



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**County Council Meeting 11.09.23**

## **CONTENTS:**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Town Regeneration</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Water Services</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Transportation &amp; Roads</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Ukrainian Response Update</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Corporate Activities</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Libraries/Arts/Archives</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Fire Services</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>88</b>

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## **Economic**

### **Tradebridge**

The next trade mission is scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 which will see three Wexford companies participating; Wexbury, MachineLab and Scurri. The CEO of Tradebridge will accompany the group of 5 companies to Savannah. A detailed itinerary has been organised in conjunction with Chris Ahern, Director for Research & Trade Development at the World Trade Centre Savannah where Irish companies will meet with up to 7 potential buyers. The Tradebridge programme funded by Enterprise Ireland is working to develop trade and investment opportunities between the South East and the State of Georgia. Companies that participated on the previous trade mission included Harte Outdoor Lighting, Icon Windows and Emagine and we expect to see contracts coming on stream in the near future and the programme is on track to achieve its key performance indicators for 2023.

### **Georgia South University (Wexford Campus)**

An academic delegation from GSU including the Chairs of the Political Science & International Studies Department and the Interim Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and International Studies arrived in Wexford on the 30<sup>th</sup> August to view the facilities at GSU, the Adoration Convent and attend the Economic Forum as part of the Kennedy Summer School.

Work is progressing on the design and planning of the student accommodation with Stephen Carr Architects (SCA) having been formally appointed to the Adoration Convent Student Accommodation Project.

### **Kilmore Quay**

Work is progressing on the masterplan for the 11-acre council owned site at Kilmore. The Economic section are engaging with potential clients for the site and once the masterplan has been finalised planning permission will be submitted under part 8 and expressions of interest will be sought for the development of the site. The Economic Department will also work on marketing collateral for promotion of the site to potential clients.

### **Kennedy Summer School – Economic Forum**

Chief Executive Tom Enright will be one of the speakers at an Economic Forum entitled 'The South East Region and a new relationship with the EU post-Brexit' as part of this years' Kennedy Summer School. Highlighting the local authority economic investment programme for both Wexford and the South East region.

## **Local Enterprise Office**

### **Training**

One of the Local Enterprise Offices key strategic objectives is the provision of quality capability building supports to startup and micro enterprises in the County. The LEO anticipates an increased demand for training and enterprise development supports following the extension of the LEO mandate to support businesses employing up to 50 staff. Following a detailed tendering process, a total of 374 individual proposals were received from 44 suppliers in respect of 166 courses/workshops/clinics. All tender submissions have been received and evaluated and contracts awarded and our full training schedule for the Autumn/Winter will be advertised in early September. The overarching objective is to strengthen businesses by supporting management development, promoting efficiency via the implementation of lean manufacturing and digital processes and the targeting of new markets by building export capability while also meet the challenge of transitioning to a low carbon economy.

### **Youth Entrepreneurship**

The Local Enterprise Office has appointed a new Student Enterprise Co-ordinator to support the rollout of the Student Enterprise Programme to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years students in post primary schools across the county. The strategic aim of the programme is to foster a culture of entrepreneurship among this cohort and to encourage them to consider self-employment as a career option by giving them first hand experience of running their own mini- business.

### **National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) 2023 – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The Head of Enterprise, LEO Wexford is again chairing NWED 2023, Ireland's largest female enterprise event which encourages and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual highlight in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland. A total of 14 local/regional events will take place across the country and the Wexford event will take place in the Newbay House Hotel on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. This year's theme is "Empowering Business Together". The Wexford event has an exciting lineup of speakers with MC, Mary Rose Lyons, Brightspark Consulting, Keynote speaker Theresa Grant, OBE, and panellists Kate Dempsey, Acqualicense, Deborah Brock, Nua Fertility and Wexford's Female Ambassador 2023, Pauline Dunne, Killowen Farms.

### **Intellectual Property Workshop - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Office and SEBIC will be reiterating the important role that intellectual property has in play in developing a unique product proposition, exploiting competitive advantage, fostering customer loyalty, and protecting market share at a regional training event for female led enterprises of scale to be held in Wexford County Council Offices on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## Tourism



Thirty two Roses from the International Rose of Tralee Festival began a 3-day Wexford Rose on the 11<sup>th</sup> August with our Wexford Rose, Bronagh Hogan representing the County. The Tour was an outstanding success with the Roses visiting key attractions and towns across the county, experiencing the very best that Wexford has to offer. From an economic perspective, the earned PR value to County Wexford at the 25<sup>th</sup> August was €310,734, for the same period last year the PR value was €118,000. The Wexford Rose Tour featured heavily in the 2-minute showreel which was shown on the final night of the Rose of Tralee Festival which was broadcast on RTE One. The broadcast viewership figures will be available in the coming weeks and the overall PR value will increase as the coming months with continuing social media engagement. Coinciding with the Wexford Rose Tour, Visit Wexford created a Rose Tour landing page on their website which also encouraged visitors to download the 3-day tour and follow in the Footsteps of the Roses in the Official 2023 Wexford Rose Tour and we are awaiting impact details. The five Municipal Districts played a key role in supporting the event.







## PLANNING

### Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023 until the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

No. of valid applications	246
No. of invalid applications	31
Extension of Duration	1
Exempted Development Declaration	12

Numbers are those received from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 until the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

No. of valid applications	885
No. of invalid applications	111
Extension of Duration	21
Exempted Development Declaration	49

### Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2023	219
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2023	217
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 25/08/2023	129
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	42 days

### **Building Control (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023)**

• Validated Commencement Notices:	<b>56</b>
• Number of Building Control Inspections:	<b>41</b>
• Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion:	<b>16</b>
• Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts	<b>01</b>

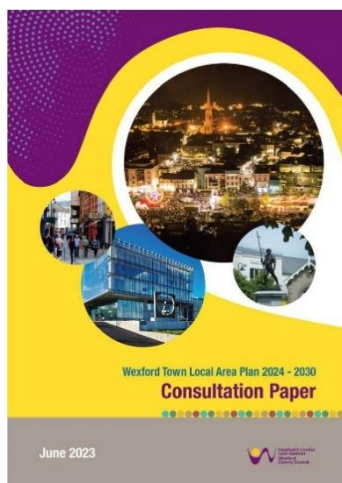
### **Planning Enforcement**

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 are as follows:

• Live Cases	<b>373</b>
• Cases Opened from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>163</b>
• Cases Closed from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>124</b>

### **Forward Planning**

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



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

Work is progressing well on the Local Transport Plan and the baseline report is almost complete. The team is currently preparing a Social Infrastructure Audit and an Infrastructural Assessment Report and other background work to inform decisions on land use and zoning. Requests for Tenders to prepare an Urban Design Strategy (including Master Planning) and a Rainwater Management Plan and a Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy were published on eTenders in August.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Draft Scoping Report was circulated to the Environmental Authorities. The submissions received are being reviewed and incorporated into the final Scoping Report.

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

## **Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan**

Quotations have been received for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the Local Area Plan. It is anticipated that a consultant will be appointed in the coming weeks.

## **Wexford County Development Plan Monitoring**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Heritage Week**

Heritage Week 2023 took place from 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and over 50 events took place across Co. Wexford, organised by both Wexford County Council and local community groups and organisations. Wexford County Council projects included the ever-popular Wexford Walled Towns Day, a family fun-day celebrating our medieval heritage, and a public consultation event for the Enniscorthy heritage-led regeneration plan.

### **Community Monuments Fund**

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

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

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





### **Historic Towns Initiative funding**

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

### **Irish Walled Towns Network**

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

### **Local Biodiversity Action Fund**

Wexford County Council received €25,000.00 in grant funding through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund for the undertaking of a Phase 2 wetland survey following on from the Phase 1 survey in 2022. Following a procurement process consultants have been appointed and field surveys have commenced.

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

Report from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 until 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website on **21<sup>st</sup> August 2023**
- **63** property inspections/visits conducted.
- **14** Derelict Site files closed.
- **13** Section 8(2) Notices issued/posted on properties. (Intention of entry onto The Derelict Site Register)
- **19** Section 11 Notices issued/posted on properties. (List of required works to render the site not derelict)
- **4** Section 8(7) Notices issued (Entry onto the Derelict Site Register)
- **1** Section 3.1 Dangerous Structure Notices issued.
- **14** files closed.

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

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 are as follows: -

• Live Cases	<b>11 (2020, 2021, 2022 &amp; 2023)</b>
• Cases Opened since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>3</b>
• Cases Closed since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>12</b>
• Inspections Carried out	<b>3</b>

## **Planning CSO Returns 2023**

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Housing Developments (Total No. of units)</b>	<b>Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)</b>	<b>One-off Houses</b>
<b>January</b>	50	3	26
<b>February</b>	15	1	17
<b>March</b>	154	30	33
<b>April</b>	156	89	16
<b>May</b>	65	30	26
<b>June</b>	6	2	25
<b>July</b>	156	16	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>166</b>

- \* Figures to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023
- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use

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

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, totals **60**.

<b>Applications Districts</b>	<b>Total for Districts</b>
Enniscorthy	7
Gorey	17
New Ross	5
Wexford	17
Rosslare	14
<b>2023 Totals</b>	<b>60</b>

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

<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LAC /PLAC &amp; General Planning Applications</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Major Pre-Planning (from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023)</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Access Related Items**

### **NDIS Reporting & Monitoring System**

We are in the final drafting stages of the report for the end of life of Wexford County Council's Disability Inclusion Strategy for Services 2019-2022. This final report is using the Power Bi System initiative which will not only provide an overarching organisation review of our compliance level with the associated actions of the National Disability Strategy, but it provides the opportunity for each individual Department or Directorate of WCC to have oversight on activity in relation to their respective activities to ensure proactive and positive actions for accessible and inclusive service provision.

### **Compliance requirements for Communications including Website and media methods.**

The Access Section recently informed a meeting of relevant departments and stakeholders of WCC of the key notes, findings and best practice examples taken from the National Disability Authority Seminar on Accessible Web and Communication Methods, which was attended in May this year.

### **Submissions- NOAC**

Following request from DoS Amanda Byrne for submissions for the NOAC Good Practice Event 2023 - Nomination of Projects by CCMA Committees

The Access Section prepared a submission based on the successful Innovative Community Engagement (I.C.E) project, a collaborative project engaging community groups and organisations which was completed in February of this year. What made this project unique is it presented an alternative process of funding communities to ensure the funding provided and the individual community group projects had accessibility at their core. The methods use in delivering the project elevated awareness around the needs of people with a disability and through ongoing supports, information and site visits from the Access team, options and possibilities for inclusion and access were fully supported throughout the milestones of each of the community groups projects.

Also, the approach used in the project bridged a gap of knowledge and know-how, by in the first instance, raising awareness of the needs of people with a disability and secondly by supporting groups in taking the knowledge and applying it to their proposals for works while also directly engaging people with a disability in the project.

## **TOWN REGENERATION**

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

The Enniscorthy Town Team are meeting regularly. A first draft of the Enniscorthy Digital Town blueprint is expected to be ready by early Sept and will be presented to the Enniscorthy Town Team and Enniscorthy MD for review. This will be incorporated into the Town Centre First Plan. Working with Elected Members and the DRCD an official launch of the Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan will take place in the coming weeks.

Working closely with Consultants Cunnane Stratton Reynolds the New Ross Town Centre First Plan is approaching first draft stage and is progressing very well. It is planned to have the first draft presented to the New Ross Town Centre First team on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and then to the Elected Members of NRMD on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sept getting feedback at both stages. It is then proposed to have a public consultation Town hall type event in the Tholsel on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.



