 29/09/21
- Start Your Own Business 30/09/21

### OCTOBER

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

- Sales & Marketing Clinic 13/10/21
- Business Advice Clinic 14/10/21
- Christmas Themed Marketing Videos 15/10/21
- Business/Finance Clinic 18/10/21
- Introduction to E-Mail Marketing 19/10/21
- Facebook for Business Clinic 21/10/21
- QQI Training Delivery & Evaluation 22/10/21
- Mastering Time Management 26/10/21
- Successful Cash Collection by Phone 27/10/21
- Instagram for Business 28/10/21

### NOVEMBER

- Introduction to SEO 02/11/21
- Costing & Pricing Your Product 02/11/21
- Facebook for Business - Advanced 03/11/21
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 03/11/21
- Podcasting for Business 03/11/21
- Food Starter Programme 09/11/21
- LinkedIn for Business Clinic 09/11/21
- How to Get Paid on Time Clinic 11/11/21
- Tax & VAT for Start-Up Businesses 12/11/21
- Branding for Success 15/11/21
- Website Advice Clinic 16/11/21
- Social Media for Tourism 17/11/21
- Canva for Social Media 17/11/21
- Business Advice Clinic 18/11/21
- Win-Win Negotiations 23/11/21
- Working with WordPress Advanced 24/11/21
- Sales Skills 30/11/21



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



European Union  
European Regional Development Fund



## **Tourism**

### **Visit Wexford Autumn Campaign**

Wexford County Council is supporting the Visit Wexford marketing campaign for Autumn 2021 which will feature on National Radio & Print including 2FM, Today FM, Radio One and the Irish Independent. This is a Nostalgia-inspired campaign to encourage domestic visitors to relive old memories & create new, lasting memories with unique experiences (hotel packages, activities, food, etc.)

Visit Wexford will run a Golf Campaign (August/September) which will see the Integration of golf-specific communications to key segments.

The target markets will include the Young Adventurer, over 50s, Activity, Couples, Families Reconnecting, Solo & Golf.

### **International Campaign**

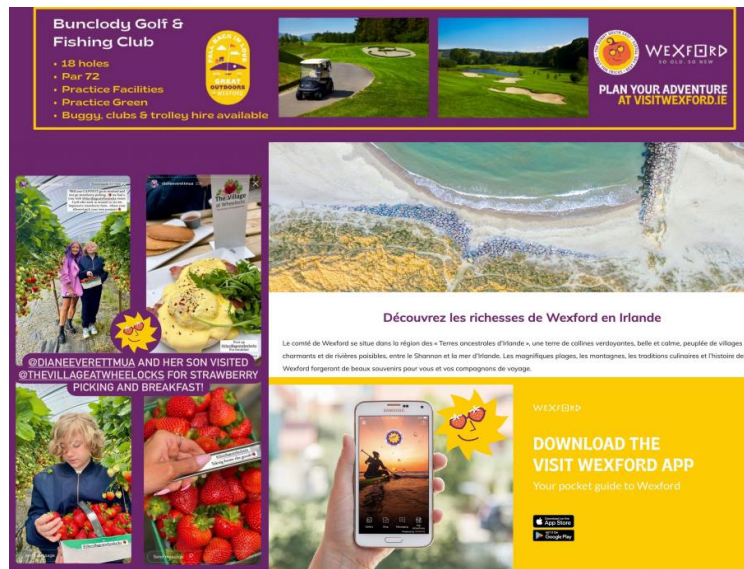
Visit Wexford have developed 3 translated landing pages on the [visitwexford.ie](http://visitwexford.ie) website to target international travel (Spain, France, Germany)

**Spanish:** [www.visitwexford.ie/condado-wexford-irlanda/](http://www.visitwexford.ie/condado-wexford-irlanda/)

**French:** [www.visitwexford.ie/comte-de-wexford-en-irlande/](http://www.visitwexford.ie/comte-de-wexford-en-irlande/)

**German:** [www.visitwexford.ie/besuchen-sie-die-grafschaft-wexford-in-irland/](http://www.visitwexford.ie/besuchen-sie-die-grafschaft-wexford-in-irland/)

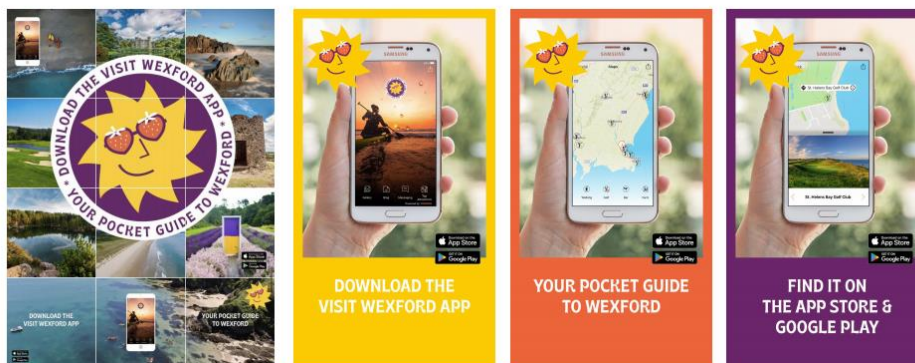
A new digital advertising campaign will be in place from September 2021 to January 2022 that focuses on the international market. The designs will have a strongly translated call to action. A Creative to focus on a human element, a strong call to action, they will be short in length and to the point to capture the target demographic and make an instant impact.





## Visit Wexford App

The Visit Wexford App was launched in July. This app allows visitors and locals to seek out all that County Wexford has to offer. Users are able to receive notifications of nearby places to eat, drink, stay, see and do, and are able to book local attractions in nearby places and have a platform to make queries and ask questions. The app also links users back to the Visit Wexford website. This new App is your pocket guide to Wexford and is available to download on the App Store and Google Play.



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

The Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland and is administered by Wexford County Council. The scheme opened on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and will close on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. To date 80 applications have been received with a value of €192,123.



Most recent stats below:

Most recent data below:

DATE 20 August 2021	15-Apr-2021 to 20-Aug-2021	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
OUTDOOR SEATING & ACCESSORIES FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY BUSINESS SCHEME		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	52	€126,145.64
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	7	€22,041.22
APPLICATIONS PAID	16	€43,936.87
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	5	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	80	€192,123.73

## Outdoor Public Space Scheme



Wexford County has been successful in an application to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021.

The new Outdoor Pavilion has been approved for a grant of up to €250,000.

The funding received under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021 will be utilised to install a stunning new outdoor performance pavilion on the Wexford Quays. It will have some fixed seating and can accommodate approximately 500 people (seating and standing).

This high quality and multi-purpose performance venue will be freely available to artists to create enjoyable events and performances for the public all year round.

The artistic lighting will ensure that this new venue will be prominently lit up on the Quays at night-time and it will be a stunning and eye-catching new piece of architecture on the Wexford Quays.

It will creatively utilise an existing expansive public realm space on the Wexford Quays which offer stunning views over the harbour and across to the iconic Raven Nature Reserve / Curracloe Beach.



## **PLANNING**

### **Planning Applications**

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

No. of valid applications	1235
No. of invalid applications	103
Extension of Duration	36
Exempted Development Declaration	49

### **Pre-Planning Applications**

Numbers are as follows up until the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

No. of open pre-planning requests	72
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	451
Average waiting time to meeting	29 days

### **Forward Planning**

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

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions and observations received on the Draft Plan was submitted to the Members on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The Members met to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with further meetings taking place during the month of May and on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June at which the Members decided to defer consideration on the Chief Executive's Report and Draft Plan until a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Heritage**

Heritage Week took place from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. A launch was held on Slaney Street, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford and attended by Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District Cllr Cathal Byrne.

There are over 20 heritage projects across the county available to view on the following website [Home | National Heritage Week 14-22 August 2021](#).

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

Wex Bee aware has secured funding from the Department of Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht's National Biodiversity Action Plan. €15,300 has been granted for a new project in partnership with the Housing Department.

Working with resident groups of Local Authority owned housing estates it is planned to run All-Ireland Pollinator focused information evenings to promote changes in the management of the open space and green areas through awareness education. One meeting will take place in each of the five districts (Covid restrictions allowing).

One housing estate in each of the five districts will be selected to participate in a pilot scheme to remove areas of cut lawn and replace with suitable pollinator planting.

The project will also see the continued roll out of Wex Bee Aware, Community Apple Orchards, again on Council owned lands.

The Heritage Officer has secured €16,000 funding from Department of Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht's National Biodiversity Action Plan to appoint a suitably qualified professional to map invasive species in a selection of historic graveyards sites that are under the care of Wexford County Council.

The project, in partnership with Community Section will see the creation of an invasive species action plan and a general maintenance plan giving a clear guide for the maintenance of the sites going forward will be a basis of in-person training, help in the production of future information publications and guidance, and for use in Wexford County Councils mapping systems.

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

Report from 19<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website. **07 May 2021.**
- **76** property inspections/visits conducted.
- **1** property removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- **6** property owners engaged with the County Council and carried out remedial works to prevent their properties from being placed on Derelict Site Register.
- **1** Section 8(2) Notices posted on property.
- **4** Section 8(7) Notices issued
- **0** Demolition Notice issued.
- **2** Dangerous Structure Notices issued.
- **0** Properties appraised as per Vacant Sites / Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015; **0** submitted to DOS for approval.
- **1** property submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.