**1. Uisce Éireann Asset  
Delivery**

**2. Minor Capital**

**3. Rural Water  
Programme**

**4. Water Conservation**

### Water Services Monthly Report



Uisce Eireann Transition Date is confirmed for 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## 1. Uisce Éireann – Asset Delivery



### Capital Schemes

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A new gravity main for Mary Street &amp; pipe repair at pumping station</li> <li>➤ Ward &amp; Burke contractors.</li> <li>➤ Work on site at both locations with road closure in place until 9/9/23.</li> <li>➤ Pipe at pump station exposed and cleared for repair.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake and Vinegar Hill Upgrade Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Intake- land requirement and wayleave agreement, UÉ in consultation with owner, awaiting signed contracts.</li> <li>➤ Construction period Est 21months (Sept23-June25)</li> <li>➤ Irish Rail agreement has been signed.</li> <li>➤ Re staff appointed</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by UÉ.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works complete in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courtown foul drainage system</li> <li>➤ Consultants JB Barry appointed by UÉ.</li> </ul>
<b>Newtown WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including improved raw water treatment, instrumentation and run to waste facility.</li> <li>➤ Work started March 2023, 18-month contract programme.</li> <li>➤ Budget cost of 12million.</li> <li>➤ Contractor Glan Agua</li> <li>➤ Working continuing on flocculation tank</li> <li>➤ Temp Clarifier installed on site and in operation.</li> <li>➤ Buffer tank completed</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change since June</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Uisce Éireann has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future.</li> </ul>
<b>Creagh WTP Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment</li> <li>➤ Work started March 2023, 12-month contract programme.</li> <li>➤ Budget of €2million</li> <li>➤ Work on site recommenced with all ground work and new pipelines under construction.</li> </ul>
<b>Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kilmore Quay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All Major Construction Works at plant are completed.</li> <li>➤ Plant to be full commissioned within a few weeks.</li> <li>➤ Road reinstatements planned for mid to end September following 6months settlement time.</li> <li>➤ Access road and landscaping completed to plant.</li> <li>➤ Electrical works almost complete on site.</li> <li>➤ Works at pumping station at Quay completed.</li> <li>➤ Works at terminal pump station due to be finalised this week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Mains Rehabilitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pipe laying works is almost completed on this section at Gurtins 1800m of new watermain.</li> <li>➤ Preparations underway for commencement of next scheme at Redmondstown on the Fardystown Supply.</li> <li>➤ Start date approx.2 weeks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Ferns Sewerage Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Workshop meeting 5 took place end July.</li> <li>➤ Various options for treatments were discussed and site particulars,</li> <li>➤ A compete review is to be undertaken by the consultants and will be presented in September meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>STVGP – Small towns and villages growth programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ UÉ programme to deliver additional capacity to existing towns and villages serviced by UÉ. Wellington Bridge and Tagoat are included in national programme.</li> <li>➤ Option reports complete for both projects with Uisce Éireann Delivery section now taking control of both. Outline design ongoing for both projects.</li> <li>➤ First on-site meeting with designers at Tagoat held in February</li> <li>➤ First workshop 1has taken place on Wellington bridge scheme</li> <li>➤ All projects ongoing.</li> </ul>

<b>Coolree Reservoir Rehabilitation works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rehabilitation works to the embankment, spillway and valve tower at Coolree Reservoir</li> <li>➤ Preliminary scope outlined with ongoing feasibility studies to determine best solution</li> <li>➤ No update.</li> </ul>
<b>Bunclody Water supply- Supply Demand Balance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hydrogeological assessment underway for improved Ground Water Resources for Bunclody</li> <li>➤ Workshop -1 complete for upgrades to the existing plant to aid the current plant operation. Proposal is for new package plant to improve the resilience and capacity of Bunclody WTP</li> <li>➤ Framework contractor appointed.</li> <li>➤ Site assessment to be carried out in Sept</li> </ul>
<b>Fardystown Phase 1 &amp; 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Replacement well drilled at Tannerhill in production with improved output.</li> <li>➤ New wells proposed at Mayglass Church and Mulrankin to provide additional capacity for the Fardystown supply- initial site visit meeting held with contractors.</li> <li>➤ New raw watermains will also be provided under this contract.</li> <li>➤ Uisce Eireann will progress planning permission for the new well sites.</li> </ul>

## 2. Minor Capital


### UÉ Minor Water Schemes

- **Water Plant Generators**
  - Design of generator for Castlemoyle WTP and Poulmounty Intake, New Ross is underway.
  - Edenavale Intake and Newtown (Wexford Town) Carrickduff (Bunclody) and Taylorstown (south Regional are all on UE Generator Ready Program
- **Treated Water storage programme.**
  - 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Kiltaly.
  - Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir. Contractor on site. Setting out site extents complete, with site clearance due to start in first week in Sept, 2023.



<p><b>UÉ Minor Wastewater Schemes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pump Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replacement pumps are on order for Island Road WWPS Enniscorthy with new smart-controller to be installed also.</li> <li>○ Upgrade of pumps at Marshalstown WWTP have been ordered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>SCADA Upgrades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SCADA resilience upgrades PO raised for 5 sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>WWTP Minor Improvement Works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replacement of aeration system diffusers at Rosslare Strand WWTP is proposed for Q3 2023.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>UÉ Capital Maintenance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The budget for 2023 is currently set at €2.8m, with spend year to date at the end of July €2.5m</li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-UÉ Small Capital Schemes</b></p>	<p><b>Ballinamorrhagh, Curracloe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rehabilitation works are currently being priced for the secondary treatment plant.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure</b></p>	<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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kyle Close, Oulart-</b> Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in 2023.</li> <li>➤ <b>Mountain View, Ballindaggin-</b> COF received from UÉ. Survey complete. Application to Uisce Éireann for connection underway.</li> <li>➤ <b>Gleann na gCaor, Monagear-</b> Connection enquiry made. Design in progress</li> <li>➤ <b>Cois Cuan, Arthurstown-</b> Design in progress</li> <li>➤ <b>Coolballow estate-</b> Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS</li> </ul>

	<p>Additional funding grants have been announced on 27<sup>th</sup> June for a further three estates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Farring Carrig</b>, Duncannon</li> <li>➤ <b>Beach View</b>, Duncannon</li> <li>➤ <b>Beachfields</b>, Ballaghkeen</li> </ul> <p>While funding in principle was also granted by the Department for <b>Stonebrook</b>, Fethard-on-Sea, subject to agreement with Uisce Éireann on available treatment. Staffing resource request is with the Department for approval.</p>
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3. Rural Water	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Kilanerin GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.</li> <li>○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution.</li> <li>○ Communication has been received from the Dept. regarding reallocate funding to nitrate monitoring.</li> <li>○ Group Scheme Committee is in discussions with Employer's Representative TJ O'Connor's and Contractor EPS regarding obtaining a detailed quotation for the proposed nitrate monitor installation at the WTP. WCC awaiting quotation.</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> - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants.</li> <li>○ A report has been provided and assessed.</li> <li>○ Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution.</li> <li>○ GWS have reviewed and discussed at committee and have confirmed they are agreeable to recommended option.</li> <li>○ Currently engaging suppliers and contractors regarding obtaining a quotation for the installation of a bypass with prv.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.</li> <li>○ A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.</li> <li>○ Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December.</li> <li>○ The Dept. have approved request for increased funding.</li> <li>○ The Group Scheme, Employer's Representative (TJ O'Connor's) and contractor (EPS) have all been informed of the Department's decision and are progressing with the proposed works.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Kilanerin GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Bulk Meter Installation</b> – Contractor David Walsh attended site to install bulk meter at Limbrick Junction, within Break Pressure Tank compound on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Civil works completed satisfactorily on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Awaiting David Walsh specialist operative to attend site to install electrical components within the BM kiosk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b></p>	<p>➤ <b>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</b></p> <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. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned.</li> <li>○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval.</li> <li>○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites.</li> <li>○ Update given to Dept. on progress to date.</li> <li>○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000.</li> <li>○ Amendments were made to scope of SI and project re-tendered; submission closes 2<sup>nd</sup> June.</li> <li>○ SI re-tender completed; 3 submissions received are currently being reviewed.</li> <li>○ IGSL Ltd awarded contract</li> <li>○ ROL submission progressing by IGSL and submission to the RMO imminent.</li> <li>○ In tandem, Archaeological investigations have been carried out at both proposed pumping stations sites.</li> <li>○ Archaeologist is satisfied all in order and that no further involvement by Archaeologists on the project is expected. Awaiting final report from the Archaeologist.</li> </ul>



<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MARWP 2022-2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme.</li> <li>○ Expecting update from the Dept. in September with details of new programme. This shall be provided at the NFGWS annual conference on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</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></li> <li>➤ <b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A total of <b>26</b> new well grant applications were registered to date in <b>August 2023</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>13</b> Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling <b>€31,264.56</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>41</b> inspections carried out in April.</li> <li>○ Workflow prototype has been developed to final stage</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Needs for Villages &amp; Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b></li> <li>○ Submissions requested from all local authorities.</li> <li>○ Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022</li> <li>○ Matrix was constructed for Priority funding.</li> <li>○ Limited to two applications</li> <li>○ Feasibility studies submitted to the Department for Ramsgrange and Glynn for review by expert panel.</li> <li>○ Further information regarding the option for Glynn was requested from the Dept. which has been submitted.</li> <li>○ Awaiting update from the Dept.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Remediation Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 applications received to date on revised grant, 1 paid, 3 approved, 1 awaiting further documents.</li> <li>○ 0 applications received in the month of August</li> </ul>

#### 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consumption</b> Water Treatment Plant output for July 2023 was at 46.81MLD, an increase on July 2022 figures of 0.153MLD.</li> <li>Water Treatment Plant output for August 2023 is at 47.13MLD, an increase on August 2022 figures of 0.346MLD.</li> </ul>
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<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<p>➤ <b>Planned Operational Leak Detection (PLD)</b> Planned leak detection was focused mainly on Wexford town, Rosslare, Bree, Enniscorthy and Gorey in July 2023. 34nr leak repairs were completed.</p>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<p>➤ <b>Rehab Schemes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wexford – Gortins Great project due to complete in September.</li> <li>○ Wexford – Redmondstown rehab project to commence end of 2023.</li> <li>○ New Ross – RC (UE Regional Contractor) to complete Duncannon Line Rehab project. Commencement date TBC awaiting ROL agreement for SI.</li> <li>○ New Ross – DL (Wexford LA Direct Labour Crew) to complete Duncannon Reservoir to Arthurstown Rehab project, to commence in October, awaiting wayleave approval.</li> <li>○ Gorey – RC to commence with Donaghmore Rehab project in 2024.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Find and Fix</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RC Acoustic logger crew are in Rosslare Strand and Rosslare Harbour.</li> <li>○ RC Find crews x 2 are investigating leaks in Wexford Town.</li> <li>○ RC completed 12nr F&amp;F repairs in July, with savings of over 6.4m<sup>3</sup>/hr achieved in Ferns, Courtown, Rosslare Strand and Bunclody. 7nr Repairs completed to date in August with savings of 11.7m<sup>3</sup>/hr.</li> <li>○ RC completed repair at St Aidan's Crescent, Wexford, flooding complaint in August, BYS main needed to be diverted.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>BYS Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wexford – High St – commenced 29/08, under a 3 week road closure to access 3 story buildings.</li> <li>○ Wexford – School St – x 3 private side works to commence 31/08</li> <li>○ Wexford - Maudlintown BYS project – Edenvale Avenue/Saltee Ave private side works underway. Hantoon road to commence in November. Japanese Knotweed inquiry currently.</li> <li>○ Wexford – Devereux Villas/St Aidan's crescent to commence in September.</li> <li>○ Enniscorthy – Ross road – x 1 private side works to complete in September.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pressure Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wexford - Bishopswater and Bride Place PRV's replaced in July.</li> <li>○ Rowe St PRV to be replaced in September.</li> <li>○ Ballynellard pumphouse upgrade to commence in September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Meter Installation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DMA meter replaced in Glenbrien in July.</li> <li>○ Meters to be installed at the inlets to Kilmore, Staplestown, Sheilmalier and Knockbroad Reservoirs in September.</li> <li>○ Wellingtonbridge – x 2nr Sub meter install will affect eastern South Regional supplies in September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>First Fix</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RC conducting ongoing First Fix investigations and repairs around the county. Private side repairs will be completed through the FF scheme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

### MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

#### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Ground Investigation on-site works are near completion.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- Pre-application consultation process with An Bord Pleanála in relation to Strategic Infrastructure Development has commenced. 1st Pre-Application Meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- Archaeological Geophysical Survey Tender has been awarded.
- Additional Topographical Survey Tender is due to be awarded in early September 2023.
- The overall design of the development, including bridge options is substantially completed.
- Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports required by the TII's Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines has commenced.
- Engagement with the ESB/EirGrid, Irish Rail and other stakeholders is ongoing.

## **N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road**

The position on this project remains unchanged.

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

## **NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES**

### **2022 Pavement Schemes**

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme  
(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,000,000)

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

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

### **2022 Safety Schemes**

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

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

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

Works still to be completed: Minor accommodation works and landscaping. Works to be completed in September.

### **2023 Pavement Schemes**

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

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

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

This scheme is being designed at present. It is expected to tender this scheme in October and potential construction in 2024.

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

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

### 2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations

Wexford County Council has applied for additional maintenance funding from TII in 2023. This will relate to pavement repairs on sections of the N30 at Moneytucker.

Wexford County Council has secured additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11 and N25. Verge and hedgecutting on these roads will commence in early September.

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

### Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

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

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

This allocation will be assigned to Rosbercon R723 as a former National Road and it is currently under design. It is hoped to tender this work in the third quarter of 2023.

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 14 February 2023.

Wexford's allocation was €22,811,650. This allocation includes €1,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage and €1,500,000 for the Deeps Bridge remediation works. The strengthening programme received an additional €822,816 allocation on 3 July 2023.

### Resurfacing/Strengthening

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



Roads resurfaced in the last 2 month were:

Shannon Hill; Coolteige; Ballyeden to Ballinvarey; (All in the Enniscorthy MD); Knockduff / Knockmullen; Blackwater; The Rock; Fort Road; (All in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Courtnacuddy; Irishtown; Ballyclemock Junction to Fary Cross; Bloomhill; (Rosslare MD); Grogans Road; (Wexford Borough MD).

### Surface Dressing Works

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

Roads Surface Dressed in the last month were:

Knockbrandon Upper; Ballinvack; Hyde Park; Knocklahaun; Barnadown to County Bounds; Ballybeg; Boley Upper towards Shrute; Medophall; Ballyoughna; Effernoge; Clonsilla West to Ballynastreagh; Mullaufin; Monagreany Lower; Parkannesley; Monarrig; Rahale; Bog Road; Knockrathkyle; Farnatrane; Kehoe's Lane; Coolintaggart; (All in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD); Horeswood Church to Dunbrody; Ballinabolla to Carnagh; Horeswood Sch to Priesthaggard; Elm Tree to Ballycullane; Burkestown to Ballinatarsna; Ballygow Junction to Ralph; Campile to Knockea; Tottenhamgreen to Hillbyrne; Shanoule; Ballintober; (All in the New Ross MD); Rochestown; Tagoat to Twelveacre; Taghmon to Coolteggart; Broadway to Tacumshin; Piercestown to Drinagh; Gorteenminogue; Killinick to Ballymore; Kilmore to Tullabards; Edwardstown; Loughnageer; Knocktown to Robinstown; Rostoonstown; (All in the Rosslare MD); Declans Pub; Curraclloe to Screen; Crossabeg to Croy; Ballymartin to Castlebridge; Blackhall Lane; Blackhall to Toomcoole; (All in the Wexford Borough MD).

### Community Involvement Schemes

€502,650 was allocated in 2023.

Nook Road was resurfaced in New Ross District in May.

### Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

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

## Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges

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

Wilton Bridge in Enniscorthy District - Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 30 June 2023. The bridge will be repaired to its original form of masonry arches. Repair works are expected to be complete in September.



### ***Wilton Bridge Repairs 29 August***

## Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

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

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. The project is on schedule. All concrete repairs are complete on the piers and the east half of the bridge. Concrete repairs are in progress on the west side. Over 300 concrete repairs are complete out to date. It is anticipated the road will be open by 20 October and the works fully complete by the end of November 2023. The temporary road closure was increased from the 31 August to 20 October to complete additional works required.



### ***Deeps Bridge 30 August 2023***

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

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

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

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

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

21 lanes will be resurfaced in 2023 and 4 lanes have been resurfaced to date.

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

### **General Maintenance**

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



## ACTIVE TRAVEL

## Newtown Road (Part of the Pathfinder Project)


**Newtown Rd light segregation (Hospital to Bayview)** is currently at detailed design stage, and we are narrowing in lane widths to 3.25m following a request from the NTA. Proposal is for main contractor on Newtown Rd to install extruded kerb and Council to undertake bollard installation and line marking in house. **Junction tightening works will then proceed following confirmation that speed has been reduced by the initial measures.**

# Active Travel

## Newtown Light Segregation Scheme Newtown Road, Wexford.

### Design Drawings





**Wexford County Council**  
Roads & Transportation

TOM EMBERTY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY HALL,  
CARBONLAWN, WEXFORD  
TEL: 051 8512000  
E-MAIL: COUNCIL@WEXFORDCOUNCIL.IE  
SAMPSON HOUSE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
TIM MURPHY

**DESIGN NOTES**

- DO NOT SCALE. USE DIMENSIONS GIVEN ON PLAN IN PRIORITY ORDER.
- DESIGN NOTES ARE TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DESIGN DRAWINGS.
- ALL LAYOUTS ARE TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DESIGN DRAWINGS.

**DRAWING DATA**

Sheet No.	Sheet Title	Scale	Author	Check	Issue
00000001	Site Plan	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000002	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000003	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000004	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000005	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000006	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000007	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1
00000008	Plan View	1:1000	TE	TE	1

**Active Travel**  
**Newtown Light Segregation Scheme**

Proposed Works - Overview

**Newtown Road from Maldron Road Roundabout to Applegreen.** Tender assessment report currently nearing completion. We had concerns regarding abnormally low rates issued by Lowest Priced tenderer. Meeting took place with Tenderer/ RPS QS's and Wexford AT to review Works Proposal in detail /review the schedule of high/low rates and whether TM/ Works proposal fully considers avoiding overspill onto N11/N25 and discussed how they envisage the works will progress when the site constraints are taken into account. Road resurfacing is proposed to be undertaken by night. Minutes of this meeting with Lowest priced tenderer and RPS Consultant will feature in Tender assessment report.

**Newtown Road Racecourse (Racecourse to Hospital).** A third phase of works from the Applegreen to the Hospital junction is currently at concept development and changes to lane widths are currently underway. Propose to meet Aldi and Racecourse as part of this process. Propose to have a completed design and commence section 38 statutory process over 4 weeks and present completed report for presentation at council meeting in October.

# Active Travel

## Newtown Road - Racecourse

### Newtown, Wexford.

#### Preliminary Design Drawings

## Safe Routes to School

Three Safe Routes to School Schools schemes (SRTS Round 1) which involve traffic calming at front of school to encourage active travel are being designed in house in consultation with schools.

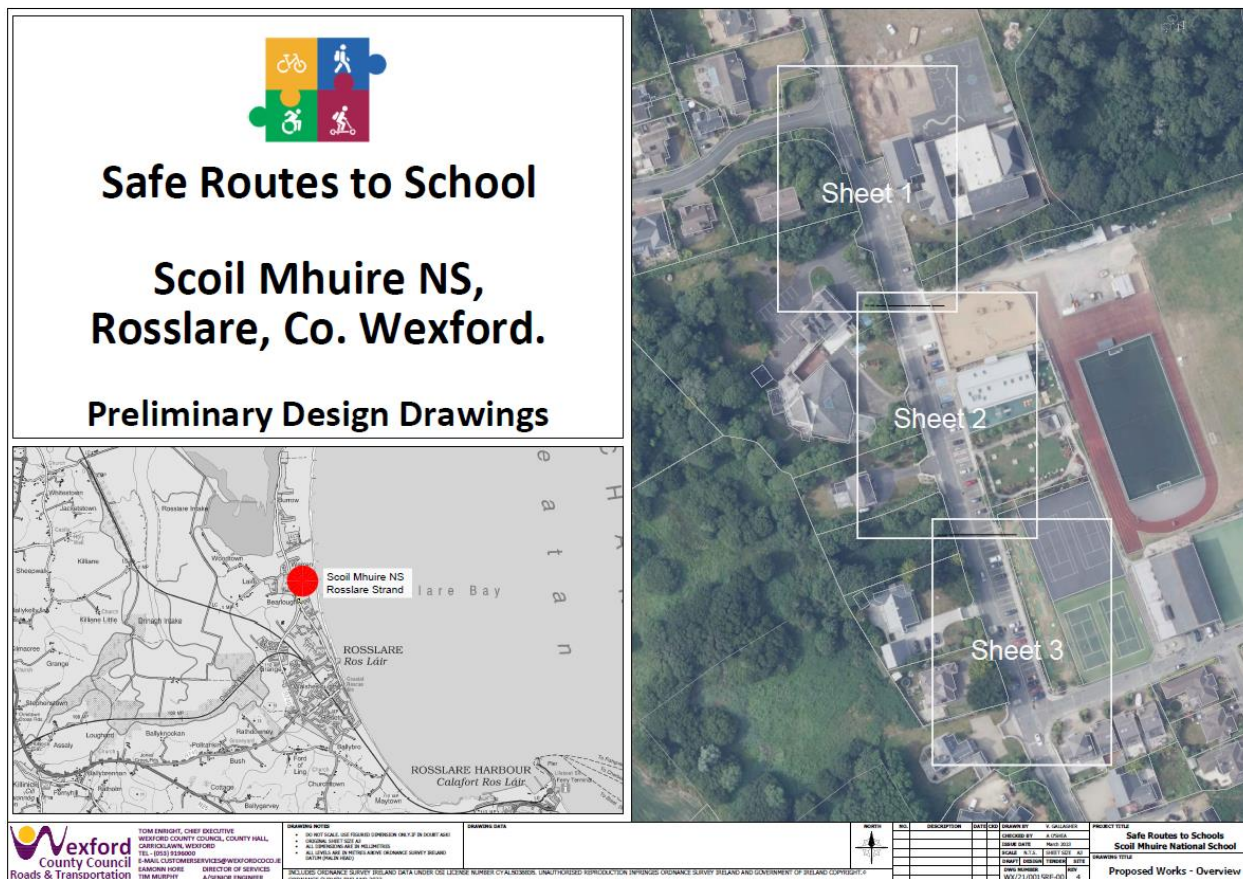
The Construction phase of the **Adamstown Scoil Naomh Abbann** is well underway by Paddy McGees Wexford Ltd, and works are due to be completed in mid-November.