### **Building Control 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

➤ Validated Commencement Notices:	89
➤ Number of Building Control Inspections:	43
➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion:	18
➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	1

### **Planning Enforcement**

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 are as follows: -

➤ Live Cases	388
➤ Cases Opened	235
➤ Cases Closed	139

The number of planning enforcement actions as at 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 are as follows: -

➤ Warning Letters Issued	132
➤ Enforcement notices issued	20
➤ Legal proceedings instigated	7

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

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 are as follows:

➤ Properties advertised on websites	92
➤ No. of warning letters served	42
➤ Cases Closed	36

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

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 up to and including 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 totals **37**

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>	<b>Await Assessment</b>	<b>Further Info.</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Enniscorthy	9	1	0	7	1
Gorey	8	0	1	7	0
New Ross	6	1	2	3	0
Wexford	10	0	1	9	0
Rosslare	4	0	0	4	0
<b>2021 Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>

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

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>115</b>

### **Access Related Items**

#### **The Remote Irish Sign Language Service (supporting the Irish Sign language Act 2017)**

The availability of this service has been informed to all Section Heads to inform their respective staff, the availability of the service was publicised to the public through WCC social media network and on our website earlier in the month. This Service currently available at Carricklawn head office only, however the roll out via the Library Service in each District is imminent.

#### **Report for The Department of Transport (informing National Strategy and interagency collaboration for service provision)**

Progress report for Dept. of Transports, Accessibility Consultative Committee meeting was submitted last week via the CCMA representative. This report informed on WCC progress on Actions 100- 109 and 107- 108 which also incorporated details of access works in progress and planned as part of Active Travel Measures, the Bus Shelter and the Accessible Bus Stop Programme. This information will also inform WCC update and review of our Disability and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2022 for end of year.

#### **Access Trails and Destination Parks**

Work is continuing this project with expected finish date, first week in September. Eleven areas have been identified as accessible and multiuser trails/parks with a trail and an accessible park identified for each of the Districts.

## **Special Projects:**

### **1.1 Min Ryan Park**

Works on the park are substantially completed and the Park was opened to the public on 15/06/2020. Public lighting is now operational.

Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. Works are under way and are expected to be complete by early October 2021.

It is proposed to expand the existing Wexford Town Community CCTV scheme to provide a number of cameras in Min Ryan Park as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour which is unfortunately occurring occasionally in the Park. The necessary application will go before the Wexford County Council JPC meeting of 13 September, 2021.

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

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

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

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

A detailed value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the proposed building design. This will inform the planning consent application that will be submitted in due course.

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

### **1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1:**

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

### **1.4 Gorey Town Park**

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

Kompan Ltd. will commence playground and adult gym equipment installation in mid-September and this will take approximately one month to complete

### **1.5 South East Greenway:**

The rail lifting and site clearance contract has been completed and initial contracts have been awarded for the construction of the greenway from Raheen to the Red Bridge and for the New Ross and Ferrybank urban sections with works are advancing well. The works on the entire Greenway are due to be completed by Spring 2023.

### **1.6 Trinity Wharf:**

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

Procurement of consultants for the main public infrastructure development works is underway. A tender notice regarding pre-qualification will re-issue before end of August.

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

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station has been awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site 28/05/2021 and will take 9 months to complete.

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

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

### **1.9 High Hill, New Ross:**

The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, currently derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Church and Cemetery.

The proposed works consist of a Norman themed garden with an arrival plaza at the top of Bridge Street with steps up to St Mary's and a network of small pockets of gardens. Within the garden there will be a number of levels of platforms for resting places and areas where people can meet and chat and there will also be performance areas.

The works contract for High Hill was awarded to MJS Civil Engineering July and works have commenced on site.

The contract is expected to be substantially completed by Q2 2022.

### **1.10 Kilmore Quay Link Road:**

Works are expected to be completed in September 2021.

### **1.11 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme:**

The detailed design is progressing and it is expected to commence works before the end of the year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WCC is engaged in a negotiated procedure process for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of applications for planning and statutory consents.

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

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

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

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

The CPO process to acquire outstanding property in relation to this project has been commenced and is before An Bord Pleanála for consideration / approval.

### **1.15 Esmonde Street:**

Our consultants RPS are progressing with the detailed design work and site investigation works are planned to commence in September 2021. Works, estimated at €1.5m are funding dependent, with a recent RRDF funding application not successful.

### **1.16 Gorey Market House:**

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

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

### **1.17 Mechanics Institute:**

John Creed & Associates were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. Tenders were advertised in November 2020. A works contractor will be appointed in Q3 2021. There is a timeframe of 6 months for completion of construction works.



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

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

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

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

Tenders for environmental services required to support the Hook tourism project have been assessed and an award of contract is planned for September 2021. Likewise, the appointment of design team for the tourism services will be completed in September 2021.

A preliminary interpretative design report for the Norman Centre in New Ross has been completed and was presented to the Members of the New Ross Municipal District in June 2021. The tenders for tourism co-ordination and management services for the project have been assessed and an offer to the successful tenderer is expected to issue later this month.

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

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

The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC in July 2021. A tender brief for design services for preliminary design and planning consent applications required for Phase 1 of the project is currently being prepared and will be advertised in September 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **1.22 Wexford to Rosslare Greenway:**

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

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

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

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

### **1.24 Crescent Quay – Dredging:**

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

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

In May 2021, a draft masterplan of this project was presented to the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District. This was followed by a public consultation process in late June on the draft plan and comments submitted have now been reviewed.

The final masterplan is to be completed in September. A contract for the initial phase 1 works is expected to be awarded by October 2021.

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

### **1.26 Enniscorthy Sports Hub:**

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. Modia Consulting were appointed in March to provide quantity surveying services.

Works contracts are expected to be advertised in September and it is expected that works will commence in January 2022.

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

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

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

## **1.28 Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns Project:**

Following an application to Fáilte Ireland for the Destination Towns Scheme in late 2019, the maximum grant of €500,000 was awarded for the New Ross Destination Towns Project in early 2020.

The aim of the Project is to develop New Ross as a destination by improving wayfinding, promoting and connecting local amenities, developing a night-time economy and increasing dwell time in the area.

This complements the planned delivery of the South East Greenway and the recently completed New Ross Bypass to promote New Ross as a Norman Heritage Town. This is being done by means of way finding signs, street name plates, promotion and awareness of walking trails and the provision of a visitor information kiosk on the Quay.

## **2. Flood Defence Schemes**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme:**

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

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review. It has been determined that more detailed survey data was required to complete the modelling study.

This additional survey work was carried out last month and the final report is now being prepared.

## REPORT ON CORPORATE ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 2021

### 1. FOI Office Requests August 2021

Type	August 2021	To end of August 2021
Freedom of Information	10	56
Customer Complaint	5	33
Ombudsman Complaint	3	16
Access to Information on the Environment	1	6
Data Access Request	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>117</b>

### 2. Members Portal – Reps per Section August 2021

Section	Total Cases	% of Total Cases	<SLA
Community	1	0%	0
Customer Service	5	3%	4
Enniscorthy Municipal District	1	0%	0
Environment	13	7%	0
Housing	107	54%	19
Planning	7	4%	5
Property	2	1%	1
Roads	8	4%	2
Roads - Enniscorthy MD	17	9%	12
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD	18	9%	9

Roads - New Ross MD	2	1%	0
Roads - Rosslare MD	3	2%	0
Roads - Wexford MD	7	4%	3
Water - Non Irish Water Queries	1	0%	0
Wexford Municipal District	3	2%	0
	195	100%	55

The breakdown of queries in the different categories of request is as follows:

No Release of Personal, Special or Sensitive Data	134
Release of Personal Data S.40	44
Release of Special or Sensitive Data S.40	17

### 3. Members Portal – Reps per Area August 2021

District	Total	%
Enniscorthy Municipal District	35	18%
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	16	8%
New Ross Municipal District	3	1%
Oireachtas	97	50%
Rosslare Municipal District	0	0%
Wexford Municipal District	44	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Emails, Phone Calls and Cases Logged in CSU through the CRM

Area		August
Agricultural Burns		3
Environment Complaints		287
Change of Circumstances		41

General Queries			0
Housing Validation			103
Quick Calls			184
Ask A Question			0
Road Faults Log			54
Emails			2,704
<b>Total</b>			

## 5. Procurement

No of tenders uploaded in August 2021: 3

No of tenders received in August 2021: 16



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

## HOUSING

### Affordable Housing

The Affordable Housing Act 2021 has now been signed into law. The Housing Department has undertaken a survey to enable an assessment of the viability of the development of affordable housing. It should be noted that no eligibility checks have been carried out on these submissions. A potential site has been identified at Ramsfort Park, Gorey, Wexford on Local Authority owned lands for 20 units. Part 8 Planning for this development was approved by the Council at the July meeting. A total of **203** submissions were received (see breakdown below).