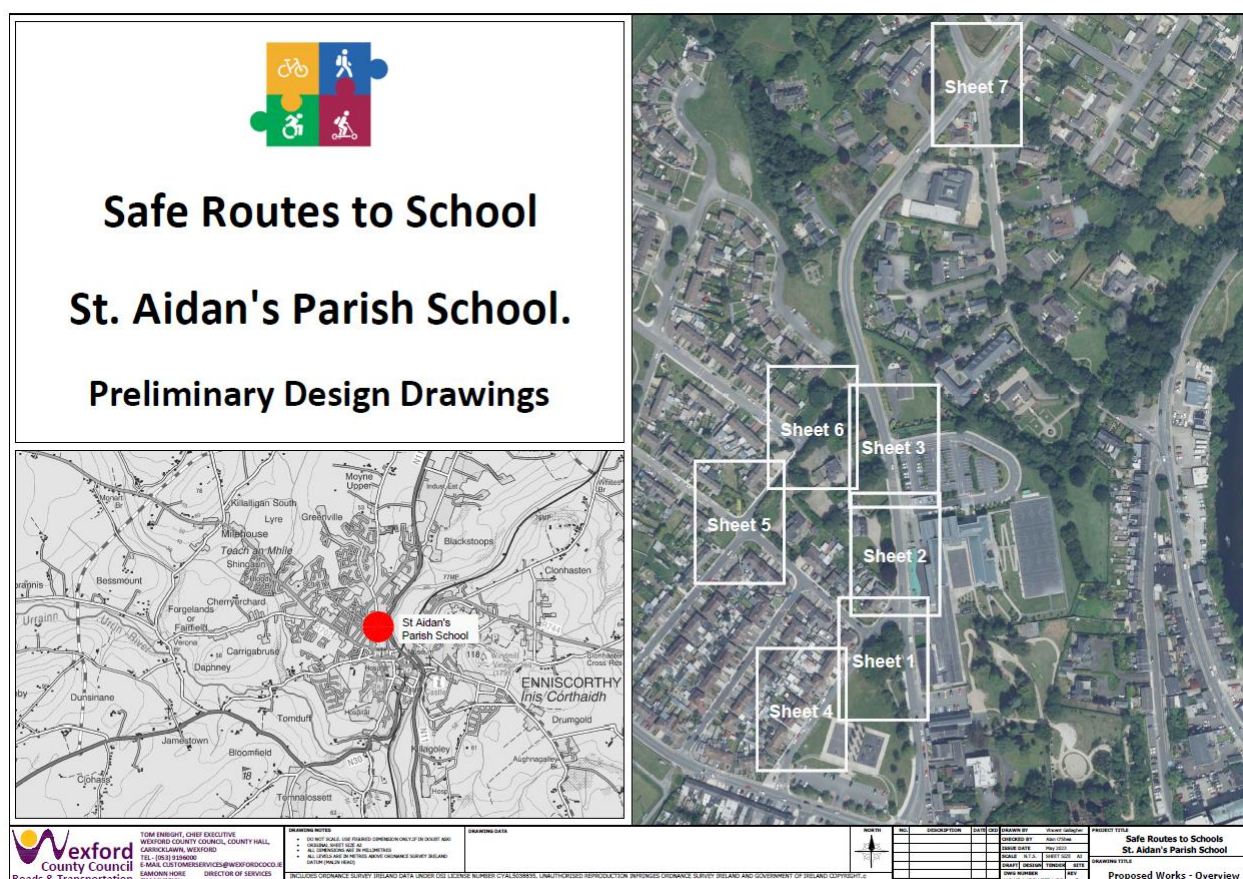


Section 38 consultation process was successfully passed by councillors on 21 June for **Scoil Mhuire Rosslare**. Construction is expected in Sept 2023 after the busy summer period in Rosslare. The lowest priced tenderer Gary Murphy of GJM contracts confirmed in writing that he was declining this contract. Paddy McGees who were second lowest were then awarded the contract of PSCS and main contractor. We propose to undertake all the proposed works this year.





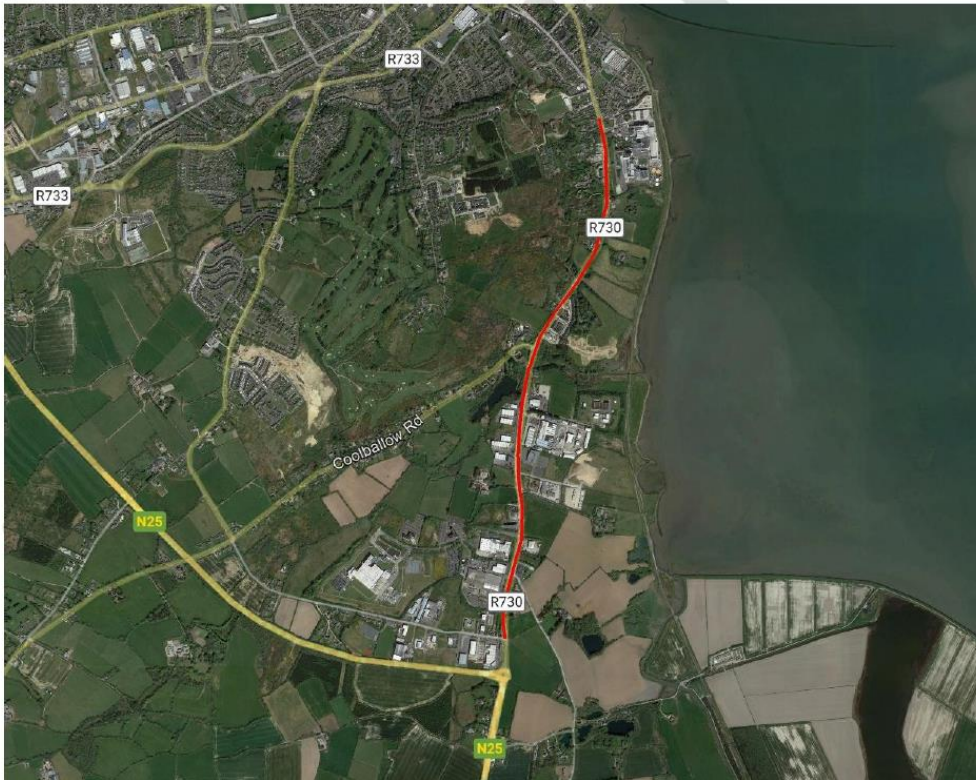
## Saint Aidan's Primary School, Enniscorthy





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

The proposed cycle lane upgrade in **Roxborough** has now moved onto the final stages of the Concept development and options selection stage with the completion of DBFL's final draft report -R730 Roxborough Cycle Lane Wexford. Once NTA approve we can then start the Part 8 Statutory process.



*Figure 1-1 Scheme Location Map (Google ©)*

## Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy ABTA – Tender assessment report final draft completed. Sent to Planning for their review prior to forwarding the ABTA section of NTA for their sign off prior to awarding contract. Winning tenderer priced at €90,760 EX vat.

Wexford Town ABTA is currently underway by Atkins Consulting Engineers. Baseline report up for review internally.

## Walking and Cycling

The public E Bike Sharing Scheme is going from strength to strength with big demand for the bikes, particularly from residential areas to travel to the town centre. A further 20 bikes were recently introduced to meet demand and a further three parking locations provided on Whiterock Hill to facilitate residents in this area. This trial is to take place for one year to ascertain its

benefits to Wexford. Early indications are that it is very popular and reducing the number of short car journeys in and around the town.



*Bolt eBike parked at County Hall*

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

In association with Sports Active to mark Active Aging week there will also be a number of training sessions in how to use the bikes. The training will take place in County Hall grounds to ensure people feel comfortable using them before they cycle on the public streets.

Car Free Day this year takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September as part of the wider European Mobility Week [EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK | Home](#). An event is currently being planned for Gorey town to encourage communities to engage in more Active Travel as part of their day-to-day local journeys.

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

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

Design works are completed.

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

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

## Public Lighting Development Fund

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

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

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

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

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

## **Gorey Town Park**

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

# UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

## Offer a Home

The team have successfully managed to retain most of the holiday homes pledged under Offer a Home, giving the property owners back their homes for the summer period whilst temporarily relocating the Ukrainian families. This gives continuity for the Ukrainian family and the property owner.

## Ukrainian Community Response Forum

A meeting of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. Members reported on activity in their respective areas and highlighted some particularly difficult cases. Wexford County Council staff member Alla Kauklina gave a presentation on the Local Authority led Offer a Home programme, she highlighted in the presentation that the team are meeting an increasing number of both Ukrainian and Irish families who entered informal pledges and are now seeking support on advice.

When the Local Authority Integration Team is appointed more quantitative research will be undertaken to document the work of the Forum and its impact.

## Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Three new centres will open in the coming months;

Each centre will provide family accommodation in 2,3 & 4 bedrooms. Residents will share common kitchen, dining, living areas and bathrooms. All projects will be developed to the Temporary Accommodation Standards and under the Planning provisions outlined in the temporary exemption (S.I 306 of 2022).

- Wexford Garda Station, capacity 50
- Borromount Lodge, Edermine, Enniscorthy, capacity 38
- 22 Rafter Street Enniscorthy, (over Ulster Bank) 15

The projects will be contracted by the Department of Children (DCEDIY), subject to the works being completed to satisfactory standard.

Local Authority Integration Programme - The overall objective of the integration programme is to enable applicants to live independently in the community. Within this overall objective, a set of measurable actions will guide the development, delivery, and monitoring of the programme.

The interviews for the posts will be held in early October.

# CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

## 1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	14
Customer Complaint	13
Ombudsman Complaint	5
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

## 2. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

Tenders from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2023

No uploaded	10
No of tenders received	54

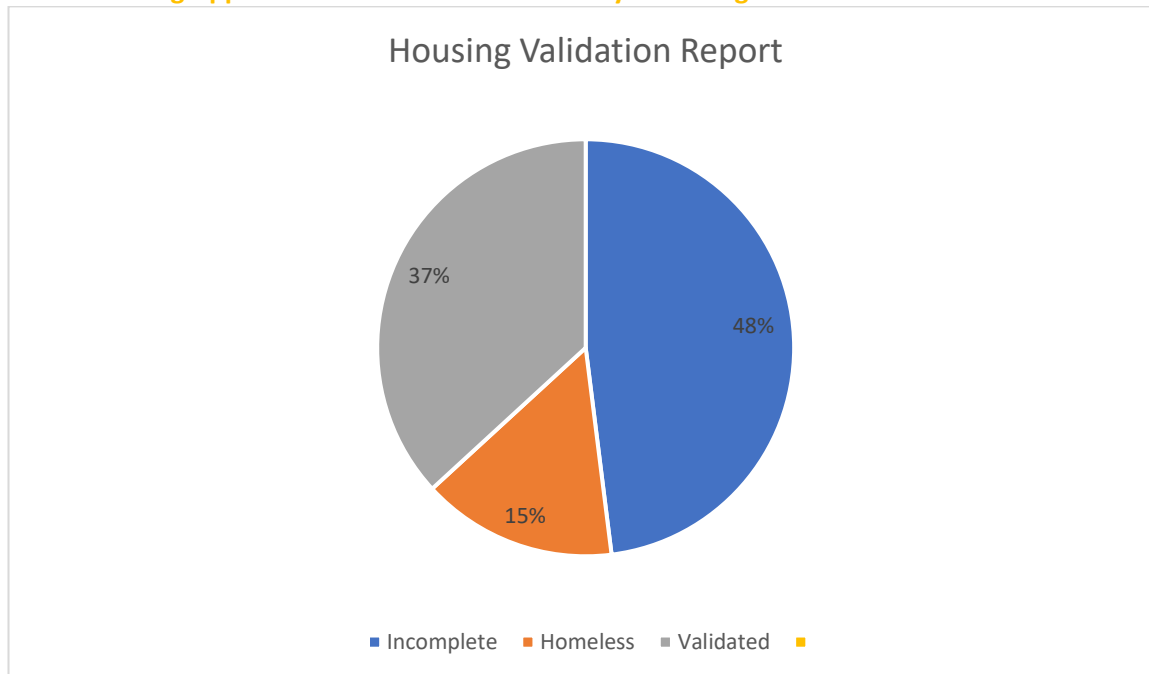
### CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 1 July to 24 August 2023

Area	1 July to 24 August
Phone Calls	8771
Environmental Complaints	615
Change of Circumstances	47
Housing Validation	277
Quick Calls	5666
Roads Fault Log	105
Emails (Received & Sent)	5786



<b>Web Updates / Consultations</b>	96
<b>Newspaper Adverts</b>	132

#### Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 1 July to 24 August 2023



#### Members Portal Queries by Section – 1 July to 24 August 2023

Section	Closed	Open	Total
<b>Arts &amp; Library</b>	0	1	1
<b>Corporate</b>	0	1	1
<b>Customer Service</b>	0	3	3
<b>Enniscorthy Municipal District</b>	0	3	3
<b>Environment</b>	0	10	10
<b>Finance</b>	0	3	3
<b>Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District</b>	0	4	4
<b>Housing</b>	11	138	149
<b>Planning</b>	0	7	7
<b>Property</b>	0	1	1
<b>Roads</b>	0	3	3
<b>Roads – Enniscorthy MD</b>	1	10	11
<b>Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD</b>	1	15	16
<b>Roads – New Ross MD</b>	0	5	5

<b>Roads – Rosslare MD</b>	0	3	3
<b>Roads – Wexford MD</b>	0	5	5
<b>Rosslare Municipal District</b>	0	1	1
<b>Water – Non Irish Water Queries</b>	0	1	1
<b>Water – Rural Water and Well Grants</b>	0	2	2
<b>Wexford Municipal District</b>	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	13	217	230

## Top Performing Posts



### Gorey Carpark Changes



37.1K views

### EMD/Australia Sister City



2,990 Impressions

### Local Authority Home Loan Video



2.9K views

## Top Performing Posts

Rose Tour Gorey



21.4K views

No Swim Notice



2,193 impressions

Wexford Rose Tour Video



1.7K views

## Monthly Social Media Stats



PAGE REACH

71,126

PAGE VISITS

7,117

PAGE FOLLOWS

6,728

NEW PAGE LIKES

237

NUM OF POSTS

42



PAGE REACH

4,469

PAGE VISITS

349

PAGE FOLLOWS

2,387

NEW PAGE LIKES

96

NUM OF POSTS

24



IMPRESSIONS

136.1 K

MENTIONS

N/A

NUM. OF TWEETS

N/A

PAGE FOLLOWERS

14,032

PAGE VISITS

N/A

NEW FOLLOWERS

31

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

## Monthly Social Media Content

- Do Not Swim Notices
- Greenway Photo
- National Services Day
- Traffic Lights out of order
- Sister City Agreement - Enniscorthy/Australia
- Dog Licences
- Wetland Survey
- Local Authority Home Loan
- RSA - Check it Fits
- Changes to Carparks (Gorey M D)
- Weather Warnings (Storm Betty)
- Enniscorthy Heritage led Regeneration Plan
- Mattress Amnesty
- New Motor Tax Opening Hours
- Paint Disposal Amnesty
- Recruitment
- Fire Safety Alerts
- CCTV - Bunclody
- Rose of Tralee Tour

- Heritage Week
- Fleadh Cheoil
- Remote Work Hubs
- Wexford Town Local Area Plan
- Choice Based Lettings



## Monthly Engagements

### TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.

This is how far we got with Morristown beach as families pass us by. No mat from wooden walkway from [img alt="A small photo of a beach with a wooden walkway." data-bbox="300 655 415 750"/> For an island that has beaches with compatible topography for mats, there's a major lack of ambition with our local authorities. Tides/blowby sand are excuses. [@Adeleah](#)

**ss to beach:** Access is ark to a wooden sleep way. Access for the disa e difficult due to wind r sand on walkway wh s slightly to sea.

**Type:** Sand type is sof brown.

You and 9 others

 Wexford County Council @wexfordcoco · Aug 31  
@struggleiswheel Wexford County Council has started using Beach Mats at some Beaches that are suitable. Morristown is being assessed for this but there is a constant issue with the silting up of the Beach entrance.

 The Struggle is Wheel @struggleiswheel · Aug 31  
Appreciate the response. We understand geography has a role to play here but a beach warden position would help with sand maintenance if lifeguards are under resourced. Curracloe should be looked at too with help from surfclub. 50 metres would even help.

So sad to see this hedgerow wiped out on the Donaghmore road why @wexfordcoco it's a quiet road not a main road so totally unnecessary. The third pic is of the road in Roney (v similar) but not butchered. Nature's harvest gone for all wildlife



@wexfordcoco any idea when Wilton Bridge will be finished. School starts today and bus pickup is at the other side of the bridge. 6 mile round trip for an 800m walk.

4:00 PM · Aug 28, 2023 · 61 Views



Post your reply!

Reply



**Wexford County Council** @wexfordcoco · Aug 29

@CathPowles The Engineer has confirmed that Wilton Bridge is scheduled for re-open is mid / end of October, however works are weather dependant.

2 48



**CathPowles** @CathPowles · Aug 29

Thats really bad. It's been closed for 20 months 18 of those nothing was done because resident didn't matter. Now we can't get children to bus pick up points for a service being paid for. Not to mention the hundreds of miles being put on cars for what was a 10 minute walk.

19

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

## Press Releases August 2023

- 15/08/2023 Ballybrittas Dolmen Trail - Official Opening Environment
- 18/08/2023 No Swim Notice - Carne Beach Environment
- 23/08/2023 Wexford Business gets chance to exhibit at Ploughing 2023 LEO
- 25/08/2023 Enniscorthy town signs Sister City Agreement with Blacktown City Australia Enniscorthy MD

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



# **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

## **1. Projects at Planning Stages**

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

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

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

Moloney O' Beirne is preparing preliminary designs and Part VIII planning application for the Market Square and the Castle Quarter. Roughan & O'Donovan is undertaking the design for town centre traffic alterations. A Part 8 application for Market Square will be submitted in September, with preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project commencing thereafter to support a Part 8 submission before end of 2023.

ODKM Architects is undertaking a concept masterplanning design for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This masterplan will be completed in time for the forthcoming URDF application also.

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

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

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

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

### **1.4 Gorey District Park**

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

The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Work expected to commence in September 2023.

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

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

## **1.6 Gorey Market House**

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

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

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

### Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála in Q1 2024.

### Hook Lighthouse

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

The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be advertised in July as part of the framework created for architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the preliminary design will be completed in 2023 and submitted to ABP in 2024.

### New Ross Tourism Project

Tenders for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience have been received and a contract awarded to EPIC Design, based in Dublin who have prepared the preliminary design for the development, this is being reviewed at present.

Tender documents for the development of the Norman Themed Visitor Centre in the Old Bank/Murphy buildings for interpretive design have been advertised with an appointment expected in July 2023. A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment ongoing. The Norman Visitor Centre will be the first project from this framework, with award expected in Q4 2023.



## **1.8 Esmonde Street, Gorey**

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans for public realm improvement with works expected to commence on-site in early 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **1.13 Crescent Quay – Dredging**

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for possible dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete with results currently being assessed. A draft report with recommendations is expected in Q4 2023.

### **1.14 Enniscorthy Sports Hub**

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

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

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

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

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

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works contract is currently out to tender with a submission deadline of September 4<sup>th</sup>. It is intended to commence works on site in Q4 2023.

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

### **1.17 Adoration Convent Wexford**

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

## **2 Projects Under Construction**

### **2.1 South East Greenway**

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glás Civil Engineering and works are now substantially complete. Snagging works are now nearing completion.

The works are ongoing on site for fencing, public lights ducting and temporary car parks for the greenway section from New Ross to Glenmore. The expected completion date is July 2023.

The works contract tender for Lot 5a – Ferrybank to Curraghmore (5.5KM) was advertised in March. Tenders have been received and assessed and a contract award is expected within the coming month.

Wexford County Council's Arts Office, in partnership with the Southeast Greenway Project Team, has commissioning designers 'Elements Of Action' with visual artist Aoife Banville, to develop a pilot creative public art project for the Raheen to Glenmore section of the greenway. This works is expected to complete prior to the opening of this section.

The process to procure replacement technical advisors for the completion of the Southeast Greenway project has commenced. The first appointment will be for the technical advisor to act in the role for Employer's Representative duties for the works contract lot 5A . Tenders have been received and assessed and appointment is expected within the coming month.

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

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

### **2.2 Trinity Wharf**

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2<sup>nd</sup> March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Works are ongoing on site with completion expected in Q4 2023.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The preferred tenderer is identified, and the standstill period has expired. The formal appointment of the design services consultant is imminent.

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

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

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

## 2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

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

## 2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford

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

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

The demolition contract was awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd, with works on the initial contract for the old Tesco site now largely complete. WCC has also agreed an extension to the main works contract to undertake the demolition of the former Dun Mhuire Theatre. This work has commenced onsite and is expected to last 10 weeks.

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

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





## 4. Flood Defence Schemes

### 4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

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

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

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

### 4.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for engineering and environmental services for the for the Wexford Town & Environs contract was signed by WCC and Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd on 23rd March. Officials from the OPW, the sponsoring agency for the scheme, including the Minister Mr. Patrick O'Donovan, attended. A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will fully funded.

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

# HOUSING

## Housing Supply

### Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment	Unit type
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare	Complete	Substantial Completion Date May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2023.	12 x 2 Bed
Marconi Park	1 TAP	Enniscorthy	Substantially Complete	Handover September 2023	1 x 2 Bed
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete in Q4 2023.	6 x 1 Bed 12 x 2 Bed 4 x 3 Bed
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. Ground Floor Slabs in place. Progressing well.	12 x 1 Bed
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Contractor appointed. Commence construction 19 <sup>th</sup> June 23	12 x 2 Bed
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced construction April 23 Target Completion Q3 2024.	18 x 3 Bed 4 x 2 Bed
Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Commenced on site 22 May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow)	1 x 1 Bed 1 x 2 Bed 6 x 3 Bed
Francis St.	2	Wexford	SS approved	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare tender documents Q3 2023	2 x 2 Bed
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete May 23. Stage 3 and Tender in Q4 2023.	2 x 1 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Stage 4 approved May 23. Construction commenced July 23.	12 x 1 Bed 11 x 2 Bed 7 x 3 Bed
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Enabling works Commenced August 23.	15 x 1 Bed 10 x 2 Bed 9 x 3 Bed 4 x 4 Bed
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Stage 3 and tender documentation	18 x 3 Bed 12 x 1 Bed 24 x 2 Bed

				for submission Q4 23 subject to Part VIII approval.	6 x 3 Bed
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Combined Stage1 and 2	Stage 1 and 2 approved 16 May 23. Currently out to tender. Tenders due Q4 2023.	4 x 1 Bed 16 x 2 Bed 2 x 3 Bed
Monamolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monamolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Part VIII ongoing.	1 x 2 Bed 4 x 3 Bed
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monamolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Part VIII ongoing.	2 x 1 Bed 2 x 2 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle A for 3 projects. – (Monamolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Part VIII due to be submitted Q4 2023.	2 x 1 Bed 2 x 2 Bed
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>269</b>				

### Pre-Development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment		
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Archaeologist appointed. Awaiting License. Other appointments will follow Archaeology report. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q4 2023	3 x 1 Bed
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Stage 2	Stage 1 and 2 Approved May 23. Currently out to tender for DB Construction.	6 x 1 Bed 4 x 2 Bed 8 x 3 Bed
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Demolitions complete. Funding application to DHLGH Q4 2023	1 x 1 Bed 1 x 2 Bed 1 x 3 Bed
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>				



## Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	A proposal has been submitted by a neighboring developer. Review programme road delivery June 23.
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Stage 1 expressions of interest for contractors/developers to be published on e-tenders Sept 2023.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>		

## Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Surveys complete. Part VIII ongoing. SS submission Q3 2023
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Pre-Planning July 23. Part VIII and Single Stage Application in Q4 2023
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys.
Group Housing TAP	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>		

## Affordable Housing Projects

	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	9 No Expressions of Interest received. Stage 2 (tender) due October 2023.
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Project Manager appointed. Stage 1 EOI due Q4 23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>		

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cluid</b>				
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024.
Bridgemeadows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey	Delivered Q3 2023.
<b>Tuath</b>				
Ramstown, Gorey	74	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units Delivered Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q2 2024. An additional 6 units will also deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q2 2023
<b>Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)</b>				
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units delivered Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q1 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 479 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

### Offers of Support for AHB Proposals (Subject to Planning and Departmental Approval)

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	146
Gorey	170
New Ross	43
Rosslare	29
Wexford	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>

## Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston , Enniscorthy	5	4 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	4 2-bed 6 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units Delivered Q3 2023 2 units to deliver Q4 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 2-bed 2 2-bed apt 4 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHLGH Approval Dec 22. To deliver from Q2 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered Q4 2022, 2 units to be delivered Q4 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	2 x 3-bed 7 3-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. Amendment to planning permission being sought. To deliver on phased basis from Q4 2023.
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Under Construction. Funding approval received May 2022. To deliver Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	DHLGH Approval Feb 22. To deliver Q4 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>			

## Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q1 2024
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delays due to ESB/Roads. To deliver Q1 2024
Haughton Place, New Ross (includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q2 2024
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2023
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2023

An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	8 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2	2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2023
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q3 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2023
Old Forest, Bunclody	8	4 x 3-bed 4 x 4-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q4 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>			

The Housing Dept. continue to periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey acquisition. There is currently an open call for expressions of interest until the 29/09/2023. Future calls will be targeted at smaller unit types in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) and will include proposals for land. All proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

## **Housing Maintenance**

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

<b>Repairs</b>	<b>Enniscorthy</b>	<b>Gorey / Kilmuckridge</b>	<b>New Ross</b>	<b>Wexford</b>	<b>Rosslare</b>	<b>Total</b>
Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023)	138	69	158	114	88	567
Repair Requests Year to Date	890	594	989	938	632	4043
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023)	101	58	108	82	62	411
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	696	465	712	666	474	3013
<b>CLOSED</b> Repair Requests (1 <sup>st</sup> July– 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2023)	102	53	107	71	57	390
<b>CLOSED</b> Repairs Requests Year to Date	664	391	697	604	430	2786

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

## **Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme**

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022 was the second year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets set by the Department for Wexford to date.