Municipal District	Number interested
Enniscorthy	56
Gorey / Kilmuckridge	87
New Ross	5
Rosslare	4
Wexford	51

### Housing Supply

#### Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Works will recommence in early Sept. New completion programme pending.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete Q2 2022.
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Additional funding has been approved by DHPLG. More changes requested by Irish Water (IW). Pump Station details now agreed with IW. Will complete in Q4 2021
Ballycullane	2	New Ross	Under Construction	Due to complete Q4 2021.
Castlebridge TAP	1	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced on site 17 <sup>th</sup> May 21 Due to complete Q1 2022
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Works commence on site 24 <sup>th</sup> May 21. Due to complete in Q2 2022
Creagh	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 1	A revised Stage 2 will be lodged in Q3 for increased density.
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 2	Stage 2 documents complete. Cost review underway. Stage 2 will be lodged in September.
Rosbercon	28/41	New Ross	Stage 2	Design to be finalised Q3 2021. Delayed, by need for a knotweed Management Plan and enabling

				works. Seeking to procure a Knotweed specialist.
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Special Needs house revised. Stage 2 approved by DHPLG Aug 21. Part VIII to be lodged in Aug 21.
Whiterock Hill ( <i>deliver units in 2 phases</i> )	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Tender Assessment underway for Phase 1. Stage 4 will be submitted to DHPLG in Sept 21. Nearing an agreement for Design of pump station with IW to enable Stage 2 to progress (22 units)
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII approved. Design Team preparing Stage 3 package for submission to DHPLG. Site cleared and surveys complete
Killeens	40	Wexford	Stage 1	Scheme designed. Preparing a brief for Appointment of a Design Team to procure the project by way of Design Build Contract.
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Standard house reviewed and approved by DHPLG. Part VIII lodged.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>244</b>			

### Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Approval for additional funding required. Shortfall of €42,300. Contractor lined up but no contract can be signed until funding is fully in place. Application to be confirmed by DHPLG
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site clearance Q2 Delayed due to an amount of Knotweed on site. Management Plan required.
Francis Street	2	Wexford	Sketch Design for demolition and re-build complete. Cost for 1 house too expensive. The proposal is now to construct 2 no apartments on the site. Costs for same under discussion with DHPLG. Revised Stage 1 Application will be lodged with DHPLG in Q3 2021
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Proposal to demolish and construct 2 No 2 bed apartments on the site is now being prepared.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>		

## Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tagoat	14	Rosslare	Site cleared, Topographical Survey complete. Knotweed Management Company appointed. Stage 1 Q4 2021. Reviewing house types prior to submission and management plan for the Knotweed.
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>		

## Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Adamstown	2	New Ross	IW no capacity. Awaiting formal notification on our appeal to IW prior to submission of Stage 1.
Lacken	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Substantial additional funding required. Tender for consultants underway.
Adamstown	0 (20)	Wexford	IW confirmed that there is no capacity in Adamstown so this job is not proceeding. It will be removed from the next report.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal to be presented to Municipal District meeting in Q4 2021.
Monomolin	5	Gorey	Diversion enabling works in design for services. Proposal to include 2 Special needs. Awaiting Confirmation of Feasibility from IW to connect into treatment plant. Stage 1 submitted 9 Aug 2021
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch designed prepared for site investigations and surveys. Confirm services capacity with IW and land availability in Q2 2021. Awaiting IW approval and transfer of land back to Housing.
Ballygillane	3	Rosslare	Derelict house on site. Assessment and proposal for the site to DHPLG in Q4 2021. Pre-Planning meeting required.
Grogans Road	1	Wexford	Derelict Site to be surveyed in Q4 2021
Bride St	2	Wexford	Site Surveyed. Sketch Design complete.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>		

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Pairc na Dara, Coolcotts	34	Wexford	All units expected to deliver Q3 & Q4 2021. Delay due to service connections
Mill Heights, Castlebridge	25	Wexford	Approval received June 2021. Currently under construction. To deliver 2022
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	16 units to deliver by end Sept 2021. Remainder to deliver by end of year. Delay due to service connections
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2022
<b>Tuath</b>			
Kerlogue Manor, Rocksborough, Drinagh	71	Wexford	All units delivered
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	41 units delivered. Final 18 units to deliver by 30/09/2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Clonattin, Gorey	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Approval received June 2021. Site clearance commenced. To deliver on phased basis from 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>391</b>		

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	All units delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 complete. Remaining units to deliver Q4 2021 & Q1 2022
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	3 units complete. 2 units to deliver Q4 2021 and Q1 2022
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver 2022/2023
Creagh Demense	4	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Ard an Bhile, Healsland, New Ross	5	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received June 2021. To deliver on phased basis 2022/2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>		

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	Delivered
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	All units delivered
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2022.
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Commenced onsite. To deliver 2022.
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	Delivered
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expected to deliver Q3 2021.
Creagh Demense	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Construction commenced. To deliver Q1 2022
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	To deliver from Q3 2021. Delay due to service connections
Ard an Bhile, Healysland, New Ross	43	New Ross	Expected to deliver late 2022/early 2023
Michael St., New Ross	3	New Ross	Delivered
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	13	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2021. Delivery expected on phased basis in 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>		

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

## Housing Maintenance

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

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021)	109	75	115	116	68	483
Repair Requests Year to Date	826	580	904	824	540	3674
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021)	89	66	93	98	57	403
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	491	366	524	544	322	2247

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

## **Homeless Support Services Unit (HSSU)**

Wexford County Council's Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) is part of the south east region in terms of providing services and supports to vulnerable people. The region operates a regional **Homeless Prevention & Support Project**. The project prioritises homeless preventions by way of applying early interventions, mediation and prevention measures to those presenting seeking homeless services/emergency accommodation.

The HSSU operates between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and provides a range of services and supports to persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Co-ordinator along with a multi-disciplinary team, heads the Unit up. They provide a care and case management model of support to people who present by working with them on a client specific support plan. This identifies the services or supports that the clients need to help them deal with issues and improve their chances of sustaining future tenancies by bringing these supports with them.

**It is important to point out that the figures below represent the total number of calls to HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.**

There were <b>519</b> calls to the HSSU from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2021, the following were the breakdown of same:-	
252	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
94	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Placefinder and Social Care Workers
145	Ineligible at the time presentation for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise housing situation.
28	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.

Wexford County Council recently employed two Social Care Workers on a contract basis. They will staff the HSSU rota and will be the first point of contact for homeless presentations.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEADER

The Article 48 team processed 18 LEADER claims in July/August. The value of these claims was €449,755.18 which will support 7 enterprises and 11 community groups throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
O'Neil's Food Ltd	€7,300.00
Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€27,148.02
Wexford Arts Centre	€3,900
Tara Rock Community Field Trust	€23,082.49
Ferns St. Aidans GAA	€24,776.02
Kilcannon Industries CLG	€42,103.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>€124,410.02</b>
Approved for payment	Approved Payment
Askamore Muntir Na Tire	€11,232.52
Astro Active-County Wexford Community Workshop	€15,407.62
Barnadown Show jumping	€82,581.22
Gerald Roche	€14,022.00
Wexford Lavender Farm	€15,547.50
Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€2,931.75
Wexford Local Development	€11,070.00
Rosslare Community Development Association	€10,000.00
Simone Walsh Gallery	€103,249.94
Amelhu Holdings	€48,922.46
Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€3,713.49
Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services	€3,990.73
Wexford Walking Trails	€2,675.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>€325,345.16</b>

### Joint Policing Committee Meeting

The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 13th September 2021, 10.00am via MS Teams. This meeting will represent an opportunity for the JPC members to meet Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit following his recent appointment to the Wexford Garda Division.

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

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 15th July 2021 via MS Teams. Agenda items included extensions to both the SICAP & Healthy Ireland Fund with the members of Wexford LCDC approving funding of €150,065 to 85 community and voluntary groups under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021.

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 via MS Teams.

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

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 15th July 2021 via MS Teams, with the members approving funding of €646,703.72 for 12 projects under the LEADER Transitional Programme and the National Food Initiative Fund.

The next meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 via MS Teams.

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

A regional meeting of the LAG Managers is scheduled to take place on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

## **PPN**

A new PPN Secretariat facilitator, Bernard O'Leary, started a 6-month rotation in the role on 12 July. Meetings of the PPN Secretariat were held online on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July, and of the PPN Development Communications and Training subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> July, and of the Finance subcommittee on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July. A meeting between the Secretariat and PPN LCDC reps was held online on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Municipal District meetings of PPN members were held online on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July.

All PPN members were contacted seeking nominations for vacancies on the Secretariat, the LCDC, and JPC. Nominations close 24<sup>th</sup> August. Four new organisations registered with Wexford PPN since the last monthly report.

Information bulletins were emailed to all PPN members on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August. PPN Facebook and Twitter pages are actively used.

National PPN structural review focus groups were held during July for Representatives on 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July (5 Wexford PPN nominees); for Staff on 14<sup>th</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> July (2 nominees); for Other Members on 19<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> July (3 nominees); and for Secretariat Network (1 nominee). The focus group for Local Authorities on 19<sup>th</sup> July was communicated via CCMA. A consolidated written submission on the structural review combining 5 individual submissions was submitted online on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

All reports and documentation requested for an audit of Wexford PPN financial return for 2019 was emailed to the DRCD auditor by 8<sup>th</sup> July.

All current five PPN environmental reps were invited to a South East regional meeting of PPN environmental reps on 8<sup>th</sup> September to report on updates on Climate Action Plans in the region.

## **INTERREG – Celtic Routes**

The Celtic Routes suite of Comics have been printed and will be circulated in mid-September to all National Schools within the Irish Project Partner Area. A number will also be available for the relevant Local Authority Libraries. An application for SCORE funding has been submitted to facilitate a Legacy option for the Project. The end of July analysis of media output shows that 27,325,928 people have had the opportunity to see something about the Celtic Routes, with over 47,300 seeing the two-page spread in The Irish Sun on the 31st July 2021.