<b>Department Targets for County Wexford</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Properties</b>
2021	54
2022	68
2023	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>

The range of works undertaken in the properties include external wall and attic insulation, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting, high efficiency boilers, and upgraded heating system and controls. All properties received a minimum of a B2 BER rating after the works were completed.

Of all targets, the Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 37 properties in 2022. We propose to complete the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value the grant funded works planned for completion in 2023 will exceed €3.1 million.

The following table shows the status of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program to date.

Status update Jan to August	No of Properties
Properties completed	65
Works Ongoing/awarded	68
Tender Stage	14
Tender Preparation Stage	41
Survey Stage	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>

Properties current at survey stage will be tendered and awarded in Quarter 3 and 4 to allow us to upscale delivery in line with department objectives and have work in progress or ready to commence in January 2024. We are current approaching candidate properties for our 2024 program with surveys to commence in Q4 2023.

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

Status update Jan to August	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Widows and Doors	Contract awarded
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – windows and Doors	At Tender Stage
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	Tender Preparation



## **Vacant Homes**

A Vacant Homes Officer was appointed during 2022, whose role is:

- To actively promote and lead the uptake within the local authority area of various initiatives, schemes, and funding programmes to address vacancy and bring vacant properties into residential use.
- To collect, monitor and assess vacancy data locally and use that data to actively engage with property owners and promote schemes to encourage activation of properties.
- Play a communication, promotion, and advisory role both internally within the local authority and externally as a contact point for members of the public and key interested parties on vacant homes/properties.

***Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund*** - Towns & Village Property Refurbishment Fund aims to tackle property vacancy & dereliction and will provide new choices for people to live in towns and villages. It is a **€50 million** fund and is targeted at delivering 2000 homes by 2025 across the country.

- A maximum grant of €50,000 is available for refurbishment of a vacant property.
- A top up grant of €20,000 is available where the property is confirmed as derelict (i.e., structurally unsound, and dangerous) or listed on the derelict property register.

### ***Summary to date***

- **Croí Conaithe** - 180 applications received, 58 Approved, 2 rejected from commencement of the programme in July 2022.
- **Repair and lease** - 26 Expressions of Interest (EOI) for 2022 and 11 EOI for 2023 received. Each Expression of interest (EOI) may have multiple units.
- **Buy and Renew**
  - 2 works in progress
  - 2 tender preparation stage
  - 1 awaiting closing of contract to purchase.
  - 3 identified for CPO/Acquisition

## **Choice Based Letting**

Wexford County Council has recently introduced Choice Based Letting (CBL) & there has been huge interest. To date, 7 properties have been advertised on the CBL website. 352 is the least number of viewings on a property & 1,298 is the most. 17 is the least number of expressions of interest in a property & 90 is the most.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER PROGRAMME**

*LEADER FINANCE – 01/07/2023 – 30/08/2023*

The Article 48 team processed LEADER claims in 6 LEADER claims in July & August.

The value of these claims was **€144,842.24** which will support 3 community groups and 3 enterprises throughout County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment
1. Trudie's Catering Kitchen Ltd.	€28,011.73
2. Riverchapel Community Complex Ltd	€15,156.00
3. Purple and Gold Limited	€13,500.00
4. Marshalstown Community Centre	€10,878.85
5. Ryans Bakery Wexford Ltd	€67,479.59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€135,026.17</b>

Payment Processed	Processed Total
1. Kilanerin Vision 2030	€9,816.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€144,842.24</b>

## **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING –**

*County Wexford Joint Policing Committee*

The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 11th of September 2023.



## **LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING –**

A hybrid meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee was held on the 26th of July 2023.

The aim of this meeting to discuss the Mid-Year Review of the SICAP for 2023, including items.

- *2023 Pobal Mid-Year High Level Review Feedback*
- *Action Progress Report Final mid term*
- *Individual Caseload by Target Group Mid Term 23 Final.*
- *Lot Summary Report Mid Term 23 Final*



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

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

A tender competition has been prepared and published on the eTenders public procurement portal inviting tenders from suitably qualified and experienced consultants to deliver SICAP services in 2024-2028.

An RFT was published on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July with the closing date for applications, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **LOCAL ACTION GROUP MEETING -**

A hybrid meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group was held on the 26th of July 2023.



The primary focus of the meeting to discuss/approve critical operational requirements to ensure the continued efficient delivery of the programme.

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

## **WEXFORD LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)**

As in line with the approved guidelines, members of the LECP Project Team in conjunction with appointed project consultant KPMG Future Analytics continued the development of the 2023 – 2028 Plan. Having Completed all statutory initial phases, we are now moving to Stage 3 'Develop Objectives and Outcomes'



This stage includes the development of sustainable objectives and actions of the Plan. The objectives and actions are being developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and include the identification of lead owners and supporting agencies/groups for each action. Specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are also being identified and an approach for monitoring and evaluation of progress on implementation.

Consultation events for the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan took place throughout July across the county with the project team engaging with all municipal district members and an online public consultation event also taking place.

## **BURIAL GROUNDS –**



The Community Development Section continue to manage a number of Burial Grounds across County Wexford, including remedial and infrastructural works where necessary. This includes the installation of new pathways at Ballymurn burial ground during the month of August.

## **PRIDE OF PLACE –**

Judging for the 2023 Pride of Place competition took place in July. Pride of Place is an all-island competition that recognises improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is about people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. Enniscorthy Community Allotments project and Clongeen Community Hall were nominated for the competition for County Wexford this year.



*Clongeen Community Development Group members with Cathaoirleach of Rosslare Municipal District, Jim Moore, Councillor Jim Codd, Cllr Frank Staples, District Director Annette O'Neill and Pride Of Place adjudication team.*





*Pride of Place Judge Mr. Declan Nelson, Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District, John O'Rourke and Pride of Place Judge Martina Moloney.*



*Councillor Aidan Browne, A/Senior Staff Officer Tara Farrell, Pride of Place judge Ms. Martina Moloney, Founding Member and Chairperson of ECA Michael Devereux and Pride of Place judge Mr. Declan Nelson at the Enniscorthy Allotments.*

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

### **Taghmon Camross Parish Community Car Pilot Project launch**

A new Community Car for the parish of Taghmon Camross was officially launched by Cathaoirleach of Rosslare Municipal District, Cllr. Jim Moore on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at the Taghmon Action Group building, Taghmon.

Enda Newport from main sponsors, Bolands of Wexford Town was in attendance and despite the poor weather many members of the local community turned out in.

The project which is open to people living in the parish of Taghmon Camross will get underway shortly and it is aimed primarily at people who no longer are able to drive or those who have no access to transport in their homes.

The project received 100% funding from the Department of Health's Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme which is managed locally by Wexford County Council. It is hoped that people can start making bookings in September onwards. Bookings can be made via a phone number which will be advertised shortly. Full details are available from the project team.





## **Volunteers training for Taghmon Camross Community Car 20th July 2023**

### **AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD -**

In July, we saw the appointment of Ms. Niamh Bolger as the new Age Friendly Programme Manager for County Wexford. Niamh has commenced the new role attending a number of meetings of the Older Persons Council in July and August 2023.



Wexford will host the National Age Friendly Awards in Whites Hotel on the 30th of November. The Programme Manager, along with an Older Persons Council Member and the Chair of the Wexford Town Branch of Active Retirement completed an audit of Wexford library to assist them in achieving Age Friendly Recognition and status.

Funding has also been secured from Healthy Wexford to provide free Social Dancing Lessons and refreshments for 5 weeks. These will be held in Community Centers in St Joseph's Wexford town, Campile, New Ross, Kilmuckridge Gorey, Galbally, Enniscorthy and Tomhaggard Rosslare.

## HEALTHY WEXFORD -



### Healthy Ireland Round Four Funding

Having signed SLAs with some project partners work commences on the Round 4 funded activity which will focus on the following two Healthy Ireland Outcome areas:

- Decrease in unconditional probability of dying (aged 30-70) from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease.
- Increase in % of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines.

Remaining SLAs will be completed in quarter four.

Projects approved for funding from Pobal include:

- New Ross Community Activity Hub – Access For All
- Age Friendly Wexford – Lets Get Moving
- Social Farming Placements for People with Disabilities
- Resilient Communities Community Supports
- Healthy Home Environments Community Project
- Women's Health Through the Ages

### Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

An extension from the 'Happy to Chat' Bench initiative, which has 11 benches spread across the County, the **'Happy to Chat' Cafes** is a new pilot initiative to increase social engagement & reduce loneliness and isolation in our county.

The initiative was initially proposed as a Wexford Town Pilot, but due to demand it was extended to the whole county. Over 25 pilot cafes, based in hotels, restaurants and cafes identify one of their tables as a 'Happy to Chat' table, identified by a small table sign in the distinctive Healthy Ireland green colour. People are asked to consider sitting there alone or with a friend, highlighting that that you are open to others joining you. The project will be reviewed following the pilot.



Expression of Interest were sought from community groups to run **'Meet Your Neighbour'** type events in Q4 2023, following the successful pilots in Tomhaggard and Courtnacuddy. Work is underway with seven community groups for events from September to December.





Our 'Not Around Us' team once again took a stand at the Bannow & Rathangan Show to highlight the campaign and engage with communities and individuals. An engaging quiz, colouring competition and temporary tattoo resulted in a busy stand for those who ran it on the day from Healthy Wexford, Comhairle nan Og and FDYS

Embedding the Not Around Us Supporting Event requirements in the Local Authority events system has completed and sections have been advised of the requirement. More events, which include children or young people, held on Local Authority property or supported by the Local Authority will now become 'Not Around Us' Supporting Events providing smoke and vape free spaces for the children and young people attending.

The **Period Dignity** project continues with free products for those that need them provided at 11 locations across the county via libraries county hall and Family Resource Centres.

Mid-year department reporting was provided in July and the project remains funded by Department of Health in 2023.



## CELTIC ROUTES –

The Project Officer has closed down and handed over the Project as the Ireland Wales Co-Operation came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. Information and project resources will continue -



- The [website](#) is still live and being updated on a regular basis for a period of 4 years.
- The “[Our Celtic Routes](#)” TV series is available on both the S4C player and the BBC iPlayer.
- The [Asset Library](#) is still available.
- Our [YouTube](#) channel has a wide selection of stories and promotional videos available including Partner specific video content.
- All our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) Social Media channels will be refreshed and “live” until the end of 2023.
- [Orchard](#) are in the process of printing a coffee table book for distribution. There will be 20 copies per Partner.
- Suite of 3 [Pooka Chase](#) comics were produced for the 3 Irish partners. 3 sets of 10,000 were printed and distributed to all the schools in the Irish partner areas.

The Project Officer would like to take the opportunity to thank colleagues in Waterford City & County Council, Wicklow County Council and Wexford County Council and the elected representatives of the three Local Authorities in Ireland for their support over the course of the Project.