Social Media posts, Celtic Chapters and Travel Journalists for the remainder of August, September and October have been finalized with the September Newsletter in compilation. The script and locations of the next Celtic Routes video are under consideration by the Partners

## **Age Friendly Strategy and public consultations**

The Age Friendly Strategy public consultations began –

- with older people at 28 online workshops which were attended by 190 older people in May.
- During June and July public consultation continued with members of the public aged over 55 invited to complete a survey to give us their views on many areas including housing, transport, health services, security, etc.
- The outcomes and feedback received will influence the actions identified in the 2022-2026 Age Friendly Strategy.

Work has also commenced on organising targeted focus group meetings which will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Telehealth**

Work is continuing to progress on the national Telehealth pilot which Wexford Age Friendly are working on with Age Friendly Ireland, HSE, Waterford IT and Tunstall Emergency Response. This pilot ends the last week of August and Waterford IT will have the first draft of the evaluation ready end of September.

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

Wexford Age Friendly in partnership with WCC Arts Office received funding in respect of 2 projects which are progressing:

- Enniscorthy Activity Garden at St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy - the aim of this project is to further enhance this newly developed green space using creative practitioners (artists and craft makers) in order to encourage greater use and enjoyment of this sizeable and currently underutilised green space. Work is ongoing on the planning stages for this project including the appointment of an architect for the activity garden.
- Expansion of the current music therapy programme with patients in The Ivy Ward, a dementia ward at St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy. These sessions have been completed and feedback from the HSE and musicians has been extremely positive. We are also planning to deliver this programme to people living with dementia in the community when restrictions allow.

## **Wexford Dementia Working Group**

The Wexford Dementia Working Group has produced an information leaflet which signposts the services and supports that are available in the county to people living with dementia and their carers/family members. Electronic and hard copies are available from Ann Mare Laffan in the Community Section.

### Home Care Coordinator can

Provide Information and support about Home Care Services

**Call** 085 872 4674

**Email** Saoirse.kelly@alzheimer.ie

### Wexford Family Carers Ireland

Support family carers and those that they care for. They promote the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the carer, and the people they care for.

**Call** 086 045 0991 OR 053 914 0511



### Wexford Citizens Information

Your local Citizens Information can provide information on any queries you have. They can provide information on carer's allowances, respite grant, and many other topics.

**Call** 0761 076 720



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## Dementia Services in Wexford

Have you, or has someone you know recently been diagnosed with dementia?

Have you got questions about memory loss, cognitive changes or dementia?

**You are not alone.**

These are some **KEY CONTACTS** that can provide confidential advice and services.

### Recommended First Contact

If you have any concerns, talk to your GP who can refer you to the relevant services and give you the advice you need.

### Dementia Advisor can

- Meet with you to understand your needs
- Help to plan your next step
- Provide information about dementia and coping with changes
- Help you plan for the future
- Show you services and supports in your area

**Call** 087 350 0312

**Email**

Laurence.collins@alzheimer.ie

### The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline

Log onto [www.understandtogether.ie](http://www.understandtogether.ie) to find out more information about dementia supports and services in your area or

**Call the Freephone Helpline on** 1800 341 341

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm

where experienced advisors and trained volunteers are available to talk to you in confidence.

### The Wexford Memory Clinic

- If you worry about your memory, there is a memory clinic in Wexford General Hospital. This clinic provides diagnosis and treatment for memory disorders including dementia.
- Your GP can make a referral to the clinic. You can do this at any age if you need to.
- Provides support and education after a diagnosis by skilled Advanced Nurse Practitioners. This is for both the person with dementia and their family or carers.

**Call** 053 915 3270

### Registered Public Health Nurse (RPHN)

- Your Public Health Nursing service can provide home supports/information.
- Contact your local Nursing Office at

**Call** 053 9123522

### Memory Technology Resource Room New Ross

- This Occupational Therapy service supports the person with memory loss and their carer. Advice can be given about equipment that assists the person with memory loss and their carer. Equipment such as pendent alarms, phones and medication reminders are available. These can promote independence, safety and quality of life.

**Call** 087 407 0920

**Email** [Waterford.MTRR@hse.ie](mailto:Waterford.MTRR@hse.ie)

### HSE Safeguarding & Protection Team

If you're concerned that you, or someone you know with dementia, is experiencing abuse or exploitation, you can make contact with a social worker on the HSE Safeguarding and Protection team who can provide support and guidance.

**Call** 087 448 1026

**Email** [safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie](mailto:safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie)

## Covid Care Concerts in Nursing Homes with Gerald Peregrine, Mobile Music Machine

Mobile Music Machine return in August for the last in a series of concerts in 10 nursing homes in Wexford in Co. Wexford. These concerts are attended by almost 300 nursing home residents on each visit which has been taking place since March and is funded by Creative Ireland and Age Friendly Ireland. Wexford County Council have commissioned the writer, Michelle Dooley Mahon to document the concerts with a focus on the experience on the residents and staff.

# Sports Active

Area of Work /Strategic Goal	
Dormant accounts funding	Sports active Wexford was allocated the following from the 2021 Dormant accounts funding from Sport Ireland €70, 000 for An Innovation Project, €10,000 for Volunteer support and €10,000 for Leadership.
1.1 Open Water Swim Lessons	Open water swimming is continuing in Courtown, Rosslare and Kilmore. These lessons will continue throughout the summer for adults. Participants( 45)
1.1 Open Water Teenage Swimming Lessons	There is an intensive week of swim lessons in Courtown from the 5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> of July with three different groups taking part. 12 participants
1.1 ‘Swimmin Women’	Swimmin Women midlife aqua classes is continuing in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool up until 28 <sup>th</sup> July. There are 15 participants on this programme.
1.1 Swim for A Mile	Swim for A Mile lessons started in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool on the 16 <sup>th</sup> of June and will run until the main Swim for A Mile event on the 21 <sup>st</sup> of August.
1.1 Women’s Cycling	11 women started Women on Wheels Learn to cycle in Wexford on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June and will run for 6 weeks. This programme is run in partnership with Shielbaggan OETC and cycling Ireland.
1.1 Farmers Walking Series	Sports Active Wexford have linked in with Healthy Wexford to organise six community walks around Wexford. There were three walks in the north of the county and three in the south of the county on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9 pm. In total there was 27 participants. Everyone enjoyed the walks and were interested to continue with more.
1.1 National Play Day	Sports Active Wexford linked in with Rosslare Municipal District to help with National Play Day. The FAI and Leinster Rugby provided games on the day.
1.1 International Yoga Day	Sports Active Wexford linked in with Sarah Dunlea to offer a free online yoga class for International Yoga Day. A total of 3 participants joined the live class and the video has been sent to past clients of the IEP in the mental health services.
1.1 Community Bike Rides	For HER Outdoor week there was 2 Community Bike Rides organised on the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> August in partnership with AXA community Bike Ride initiative and Cycling Ireland. Total participants for the bike rides was 12 people.
1.1 Outdoor Yoga Class	An Outdoor Yoga Class in Min Ryan Park took place for HER Outdoor Week on the 10 <sup>th</sup> August with 5 participants.
2.1 Activator Poles Session	An activator poles session took place New Ross Library garden on the 13 <sup>th</sup> July. This went very well, and we aim to continue with taster sessions during the summer. Participants =

	Three Activator Pole Sessions took place for HEROutdoor Week: 2 in New Ross Library on the 10 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> August and 1 in Min Ryan Park. Total number of participants for the Activator Pole Sessions for HER Outdoor week was 18.
21. Pickleball	The Sports Development Officers attended a Pickleball session in Ramsgrange on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of July and will help promote this game among active retirement groups in Wexford.
2.2 Wexford GAA Autism Camp	Sports Active Wexford will be supporting Wexford GAA and Cottage Autism Network for the GAA Autism camp in Wexford Park on August 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> . With 180 participants
2.2 NCBI Lochrann Centre	Sports Active Wexford provided an activity session for the service users and staff of the Lochrann Centre on August 13 <sup>th</sup> . There were 10 participants and the centre will now borrow the equipment for 6 weeks to run in centre competitions. Plans are also in place for the Wexford's first VI/Blind Tennis programme due to start on the 18 <sup>th</sup> of September at the Tennis Centre in Kelly's Hotel, Rosslare. This is a free 10-week programme funded by Tennis Ireland through the Enjoy Tennis Programme and Vision Sports Ireland. The SIDO will assist will promotion of the programme.
2.2 Launch of the Enniscorthy Activity Garden	Sports Active Wexford supported the development and establishment of this activity garden and outdoor gym. This was launched on the 29 <sup>th</sup> of June with Davy Fitzgerald. There is future funding of €23,740 to develop this activity garden more.
2.2 Sláintecare IEP	Sláintecare have granted an extension of a further 6 months, however contracts are still pending. The IEP and project management team are working on the induction process for the new IEP roles. Interviews for these positions will take place on the 26 <sup>th</sup> August. It is intended that the new IEP roles will begin induction on the 27 <sup>th</sup> of September.
2.2 "Experiencing Success" programme – Equine Therapy for Teenage girls attending mental health services in Wexford,  Surf Camp for Children between ages of 10-13	Facilitated by OT in CAMHS and Rag Tree Equine Assisted Learning Centre in partnership with Sports Active Wexford 6 Adolescent girls aged 15-17 have attended with great success.  12 Young people attended the 3-day surf camp in Curracloe In August
2.3 Wexford Local Development Sports Day	Sports days were delivered in July and August to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sports Active Wexford linked with Wexford Local Development and their outreach team to target children in Wexford, Courtown, New Ross and Enniscorthy. 139 Children attended