## **COUNTY WEXFORD PPN –**

### **PPN Updates**

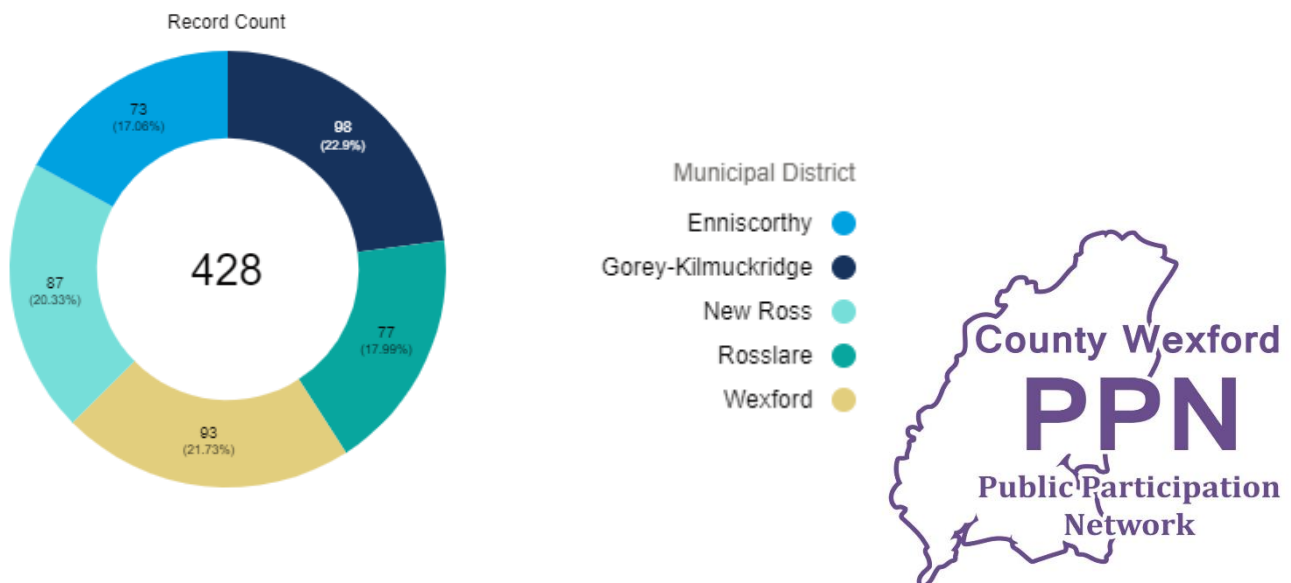
The PPN website is currently being re-designed, and work will be complete end of October 2023. The design of the Strategic Plan is also underway, with a launch expected in November 2023. The next secretariat meeting is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> September.

PPN Reps training is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This training consists of a workshop presented by Brian Harvey. Brian is an independent social researcher, working in social policy analysis, research, evaluation, and strategic planning. His main fields of work are poverty, social inclusion, community development, equality, human rights, European integration, and the world of non-governmental organisations.

Training for member groups (based off training needs analysis) will commence Q4 2023. Funding and Information bulletins continue to be sent out regularly.

### **Current Groups**

Currently, there are 428 registered groups within the PPN.



## **ANCIENT CONNECTIONS -**

### **Meetings:**

Various project close meetings were held in this period, including a Stakeholder and Ancient Connections Board 'Lessons Learned' exercise, which was recorded as part of the project's Monitoring and Evaluation process, by Wavehill & Assocs.

### **Events:**

- A very successful Festival of Ferns was held on the June Bank Holiday weekend: a two day festival, concert event and fringe pub music festival, as the final large outdoor event for Wexford, with an estimated 2,500 attendees.
- Traditional Skills training and workshops in Ferns, by Carrig Conservation, attended by 120no.
- Irish Archaeological Field School archaeological dig, attended by 25no. American students and the St. Aidan's Monastery Family Fun Day, attended by local school children
- Online Creative Camino Documentary Film screening and Q&A



**Enterprise & Innovation:**

SLR Consulting continued to provide training, mentoring and support to the Ferns community, to achieve well formulated business plans for enterprises involved, providing a road map and support in business development as the enterprises move forward. The Ferns Medieval Experience has now matured to become an excellent example of a community-run heritage attraction. During this reporting period they have completed the series of heritage-themed lectures, had a new mural painted on the Ferns Boxing Club, had a new coat of paint on the community centre façade, installed signage above the main entrance and soon to have a Digital Information Kiosk, to attract visitors and local community to the social enterprise.

**Destination Marketing:**

Ferns and the [Wexford Pembrokeshire Pilgrim Way](#) route place branding leaflet is currently being designed and printed, to promote the route in Wexford, to raise the profile of its benefits to the local tourism industry and for overseas visitors who have travelled to Wexford. Travel Writer. Dutch writer and journalist Francine Postma was commissioned to walk the route and write about it. She did this over 9 days in late May 2023. She has completed an article in Dutch which will be printed in the Dutch walking magazine 'Wandel' in early Spring 2024 and translated to English, for use across trade magazines.

**Volunteer Hours:**

In Claim 9 there were **4,319** volunteer hours at various hourly rates, contributing **€64,164.00** benefit in kind. Over the course of the entire project, Ancient Connections has generated **14,394** volunteer hours, equating to **€186,451** in-kind support.

**Project Close:**

For the remaining 4 weeks of the project, we have been working on storage and archiving our digital assets as well as editing the Ancient Connections website to act as a public facing archive for the project. The joint partners have committed to funding the website's maintenance fees for 3 years post-project.

The Wexford Project Officer has started the process of handing over and closing off the Project as the Ireland Wales Co-Operation funding and employment contract have come to an end. Final Financial claims, Management Verification Tests and relevant Audits will be completed by Pembrokeshire County Council, in conjunction with the Finance Team at Enniscorthy Municipal District.

The Project Officer would like to take the opportunity to thank colleagues in Wexford County Council, Visit Wexford, Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park for their support and engagement with the Project.

The Project Officer would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Elected Representatives of Wexford County Council, Enniscorthy Municipal District, the various Officers and WCC Departments for their support over the course of the Project.



## **SPORTS ACTIVE WEXFORD –**

### **Range of Summer programmes delivered;**

- **“Swimmin Women”** Women in sport in partnership with Swim Ireland -every Wednesday in Bunclody Outdoor Pool. There were 13 women registered for the 8-week programme.
- **Swim For a Mile** In partnership with Swim Ireland -Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool on Wednesday evenings aimed at men and women to increase their swimming ability over 12 week programme.
- **Yoga Summer Series** In partnership with New Ross Library and Women in Sport, this four-week programme had 10 female participants.



### **Her Outdoors Week**

HER Outdoors Week took place from the 14th to 20th of August. During this week we organised events for women that took place in the outdoors;

Women's Inclusive Try-Out (activities included GAA, FAI, Cricket Leinster, Boxing, Exercise to Music, Golf Ireland and Chair Yoga): 42 ladies with disabilities attended.

Trek along Forth Mountain (ladies from Access 2000, Women's Collective Wexford and Wexford Local Development attended): 12 ladies

Outdoor Beach Yoga in Curracloe; 21 ladies

Children's Inclusive Kayak: 12 children, 10 girls

Kayaking at the Hook: 16 ladies

Orienteering at Carrigfoyle: 70 attendees, 46 females

Yoga in New Ross Library: 8 ladies

Swimmin Women in Bunclody: 1 lady

Mountain Biking in Carrigfoyle: 11 ladies

Teenage Girl Kayak in Bunclody: 12 girls

Cycle on Southeast Greenway: 16 ladies

Archery in Rathnure: 13 ladies

Swim for a Mile Final Event: 20 ladies

Peddle & Paddle in Carrigfoyle: 5 ladies

Balance Bike Buddies (rescheduled to Saturday 26th August)

Cycle for 5 to 12 yrs: (rescheduled to Saturday 26th August)

Mothers and Daughters Cycle: (rescheduled to Saturday 26th August)



See highlight video here: <https://fb.watch/mD83T6XwS2/>

SAW supported the following summer activities;

- Rosslare Summer Fest
- Ramsgrange Family Resource Centre Summer Camps
- Schools Completion Summer Camp
- Carraig Ban, Bunclody Community Fun Day (in conjunction with WLD)
- Dream Big Project, Fun in the Sun Taster New Ross
- Inclusive Fitness Camp (HSE)
- Couch to 5km (in partnership with DMP and WLD)

- Traveller Pride Kayak (one day event with WLD)
- Social Soccer (A 6-week Social Soccer programme continues in Courtown Direct Provision as part of Men's Health Week)
- Fearach Cnoic, Enniscorthy Community Fun Day

## Fun In The Sun

Fun In the Sun took place in August, with a total of 694 children, including children from the Traveller community, Ukrainian community and 16 children with disabilities attended over the 7 days.

The venues are based on designated disadvantaged areas.

1st of August Enniscorthy: 107 Children (65 boys & 42 girls)

2nd of August Riverchapel: 83 Children (46 boys & 37 girls)

3rd of August New Ross: 112 Children (59 boys & 53 girls)

4th of August Duncannon: 97 Children (54 boys & 43 girls).

10th of August Bunclody: 92 Children (55 boys & 37 girls)

11th of August Wexford: 105 Children (44 boys & 61 girls)

12th of August Rosslare: 98 Children (51 boys & 47 girls)

The activities included the GAA, FAI, Leinster Rugby, Cricket Leinster, Boxercise, Yoga and exercise to music and local tutors to organise these sports fun days.



See highlight video at <https://fb.watch/mBE3hoDeD2/>

## Safeguarding

11 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 171 participants.

3 x Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 27 participants.

## PAP report

We have had 65 applications for our Physical Activity Promotion Grant with a total of €39,000 approved for Wexford clubs and organisations.

### Information Evenings

Two information evenings were held regarding the application process for the Sports Capital and Equipment scheme (2023) as deadlines for application close on 8th September. These were held in collaboration with Sports Active Wexford, Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal district, Rosslare Municipal district, and Dr Yvonne Byrne. 24 groups attended.

# ENVIRONMENT

## A. COASTAL MATTERS

### Harbours -

In April 2022, Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) announced funding of 23 projects with a total construction cost of €1.4m in Co. Wexford under a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved a second tranche of funding in December 2022, with a total between first and second tranches of 25 projects with total construction cost of €1.79m. The DAFM funding has increased from 85% to 95%, with Wexford County Council paying the 5% match funding on construction. Note that WCC must pay all non-construction costs including design, environmental reports etc.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Consulting engineers are appointed to progress the detailed design. A planning application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála, a decision date of 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 was published on their website; however following correspondence from ABP this decision date is likely to extend by a number of weeks.

**Ports Past and Present:** This 4 year project started in 2019 and officially ended on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. A presentation to members on the achievements and legacy of the project was given to Rosslare MD in July.

Regular updates and further information are available at <https://portspastpresent.eu/>

### Operations -

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

### Beaches –

Bathing water: weekly bathing water samples are ongoing with water quality results published on beaches.ie website. To date there have been 6 water quality incidents – at Courtown (2 no.), Carne, Baginbun, Duncannon and St. Helens. These incidents were followed up with investigations and discussions with HSE.

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

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works. Works on the accessible toilet are now complete and toilets are open. Design and tender works for the access path are ongoing, with the works expected to go to tender in Sept 2023.

## Coast -

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

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

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

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

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

Seaview, Kilmore: Preplanning application was submitted to Wexford CC Planning Dept in August 2023, with application for full planning permission to follow. Further correspondence was issued to OPW in order to progress the funding of the scheme.

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

## B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Public Conveniences	Open	Comments
Slade	All Year	
Dunncannon	All Year	
Cullenstown	All Year	Painted June 2023
Kilmore	All Year	
Carne	All Year	Painted June 2023
Bunclody	All Year	
Rosslare Strand	All Year	
Ballyconniger	Seasonal	
Ballineskeer	All Year	New Beach Wheelchair shed now installed.
Curraclloe	All Year	New Adman steel shed installed for beach wheelchair
Min Ryan Park	All Year	Recently Painted – June 2023
Vinegar Hill - Dryloo	All Year	
Carrigfoyle	All Year	Anti-Vandal Steel Container delivered 18 <sup>th</sup> October
Morriscastle	75% of Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	Universal Access Toilet (UAT) to open Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July, External shower installed, completion works include concrete pad for beach wheelchair shed

Baginbun – Portaloo's	All Year	Percolation Test carried out 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Cahore – Portaloo's /Dryloo's	All Year	Portasloo's now re-located beside bottle bank. Quotation received from 2 Dryloo's to be installed beside bottle bank area, Works planned for 01 <sup>st</sup> September.
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

Cahore to receive 2 Dryloo's similar to what was installed in Vinegar Hill last year. Dryloo's have now been ordered and are due for delivery 01<sup>st</sup> September. These are to replace the temporary portaloo's.

## C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

### 1. Water Framework Directive:

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

### 2. Water Sampling:

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

### 3. Septic Tank Inspections:

A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2023. 67 inspections have taken place up to the end June with 37 passes and 30 fails. 21 further inspections have been pre booked for July 2023.

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

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2023
2019	156	48	108	12	2
2020	111	38	73	6	4
2021	91	24	67	17	9
2022	139	50	89	21	20
2023	67	37	30	20	10

There are currently 15 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 7 of these are for hearing and 8 are currently for mention.

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



#### 4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 92 active Discharge Licences. Four new applications have been received in 2023 to date. Three applications were received in 2022, two of which are under review and one was formally granted in March 2023. Six discharge licences have been revoked in 2023 at present and a few more are under review.