3.2 Walking Leaders Training	Walking leaders training has been organised for farmers in Wexford on the 20 <sup>th</sup> July in the Machinery Yard and 22 <sup>nd</sup> July in Carrigbyrne with a total of 13 participants taking part. The course was led by Frank Fahey.
3.2 Safeguarding	Safeguarding Courses 7 Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed with a total of 109 participants. 3 Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed with a total of 46 participants.
3.3 Golf Taster Sessions	Two Golf Taster Sessions were carried out during HER Outdoor Week. New Ross Golf Club on the 11 <sup>th</sup> August had 6 participants. Rosslare Golf Links on the 10 <sup>th</sup> August had 5 participants.
3.3 Bike Week Application	Sports Active Wexford and Wexford County Council have received funding to run cycling programmes during Bike Week 2021 in September. Plans are currently put in place for this week.
3.3 Introduction to Resistance Training Taster Session	An introduction to resistance training taster session was delivered to teenage girls in the children and adolescent mental health services. This session was delivered outdoors on the 12 <sup>th</sup> of August in Min Ryan Park to 6 teenage girls.
3.3 Sports Day for CAMHS	A sports day was delivered in conjunction with the FAI for children and teenagers in the children and adolescent mental health services on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of August. A total of 15 participant took part.

## ENVIRONMENT

### A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

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

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

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

### B. COASTAL MATTERS

#### Harbours -

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

An Taisce awarded blue flags for marinas at Kilmore Quay and New Ross for the 2021 season.

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

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

Dredging at Carne Pier was completed in April 2021.

Marinas at Kilmore Quay and New Ross are now open for all vessels, in line with government health guidelines.

The seasonal navigation buoyage at Wexford Harbour, as well as the swim area buoyage at Courtown, Cahore and Carne has been deployed.

A new website for the Port of New Ross has been developed. [www.newrossport.ie](http://www.newrossport.ie)

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

#### Beaches –

Blue Flag beaches: An Taisce awarded 5 blue flags for Wexford. Morriscastle, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare, Carne for the 2021 season.

Ballymoney did not get a blue flag due to water quality standards over the past four years, moving from excellent to good status. The sand level at Courtown has not recovered suitably and therefore cannot be awarded a blue flag for 2021.

Green Coast Award beaches: An Taisce announced successful applications for all 9 green coast beach awards – Cahore Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun and Booley Bay.

Sampling and testing of the bathing waters started on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and will continue through to mid September. Results are available throughout the summer season on the EPAs website [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie)

## **Coast -**

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council is in the process of appointing consulting engineers to carry out the design of a suitable coastal protection scheme and a beach access. The Council went to tender for emergency coastal protection works to protect the first section (approx 70m) of access road in July; this tender is being assessed. We expect works to commence in Autumn 2021.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – Wexford County Council submitted further information on this planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The submission is being considered by An Bord Pleanála.

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

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

Ballinamona beach has a new access ramp and public car parking.

## **C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Minor refurbishment works to Curracloe Public Convenience and major refurbishment works to Carne Public Convenience have been completed.

## **D. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Landfills:**

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

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

## 2. Recycling Services:

### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites July 2021	Recycling out (End July) 2020 (t)	Recycling out (End July) 2021 (t)
Glass bottles		2495	2652
Aluminium Cans		63	71
Total	108	2558	2723

### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-July 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-July 2021 (t)	Recycling out Jan-July 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-July 2021(t)	Recycling out Jan-July 2020	Recycling out Jan - July 2021	Recycling out Jan -July 2020	Recycling out Jan-July 2021
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	367	<b>385</b>	440	<b>423</b>	565	<b>544</b>	336	350
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1401	<b>1650</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>	2020	<b>2021</b>
<b>Jan-July</b>	65	<b>72</b>	116	<b>117</b>	148	<b>148</b>	81	<b>91</b>

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

## 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	<i>To end July 2020</i>	<i>July 2021</i>	<i>To end July 2021</i>	<b>% +/_</b>
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>2041</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>1735</b>	<b>-14.9%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>50</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>44</i>		

<i>Wexford *</i>		25		
<i>New Ross*</i>		33		
<i>Rosslare</i>		36		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>2903</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>5135</b>	<b>+76%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		186		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		182		
<i>Wexford</i>		247		
<i>New Ross</i>		103		
<i>Rosslare</i>		18		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>9366</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>9366</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	398		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	940		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>3235</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>2808</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		46		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		92		
<i>Wexford</i>		66		
<i>New Ross</i>		44		
<i>Rosslare</i>		35		

*\*Including Towns*

#### 4. Food Waste

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

#### 5. Waste Facility Permits:

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

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

## 6. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2021 inspection plan is being finalised and 2020 return were submitted to the EPA. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,752 routine inspections by 25 Full Time Equivalent staff member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

The national waste priorities for 2021 are;

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Multi-Agency Sites of Interest,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.

## 7. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty

This year's initiative commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> August at Holmestown Waste Management Facility. Members of the public will have opportunities over 4 consecutive weeks to bring old mattresses for recycling to Holmestown, New Ross, Gorey and Enniscorthy recycling centres between Tuesday and Friday. Details of the dates involved are on the Wexford County Council website. Around 750 mattresses were received in the first week at Holmestown Recycling Centre.

## E. LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

Complaints regarding litter are now being handled through the Customer Service Unit.

Environment was the first section to use this central system.

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

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2020	TOTAL FOR 2021
Fines Issued	213	145
Fines Paid in Full●	78	26
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	47	45
Successful Prosecutions**	20	6
Legal Proceedings In Progress	22	28
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€11,795	€3,865

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

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

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

### **Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2020**

	<b>Fines Issued</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>2020</b>	213	20	2256 (down 8%)
<b>2019</b>	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
<b>2018</b>	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
<b>2017</b>	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
<b>2016</b>	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
<b>2015</b>	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
<b>2014</b>	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
<b>2013</b>	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
<b>2012</b>	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
<b>2011</b>	209	17	1,329
<b>2010</b>	370	27	1,338
<b>2009</b>	345	15	1,906

## **F.GENERAL**

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

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

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

## Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2020	2021 (to 30-6-21)
Dogs collected	532	192
Dogs reclaimed	127	69
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	115
Dogs put to sleep	32	13
Dog Fines	5	7

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

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

## Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** An Taisce has circulated guidance documents for each of the green schools themes to help schools continue with their green schools programme safely. Closing date for applications was June 2021. Green flag assessments will be carried out virtually.

**Green Estate Programme:** The Green Estate Programme was officinally launched by Cllr Leonard Kelly Mayor, District of Wexford on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The programme is an initial step to encourage residents to begin to think about creating areas for nature within the public spaces of their estate. The pilot programme is open to all estates in the Wexford Municipal District.





**Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign:** This Campaign was launched by Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cathaoirleach on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The campaign is result of an initiative by Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford City & County Councils. The campaign promotes a simple message “Bag it & Bin it and will run for the remainder of 2021 and is set to firmly emphasize that dog fouling is your responsibility as a dog owner. The campaign will address a range of issues surrounding dog fouling, from its effect on the public who use our streets, parks and beaches, to attitudes to cleaning up as dog owners, from health issues to civic pride. The campaign will reach across social media, local newspapers, radio, community groups and schools.



The Green Dog Walker Campaign was promoted during January and received over 500 pledges in 4 days. The scheme is open again for registrations.



### **Response to COVID**

Wexford Libraries re-opened to the public, emerging from Level 5 restrictions, on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff returned to work in the branch libraries on regular opening hours, including Saturdays and late opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In July and August, browsing and borrowing services with the collection of remote printing, mobile printing, and photocopying services continued. The use of the study spaces and PCs remain unavailable to patrons under national guidelines.

While indoor physical library events remain suspended in library branches, the library service continues to provide public information using online platforms and social media, with online activities for adults and children.

Throughout July and August there was a significant increase in the number of in person events held outdoors for small literacy initiatives including story time, rhyme time, creative writing, crafts, health and wellbeing talks and a programme for Heritage week held in the outdoor designated zones at New Ross Library Park, Wexford Library Sensory Garden and Enniscorthy Library Garden. These events strictly adhered to social distancing guidelines and all other guidelines in place when providing outdoor events for both children and adult events.

### **Book Call Delivery Service**

The Book Call Service continued throughout July and August; delivering 349 books and reading materials to elderly or vulnerable persons in their homes. A total of 7,120 items have been delivered from the Book Call delivery service to date this year.

### **Summer Stars National Reading Programme**

This July and August over 1500 children and young people took part in the Summer Stars Reading Adventure in all five libraries, to retain their reading levels during the summer break from school. All those who participated in the Adventure received a certificate and a small incentive, bookmark, pencil and notebook, each time they returned to the library to change their books during this summer. This is a valuable and successful collaborative programme led by the local public library with schools and families in their local district.

### **Right to Read Literacy and Numeracy**

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

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

### **Dormant Accounts Fund - Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities**

Wexford County Council Library Service has submitted applications for funding from Dormant Accounts Fund to provide six programmes to marginalised communities online in 2021 in collaboration with local based partners. This funding will deliver projects in all municipal districts. Projects will focus on delivering digital literacy, visual literacy and story making, language development and cultural awareness, a sensory pod and STEAM for young adults; these will in time remove barriers and give communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged, confidence to access library services.

## **Decade of Centenaries 2021**

The Decade of Centenary programme for County Wexford in 2021 received approval from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Events were held to commemorate the War of Independence truce on July 11, 1921 in Enniscorthy and in Murrinstown the Garden of Remembrance opened.

"Flames along the Irish coast", an online film detailed the burning of the coastguard stations and three lectures were added to the online collection. The Wexford Archive published an online exhibition on the War of Independence; an accompanying physical exhibition opened in Enniscorthy Castle in late August.

## **Heritage Week**

National Heritage Week was celebrated in the week of 14th to 22nd August 2021 across the county. Gorey Ballygarrett Comhaltas performed on the plaza outside Gorey library. Celestine Murphy delivered an outdoor talk on the Wexford Town Wall from the new Wexford Library garden.

Historian in Residence Barry Lacey spoke on Wexford Railways in the War of Independence and Civil War outdoors in New Ross and Wexford. At Enniscorthy library Jeremy Hill delivered an online lecture on the 19th Century Letter Books of Edward Richards (1826-1911).

## **Local Studies & Genealogy**

There were 32 genealogy enquiries and 77 local studies enquiries in July and August.

Over 600 copies of Volumes 2 & 3 of "On Your Own Ground: County Wexford parish by parish" have been sold. It is available through Selskar Bookshop and The Book Centre in Wexford town, and from O'Leary's Bookshop in Bunclody.

## **Age Friendly Libraries**

Supported by Age Friendly Ireland and Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Libraries Development Unit, Wexford Libraries now provide an Age Friendly Digital Ambassador in each of their 5 libraries. Staff are trained to assist older people to join their local library online, access online library resources, download their favourite books or listen to audio books. This is a peer-to-peer programme which helps participants to develop the confidence to become mentors themselves and show their peers how to do the same.

## **Healthy Ireland At Your Library**

Wexford Public Libraries broadcast a series of talks on health topics on the Wexford Public Libraries' YouTube channel. "Good Nutrition for Healthy Ageing". a video by dietician Didi de Zwarte was added in August. 'Mental Health Mondays' is a new series of Facebook videos and posts to highlight books available that address mental health. In New Ross Library Park Croi Yoga facilitated a family yoga session for children and parents outdoors in July and Edward Hayden, chef, writer and blogger gave a talk in August.

## **Activator Poles Session with Sports Active in Library Park.**

To celebrate the first HER Outdoors Week 9th - 15th August, New Ross Library in conjunction with Sports Active Wexford provided two Activator Pole Sessions in Library Park for women to participate in outdoor sports. Walking with Activator Poles improves stability, reduces impact on hip and knee joints, improves core strength and posture and helps promote a functional gait pattern. The poles may be suitable for those with post/hip knee surgery, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Osteoarthritis, Fall Prevention and overall fitness levels.

## **Adult Literature & Art Appreciation**

In pandemic times, reading groups adapted to online discussion, this continued in the summer months through the Wexford Libraries' Online Book club, a text-based conversation through a Facebook group. This now has 283 members. There are now also three online reading groups facilitated by librarians using Microsoft Teams.

An Art Exhibition: 'A Sense of Self', a Creative Communities Project with artist Mary-Claire Kehoe and Duille Nua Day Centre exhibited in Wexford library in August. This project is funded by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council.

## **Work Matters**

Alan Maher of Maher Consulting gave an online live talk on 'Acquiring/joining a franchise' for people in the Gorey district in August. Wexford Libraries continued to promote Work Matters Business eResources online in the July and August e-mail newsletters, giving mention to business and employment eBooks and eAudiobooks on BorrowBox, and business training courses on Universal Class. Customers are advised they can email Wexford Libraries in advance with their business queries for Mintel and Business.ie.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

The Archive dealt with 82 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during July and August. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries, where possible, in an effort to facilitate researchers until the Archive's reading room reopens.

### **War of Independence**

The Wexford Archive launched an online exhibition on the War of Independence in County Wexford in mid-August through the website [www.wexfordcountyarchive.com](http://www.wexfordcountyarchive.com)

A physical exhibition based on the online version opened in Enniscorthy Castle in late August. Consisting of six pull-up banners, it is accompanied by a select display of original items, some of which featured in the online exhibition.

Work on a revised catalogue of the Edward Roe collection commenced in late August. Roe, a member of Cushinstown Company of the South Wexford Brigade of the IRA, was an active participant during the War of Independence and Civil War periods.

## **ARTS**

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

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

- Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD - Lantern productions staged “Sounds of Summer” in Gorey Civic plaza with ‘Love Gorey’ from 19-22<sup>nd</sup> Aug – a 4-day festival which included live music and comedy for adults and family focused entertainment with Puppet Shows & Outdoor Cinema Screenings.
- Enniscorthy MD– Lantern productions are staging ‘Sounds of Summer’ in Orchard Peace park from 26-29<sup>th</sup> August - a 4-day weekend festival included local bands, spoken word performance and family entertainment.
- New Ross MD– - Event Lighting Solutions are staging a series of “Saturday Night Live” concerts in the Library Park throughout July, August and September including local, national and international music acts.
- Rosslare MD – Ad Personam Cultural Events Ltd Delivered Castle-Lake Arts Festival on 7<sup>th</sup> August the grounds of Johnstown Castle which included live Music, theatre, pop up events throughout the grounds and film screening. In addition, Events Lighting will deliver ‘Garden Fest’ an evening of live music in the gardens of Piercestown Scout Hall with national and local bands
- Wexford MD - Lantern is presenting ‘The Home Stretch’ for Min Ryan Park, Wexford for September 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. Three headline national bands will perform over the three evenings supported by bands local bands.

### **Emergence Visual Art Award:2021-23**

This significant national award is a partnership between Wexford Arts Office, Wexford Arts Centre and Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (IT Carlow). The aim of this award is to support visual artists at the earlier stages of their careers with the development of their practice. This award is presented biannually and has a value of €15,000 over 2 years, this includes mentorship support and a solo exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre in 2023. As part of this award the artist will connect with Carlow IT Wexford campus to develop a programme of work with students and faculty. Following a nationwide open call in May, 65 applications were received, and 10 artists shortlisted. A selection panel met in August to review final shortlist and Wexford artist Emma Roche was selected as Emergence awardee 2021-23.

### **Small Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2021**

The following festivals and experimental events were recipients of this scheme in 2021 and took place live in controlled settings in keeping with Covid 19 guidelines:

**The Gap Arts Festival** – In its eleventh year the Gap Arts Festival took place in Ballythomas from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August. This involved a live outdoor family classical concert & theatre showcasing of The Gap Short Play, a new 4-part, 3D audio Headphone Experience series “Are You Ready?”, Nature Slate Community Art Project, Outdoor Cinema, Sculpture and much more. In addition, a special Opera Film screening took place in partnership with Irish National Operas Touring scheme

**The Three Billboards outside Gorey** -. a public art Billboard project featuring contemporary art took place in Gorey over 8 weeks July – August 2021. The Billboards are designed to be visible to scores of people; providing a touchstone and a dialogue with passersby. Eight artworks were selected through an open call seeking work to be submitted in relation to the theme “Our Dreams Matter” to be exhibited alongside an artwork from guest artist Genevieve Figgis. The selected artworks were displayed on three billboards in Gorey, Wexford, over six weeks during the July & August with each selected work shown for two weeks.

**Fuddle Fest** – This Music festival took place on Fuddletown in Kilinick over 2 days Saturday from 21<sup>st</sup> August to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020. Fuddle Fest spanned a wide range of music genres from the best ion contemporary classical to Irish traditional to electronic house. Events included a solo piano recital by Bill O'Brien, an audio-visual installation a trad session with Tuluat, creative storytelling around a bonfire with Adam Miller etc.

**One Voice Festival – Tales from the Quays** – Wexford Arts Centre in association with Paul Walsh Productions presented a unique festival of tales from the quay in Wexford Arts Centre on August 14<sup>th</sup>. This was a selection of specially created monologues written and delivered by some of Wexford's best-known artists. There was a mix of comedy, dark fairy-tale, exploration of relationships and a look at life in a small town by the sea.

**(CATCH 2021), - The First Fathom - An art exhibition with a difference** - The artworks selected for this unique outdoor show reflected concerns about the sea and the coastal environment. The pieces were robust, waterproof, weather resistant and environmentally friendly, they occupied the littoral space between the tides at preselected locations. The exhibition was on public display from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August at:

- Good Tide Gallery @ The Burrow Beach
- In Between Tides Gallery @ The Little Beach
- Glacier Gallery @ St. Patrick's Bridge

**Drama League of Ireland**, in partnership with Drama League of Ireland provided two scholarships to Wexford applicants for the Drama League's 55th Residential Summer School which took place at the University of Limerick from 31<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Local amateur participants and members of drama societies were invited to apply for this scholarship. Mairead Connaughton and Niall Hunter were successfully selected for this residency.

### **Ancient Connections - Public Art Announcement**

Ancient Connections (the Wexford - Wales EU programme) announced the selected of a new permanent public art piece to be sited in Ferns and St David's in Wales in July 2021.

'The Little Things' by internationally renowned Welsh artists Bedwyr Williams was selected by a panel across Wexford and Wales and the communities to create this new piece of public art that will link Ferns, Co. Wexford with St David's, Pembrokeshire. Bedwyr will create a series of giant beehive sculptures, sites to be confirmed in Ferns and in St David's Cathedral grounds. These beautiful structures would be modelled on traditional ancient beehives called skeps and will be functional and house real bee colonies. The artist intends for these living beehives to be cared for and tended by local beekeepers across both locations with support from the artist, the ancient connections team, and local arts and heritage offices. An education/ outreach programme will be developed across both locations around bee keeping, honey production and biodiversity.

**Summer Sessions – Young Voices** hosted by Rachel Grace Music and Wexford Arts Centre took place weekly from 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August and featured new voices selected from an open call. Each young voice act had the opportunity to perform two songs/spoken word pieces. The events were open to limited audience and recorded with further mentoring provided by musicians Karen Dunbar and Gayle Murphy.

### **Music Generation**

Music Generation Wexford is association with **Music Ireland** brought classical music to children through their Wells House concert series in July. These educational videos will be brought to primary schools in and around Wexford so that children can learn more about classical music.



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

### **The Creative Hub**

Studios are re-opened in keeping with government and HSE guidelines around social distancing etc. Over Thirty artists are currently in residence in the Creative Hub across 9 studio/ units combining individual group's studios and retails units as well as a dance studio which is managed by Wexford Arts centre on behalf of the Arts Office. Through the month of August, several demonstrations, workshops and talks were hosted by the Makers House in line with government and HSE guidelines.

### **Screen Wexford**

Screen Wexford received €19,500 in funding from Screen Skills Ireland through their Stakeholders Fund for the delivery for Virtual reality (VR) & Virtual Production training for the Screen industry. This training programme will provide for a masterclass programme and intensive workshops for delivery in 2021-22 with local service providers including key partner Gorey School of Arts. Screen Wexford is an initiative of Wexford County Council 's Arts and Economic Development departments to promote the development of the Film / Screen industry in Wexford, to upskill local crews, to promote tourism and Wexford as a film friendly county and attractive film destination nationally and internationally.

## **CREATIVE IRELAND**

### **Enniscorthy Activity Garden**

Wexford County Council in partnership with the HSE, Creative Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation announce that artist Esther Gerrard is the successful candidate of the Phase One- Research Phase of the creative enhancement of the Enniscorthy Activity Garden which will be located on the campus of St John's Community Hospital, Enniscorthy. Phase Two of the project will take place between 2021 -2023. Consultation meetings took place with key stakeholders in July – August 2021 with onsite workshops planned for September – November 2021

### **Animating Town Districts Through Creative Events**

This project places creativity at the heart of local areas around Wexford. Our 5 municipal districts are working collaboratively with local creatives in animating towns and villages projects include visual art workshops, murals, creation of a short film based on Wexford's heritage and a range of multi-disciplinary projects.

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

Young teenagers involved in the FDYS Enniscorthy and Coolcotts social inclusion projects took part in a fortnight of STEAM workshops and demonstrations with TEKcentral in July. Supported by Wexford libraries this programme enables young adults, aged 12-17 years develop their creative and IT skills by taking part in a two part, hands on design by technology project. Phase 1, STEM taster workshops were held outdoors in July. The second phase to design, make and create with Tinkercad will be held at Halloween. The young people will present their work and learnings to their peers, youth workers, families and a public audience in an online production for Wexford Science Festival in Science Week.

# Civil Defence – Operations / Training Report June – August 2021

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## Civic Duties

Events for Wexford Athletics in June, July and August. The events were road races with approx 80 participants and a throws competition. Eight athletics events in the Sports Hub in Enniscorthy, road races, Rathgarogue Cycle to Hook Head and the Official opening of Min Ryan Park have also been covered.

## Weekly Training

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

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

## Covid 19 – Response

Wexford Civil Defence has been tasked to provide support to the Community Forum helpline in County Hall, HSE and Department of Defence since week 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

During the period beginning of May to the End of July we have completed the following taskings

### HSE Covid Test Centres

We provided 1 transport for to the HSE Test Centre in Wexford from New Ross.

The Gorey unit provided 4 volunteers each day to support the HSE Pop UP Test Centre in Gorey on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### Patient Transports

We have carried out 17 transports during June - August, to include persons to hospital or Doctor's appointments, Transports have been to Dublin, Waterford and Wexford.

We have also transported one person to the COVID test centre in Wexford.

We have transported 26 people to and from the Vaccination Centre in Enniscorthy during June – August.

### Vaccination Centre Enniscorthy

Volunteers provided 51 full days of support to the vaccination centre in Enniscorthy up to the 14<sup>th</sup> June. We would have 4 volunteers on per day helping with the queuing of people and observation area.

## IBTS

We have provided volunteers to help with the running of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinics in Wexford and New Ross.



## Wexford Fire Service Report

### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls July 2021	Calls to date 2021	Calls to this period 2020
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 2 (3)	83	88
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 7 (8)	43	34
Road Traffic Accident	11	46	43
Industrial fire	1	7	8
Commercial fire	0	1	6
Assembly fire	1	3	2
Agricultural fire	1	7	2
Motor Vehicles	6	17	32
Forest/bog/grass etc	11	60	73
Rubbish	12	36	55
Non-fire rescues	10	58	31
False alarms – good intent	23	122	164
Malicious false alarms	0	1	1
Miscellaneous	4	27	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>565</b>

### Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	30	13	19	17	4	83
DOMESTIC FIRE	11	16	6	7	3	43
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	15	5	10	10	6	46
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	5	0	0	2	0	7
COMMERCIAL FIRE	1	0	0	0	0	1
ASSEMBLY FIRE	2	0	0	1	0	3
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	3	1	2	1	0	7
MOTOR VEHICLES	4	3	3	4	3	17
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	15	16	16	7	6	60
RUBBISH	9	10	8	3	6	36
NON-FIRE RESCUES	13	16	17	9	3	58
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	58	18	23	19	4	122
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	0	0	1	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	11	4	7	3	2	27
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>511</b>

### Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in July 2021:	15
Number of Applications received to date:	73
Number of Applications to this period 2020:	65



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

***2. Minor Capital***

***3. Rural Water Programme***

***4. Water Conservation***



## **COVID -19**

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

# 1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



## Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is proceeding well</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will begin on receipt of the final hydraulic model.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten to be constructed with a plant upgrade to Vinegar Hill water treatment plant also to be completed.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water Asset Planning recently confirmed this project will be delivered in 2023</p>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Stage 2 completion Spring 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Irish Water has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<p><b>Gorey RWSS</b> To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun.</li> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ Commissioning of new Treatment plant and pipework modifications ongoing</li> <li>○ Borehole works ongoing during 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction contracts have now been signed with Sisk and works commenced in April 2021 and it is programmed to be complete 18 months from commencement.</li> <li>○ Works are ongoing on all elements of the project within the three villages and on the treatment plant in Arthurstown. A number of road closures will be needed to facilitate pipeline construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Irish Water Board approval was granted in July and a construction contract is likely to be signed this year for construction to begin early 2022</li> <li>○ Land acquisition finalised</li> <li>○ Planning permission granted</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Find &amp; Fix – Leakage Reduction Programme.</b> The direct labour crew are continuing with their work on the Find and Fix project as part of the overall leakage reduction programme. 2020 targets were successfully met with ambitious targets set for 2021.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> Construction of the new main in Collballow started in May 2021 and we are currently 53% complete.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital



<b>IW Minor Water Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Disinfection Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging.</li> <li>○ Snagging on-going at various sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Treated Water storage programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.</li> <li>○ Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; final design ongoing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Minor Wastewater Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Trinity Street WWPS Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contractor appointed for replacement of change-over switchgear and generator control panel with design underway and works expected to take place Q3 2021.</li> </ul> <p>CSI currently onsite expected completion 1<sup>st</sup> week September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generator exhausts and foul pumps manifold, new master control valve on rising main in place, final civil and snagging to be done once CSI has completed works</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding - Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pumps have now been upgraded to smart pumps at Ballygillane Big and Small WWPS.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stimulus Funding – SCADA Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade of existing SCADA at Spring Valley WWPS, Enniscorthy and Crosstown WWPS, Wexford is in progress</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>H&amp;S Improvement Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New valve chambers and access covers to improve H&amp;S at Carne PS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Wexford monthly Capital Maintenance budget is <b>€108k/month</b>.</li> <li>➤ €826k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021.</li> <li>➤ Additional CM funding has been awarded for specific works in Enniscorthy and Gorey</li> <li>➤ €757k of works have been approved to progress to date in 2021, which month on month is over budget.</li> </ul>

<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Enquiries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pre-connection enquiries have been ongoing through July and August.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applications for new connections have been ongoing through July and August.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Connection works proceeding as normal throughout the county. Activity levels are high.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Civil works to the PS have started on site, and M&amp;E works have now begun on site, expected completion is Q3 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q2/Q3 2021. Delayed due to Covid restrictions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Annesley Court WWPS (TIC), Camolin.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design and site surveys have been completed for decommissioning of the existing WWTP and construction of a new WWPS to be connected to the public sewer network.</li> <li>○ Tender processes are now complete and contractors are appointed, and works expected to take place during Q3 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b>	<p>Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Close, Oulart- Connection works scheduled.</li> <li>• Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. In design discussions with IW and Department.</li> <li>• Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>• Cois Cuan, Arthurstown</li> </ul>

### 3. Rural Water Programme



<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Killaneran GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrogeologist has been engaged and awaiting phase 1 of study into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.</li> <li>○ Report expected to be delivered end August/start September.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Blackstairs GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Storage Tank</b> - consultant appointed to carry out the hydraulic model assessment shall be finalised.</li> <li>○ The consultant expects the delivery of a hydraulic model and report 12 weeks from appointment</li> <li>○ <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> - WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ WCC are awaiting information to be submitted. Once received WCC shall review and report to the Department.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Waste water Connection (CWwC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps,</li> <li>○ An Bord Pleanála Submission, Ground Investigations and main contract tender preparation.</li> <li>○ Procurement of Archaeologist has commenced to submit Archaeological Heritage Impact Statement as part of ABP Submission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Battlestown CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following discussion with residents still awaiting written confirmation of numbers. Group was written to again in August 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○</li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correspondence has been made with the scheme for written confirmation of its viability. Group was written to again in August 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All “Old Well Grant” applications have been completed in line with the Dept.’s request and recoupment of same completed.</li> <li>○ A total of 162 new well grant applications were received to date for 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Countywide consumption for July August was higher than in 2020 with final figures yet to be tallied. Overall consumption is trending high.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Leak repairs</b> Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned Leak Detection (PLD)</b> Planned leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken countywide.</li> </ul>
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rehab Submissions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coolballow rehab project Wexford scheduled for completion Sep 2021</li> <li>○ Rectory Rd, Enniscorthy, rehab project is in the final stages of design and will commence late Autumn 2021. The Forth Road Gorey, rehab project design has commenced.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LA Find resources were concentrated in the South Regional and the Ballagh Supply</li> <li>○ The contractor Find crew is currently investigating Ferns DMA</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>BYS Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Backyard main replacement works were carried out at Cross St New Ross and Menapia Avenue Wexford.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>First Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shareridge have taken over as Irish Water's First Fix contractor.</li> <li>○ The CRU has announced increased funding for free first fix scheme, now also including shared services and NDU with domestic allowance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

## **NATIONAL ROADS**

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

There has been significant public engagement since the announcement of the selected scheme option on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. Pending formal approval to progress the Project to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation), preparations have commenced for a planning submission in 2023.

### **N 25 Rosslare Europort Access Road**

A planning application is currently being prepared for anticipated submission to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 of 2021. Ground investigation works have been completed and environmental surveys will be completed in the coming weeks.

## **National Road Pavement Schemes**

### **2021 Pavement Schemes**

#### **N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme**

This scheme was completed in May.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

Roads completed (clause 804) in the last two months were:

Ballyduff; Ballynastraw to Ballybeg; Garrydaniel, Monamolin; Campile to Knockea; Courthoyle; Colemans Lane; Chapel Lane Courtnacuddy; Rathfyllane;

### **Surface Dressing Works**

Roads completed in the last 2 months were:

Graige More to Gorteen; Glaslacken; Tinnashrile to Kilthomas; Clone Road; Tomfarney; Ballybrennan to Raheen; Clohass to Toberona; Curraghgraique; N80 to Tombrick; Killanure; Ballyedmond; Foxcover; Ballytarsna; Ballybeg / Bullring Cross; Ballydaniel to Ballygullen; Ballylucas to Ballybeg Small; Oilgate towards Kilmallock; Borleagh to Gurteen; Ballykale to Boleany; Banogehill; Tomnaboley to Clone Cross; Courtclogh; Derry; Ballykelly to Ballymurn; Milltown to Greenhall; Tomnahealy Little; Tomnahealy Lane; Horan's Lane, Ballybracken; Clonganny; Ballinlug to Woodbrooke; Ballygarvan to Kilbraney; Chapel Cross to Raheen Duff; Coolaught to Ballyboro; Kilgarvan Graveyard to Shanowle; Horetown North to Stoneeerath; Lacken Cross to Moores Cross; Lacken Cross to Springpark; Kellystown; Burkestown to Coolroe; Tintern to Saltmills; Boderan to Campile; Ballinruan to Kilbride; Mrsheen to Duncannon Cross; Creakan Lodge to Creakan Upper; Roches Town Lane; Newcastle to Newbawn; Ballynamona Horeswood; Rathuminey to Gusserane; Rathnure Lower to Garraun Lower;

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

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

Applications are presently being received for consideration in 2022 and 2023.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Wexford County Council was allocated €349,878 on 17 June from the Department of Rural and Community Development to resurface all twelve lanes on the priority list. Two of these lanes have been surfaced in the last two months and were: Ballyvarogue, Saltmills; Clonleigh, Palace;

On 29<sup>th</sup> July Wexford County Council was allocated an additional € 303,908 to resurface ten more lanes. This brings the total grant allocation to €653,786 for 2021.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Grant**

Bridges completed in the last two months were:

Aughwilliam Bridge (Rosslare District).

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

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd have been appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March. An underwater inspection of the bridge structure has been carried out and found no defects below the water. A structural inspection of the bridge has been completed. This will inform the detailed design. A stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was complete and the planned works did not screen out. A Natura Impact Statement is in progress and will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning application in early September. It is intended to develop the design options over the coming months. Works are expected to commence Q 2/3 of 2022.

## **Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works**

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

One drainage project has been completed at Dungeer Road, New Ross. The other 12 projects are at planning stage.

## **Active Travel Measures**

Wexford County Council was allocated €3,603,000 for 50 Active Travel projects in the County in the March '21. An additional €2,310,008 was allocated in the July for 21 extra projects. This brings the total Active Travel allocation for 2021 to €6,188,563 including increased amounts to 4 of the 71 projects in total.

Projects completed in the last two months: Duncannon;

Projects in progress: Killealy Footpath Scheme; Milehouse Footpath Scheme; Clohamon Village Footpath Scheme; Enniscorthy Town footpaths Near station; Middletown Road Footpath Scheme; Fethard; Ballinaboola; Killanne; Goat Hill; Ballywilliam; Campile; Connection of Laurel Grove to Pugin Park, Taggart; Pirecestown footpaths;

Designs are being developed for cycleways at: Newtown Road; Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue; Oaklands to Kents Cross; Rosslare Harbour-Kilrane Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme;

## **Additional Outdoor Infrastructure**

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

Projects completed in the last two months: Gorey Main Street; Street space reallocation in New Ross Town at Quay Street, Mary Street, South Street and Fethard Village

Projects that have commenced:

Bunclody Main Street/The Mall, Public realm works/Street space allocation; Rosslare Strand Amenity Area/Street space reallocation; Kilmore Quay Picnic Area street space reallocation/minor improvements

## **General Maintenance**

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

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

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

Design works are completed.

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

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

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

- Craywell Road New Ross. Works completed. Awaiting ESB Connection
- Marshallstown Village. Contract awarded
- Railway Square Enniscorthy. Contract awarded
- Milehouse Road Enniscorthy, lighting infill.
- Ballygarrett Village
- Castlebridge Village southern end (Awaiting ESB connection)
- Tomhaggard Village (Awaiting ESB connection)
- Kilrane Industrial Estate Access Road (Awaiting ESB connection).

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

### **Public Lighting – Active Travel Footpath Funding**

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

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

## **Finance:**

### **Budget 2022**

#### **COVID -19**

The COVID 19 emergency continues to impact on the finances of Wexford County Council and this is reflected in the reported outturn to the end of June 2021 as set out in the Q2 Finance Report circulated to members.. Emergency expenditure on our response to the crisis in 2021 includes significant spend on the Hauliers testing centre in Holmestown at the outset of 2021 and we await confirmation of recoupment of these costs. The continuation of the Rates Waiver for most of ratepayers who qualified in 2020 has been welcome and is currently applicable for 9 months of 2021 (Jan to Sept), as confirmed by Circular Fin 14/2021. The 100% waiver for this period has been applied to all eligible rate accounts. Other areas of income are underperforming in 2021 and Parking Income would be a particular concern as it is still showing signs of pressure from the pandemic with only 21% of budgeted income recorded at the end of June.

#### **Q2 Finance Report – to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

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 COVID health emergency. The finances and cash flow of the council continue to be carefully monitored and managed as we move through the covid emergency and deal with the various elements of its impact on the council's financial business.

### **Budget 2022**

Work is now commencing on the preparation of Budget 2022 following the first statutory decision made by members in July, making the decision to retain the 10% local variation factor for Local Property Tax in the county for 2022. The prescribed period for the holding of the statutory budget Meeting or GMA Meetings in the districts have not yet been notified but the expectation would be that the 2022 statutory budget meeting will be held on a date late in November 2021.

#### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2021. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2022 will be reviewed in the coming 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 2022.

#### **Audit**

- Audit of Accounts 2020 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2020 Accounts is ongoing and nearing completion. The Local Government Auditor is expecting to complete the audit in the coming weeks and will then prepare the statutory audit report to be submitted for consideration of the council. The 2020 Statutory Audit report will be presented to the council before the end of the current year.
- Audit Committee - The next meeting is scheduled for October 2021. The Audit Committee will also meet with the Local Government Auditor before the end of the year to discuss the outcome of the 2020 Audit. Following this the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**