#### 5. Air Quality:

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

**Vehicle Refinishers:** At end of 2022, 59 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is now the largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues “On the Spot Fines” of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below. The additional facilities were identified on foot of targeted enforcement action in 2022.

**Dry Cleaners:** At end of 2022, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below. Due to targeted enforcement action in Q3/Q4 of 2022, a new category of facility is due to be added to this register in Q2 of 2023.

**Petrol Stations:** At end of 2022, 80 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

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

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. Issued in 2023 (to end May)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	15	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	9	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	N/A

#### 6. Agriculture:

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

A total of 95 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed.

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

## 7. Planning

The Environment Section makes an assessment and recommendations on planning applications relating to the environmental aspects of the application.

The main issues regarding the impact of planning on the environment which have arisen in recent years are as follows:

- 1) Density of housing.
- 2) Applications for extensions and upgrades of existing houses on sites where the soil is unsuitable for discharge of wastewater via a domestic wastewater treatment system.
- 3) Applications for detached granny flats and other detached ancillary accommodation.

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, 509 files were referred to Environment from the Planning Department.

### Q1. Breakdown of planning applications referred from Planning January-March 2023

Single dwellings	Commercial	Discharge/ glamping	Housing estates	Schools	Solar Farms	Sports	Agricultural	Compliance assessments
145	21	2	9	9	3	3	17	39

## D.WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 1. New Recycling Items

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

## 2. Recycling Services:

### Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites July 2023	Recycling out (End July) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End July) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles		2226	2142
Aluminium Cans		56	54
Total	108	2282	2196

### Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- Jul 2022	Recycling out Jan - Jul 2023	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2022	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2023
Total Recycling out	354	358	384	383	503	528	303	287
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1432	1894	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Jul	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	69	73	111	115	141	160	69	81

## 3. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end July 2022	July 2023	To end July 2023	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	1,739	183	1,385	-20%
Gorey *		72		
Enniscorthy *		54		
Wexford *		23		
New Ross*		16		
Rosslare		18		

<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>5,240</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>+15.8%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>200</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>197</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>237</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>124</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>62</i>		
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>10,158</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>10,153</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>510</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>1047</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>+60.7%</b>
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>144</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>219</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>217</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>200</i>		
<i>Rosslare</i>		<i>88</i>		

Other Works are as follows.

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

#### 4. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have sufficient permitted facilities throughout the county, such as Clean Soil and Stone, construction and demolition sites, ATF's / End of Life Vehicles and 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 67 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County. There is 1 renewal application being processed at present.

#### 5. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as submitted to the EPA on 28 February 2023. The 2023 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,597 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. The inspection types

cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, Mercury etc.

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

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

## E. LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-JULY 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	139
Fines Paid in Full●	111	46
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	36
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	19
Legal Proceedings In Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	53
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€6123 litter / €3,375.00 Waste – total €9498
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€4,400

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

### May 2023:

In Gorey District Court the judge awarded €500 of a fine and €250 contribution towards Legal costs to Wexford County Council for a litter case. Three parties prior to court complied with agreements made to pay their fines, Legal costs or to provide proofs before hearing and were therefore struck from the hearing list in May 2023.

### June 2023:

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

### July 2023:

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



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

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

### **Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2023(July)**

	<b>Fines Issued</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>2023 (to date)</b>	139	20	1428
<b>2022</b>	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
<b>2021</b>	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
<b>2020</b>	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
<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

## F. CLIMATE ACTION

Preparation work on the development on the Local Authority Climate Action plan continues. The plan is required under the “The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021”, and will include both mitigation and adaptation measures. Minister Eamon Ryan requested Wexford County Council to commence its Climate Action plan on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with 12 months to prepare, complete and fully adopt the plan.

The Plan will set an ambitious target of 50% energy efficiency by 2030 and an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51%. Wexford County Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing, facilitating and advocating others to meet their own targets.

A significant element of the Climate Action Plan is to encourage the public and various stakeholder groups to contribute to the preparation of the plan. A stakeholder engagement event was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June at Wexford County Council Headquarters and covered the themes of Agriculture, Biodiversity and Food, Transport and Energy.

All the presentations are uploaded to the website and have been circulated to all those who signed up via Eventbrite.

[Wexford County Council Climate Action Event | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](#)

Two pre-draft submissions were received from the online portal and 159 surveys were completed following the Climate Action Event.

### Community Climate Action Programme

A Community Climate Action Officer has been appointed to the Climate Action Team, with responsibility for the rollout of the Community Climate Action Programme. The programme funding scheme is due to open shortly to support and build low carbon communities across County Wexford. The fund is open to not-for-profit community groups and clubs.

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

An information evening will be held in each district to explain how the fund can work for communities and provide guidance on how to prepare an application:

- Our Lady’s Island Community Centre - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm
- Gorey Library – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm
- County Hall, Carricklawn – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 7.00pm
- New Ross Library – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm
- Enniscorthy Library – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm

To book a place at one of the above information evenings or for further information, please contact

Clinton Donovan, Community Climate Action Officer at 053-919 6443 or email [climateaction@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:climateaction@wexfordcoco.ie)

Further information on the scheme will be issued to Elected Members in the coming days.

## G. GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – July 2023
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>3896</b>	<b>2699</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>4628</b>	<b>4826</b>	<b>4972</b>	<b>3383</b>	<b>2147</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>80%</b>

### Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

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

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

To date in 2023 two horses has been seized.

## Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Green Schools:** 32 schools were awarded their green flag at an Awards Ceremony in Kilkenny on May 10<sup>th</sup>. St Edan's NS, Ferns, New Ross Educate Together National School and Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy received their first Green Flag on the Litter & Waste theme. This year 3 schools were awarded on the Water flag; 7 schools on Travel; 8 schools on Biodiversity; 4 schools on Global Citizenship Litter & Waste; 3 schools on Global Citizenship Energy, 3 schools on Global Citizenship Marine Environment and 1 school on Global Citizenship Travel. Great work has been completed by all the schools.



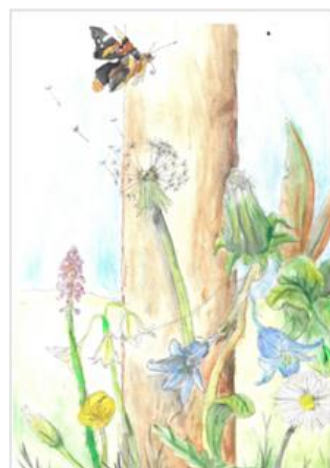
**Climate Action School Workshops:** 5 secondary schools participated in the Rubbish Film Festival as a pilot and due to its success we will continue in September with another 5-6 secondary schools. Each school creates a short 1 minute film and a poster on an environmental issue of their choice. 5 secondary schools participated this year and a County Award of Best Film, Best Runner Up Film and Best Poster was chosen. The County winners were announced on April 18<sup>th</sup> online. Colaiste an Atha received Best Film Award for their film 'You Can't Run and Selskar College win Best Runner Up Film for their film 'Would You Like it'. Gorey Community School received the award for Best Poster. The County winners were forwarded to the National Awards which were held on the 3rd May in Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co Meath.

**Linte Na Farraige Workshop:** A Linte na Farraige (Lines of the Sea Project) workshop was held with students from Presentation Secondary School. The workshop was facilitated by the Caro (Climate Action Regional Office) and Trinity researchers and is based around a game idapt.

**Annual Artwork Competition:** The awards for the annual artwork competition took place on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The artwork competition is an initiative run by the Environment Section of Wexford County Council in conjunction with Wexford Naturalists' Field Club. The theme of this year's competition was 'Wildflowers.' Councillor George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council, presented prizes to 40 school children representing both primary and secondary schools.




Overall Secondary School Winner  
Mikolaj Perek,  
Colaiste an Átha, Kilmuckridge

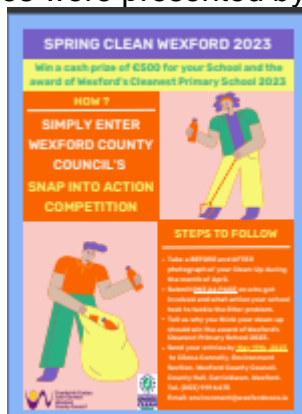


Overall Primary School Winner  
Conan Kelly  
Wexford Educate Together NS

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

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/06/23 – 30/06/23	79
	01/01/23 – 30/06/23	645

**Snap Into Action Competition:** Closing date for the Snap Into Action Competitions was May 19<sup>th</sup>. Prizes were presented by Cathaoirleach George Lawlor on May 25<sup>th</sup> in the County Hall.



This competition encourages people from all walks of life to take action against litter.

Kilmyshall National School received first prize in the Snap Into Action School Competition and received a prize for €500.

Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group were the winners in the Snap Into Action Community Group Competition and received a prize of €500. Enniscorthy Community Allotments, Enniscorthy Tidy Towns and Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns were presented with runner up award of €250.

**Community Engagement:** A family drop-in session on Waste Prevention, household recycling and waste segregation took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May in Enniscorthy Library from 10.30 – 11.30 am.



**Heritage Stewardship Fund:** Application was submitted for a baseline hedgerow survey of Co. Wexford to the Heritage Council under the Heritage Stewardship Fund. Our application was successful with an award of €27,675. Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants were awarded the contract and a team of ecologist started surveying in early June.

**National Food Waste Recycling Week:** Now in its second year, the National Food Waste Recycling Week ran from the 5th until the 11th June 2023. The aim of this year's campaign was to raise awareness that food waste needs to be fully separated from all packaging such as plastic or other containers to prevent contamination at the compost and anaerobic digestion facilities leading to higher quality recycling.

Events were held at the four Household Recycling Centres and an information stand at the Climate Action Event in County Hall on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Wednesday 7th June - Gorey Household Recycling Centre
- Thursday 8th June - Enniscorthy Household Recycling Centre
- Friday 9th June - Holmestown Household Recycling Centre
- Saturday 10th June - New Ross Recycling centre, Hewittsland



At the above events, we had engagement with a number of Tidy Towns groups and food waste caddies were distributed, each with a starter pack of caddy liners and an information leaflet.

**Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign:** The 'Bag It Bin It' will be reinforced by a social media campaign to run from early March. The campaign 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 and local community groups and Tidy Towns groups will be asked to share images on social media.





**Green Dog Walker:** The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website.

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

### Community and Culture

#### The Art of Reading Book Club 2023

Gorey Library in association with The Art of Reading Book Club 2023, The Arts Council and Wexford County Council held a special in-conversation event with Colm Tóibín, Laureate for Irish Fiction and Joseph O'Connor, author of *My Father's House*. This was a ticketed event and was fully booked. It was filmed by The Arts Council for a special podcast and segments were also filmed by the production team from RTE's *The Works* programme.

#### Author Visit

On Saturday 12th August Donal Ryan read from his most recent novel 'The Queen of Dirt Island' in Wexford Branch. Donal discussed his writing and literature followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

#### Public Consultation

The Public Consultation Strategy for the Wexford Town Local Area Plan was discussed in Wexford Library in July. The public were invited to make written submissions and observations on the new plan between this date and 4:00pm on Tuesday, 8th August 2023.

#### Blacktown City Delegation Visit

Blacktown City Delegation Visit and tour of Wexford Library took place in August. The proposed partnership with Wexford County will enhance cross-cultural understanding and help build vibrant and connected communities, generating mutual benefits.

#### South East Technological University Pop UP Stand

The South East Technological University provided a Pop UP Stand in Wexford Library with information on their full and part time courses for the coming academic year 2023-2024 on Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Into Europe Exhibition

Into Europe is an exhibition commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and produced by the Royal Irish Academy as part of the ongoing Documents in Foreign Policy series (led by Dr Michael Kennedy). It focuses on various aspects of Ireland's relationship with the European Union over the past 50 years. The exhibition was displayed in Wexford Branch over July and August.

**Ireland in Transformation:** A lecture with Gerard Arthurs, lecturer in International Relations & Politics with South East Technological University, discussed Ireland's 50 years of EU membership and how that has coincided with the radical transformation of our country.

**Community Fun Day:** Enniscorthy Library staff were invited by Oaklee Housing, Wexford Local Development and the residents of Fearach Cnoic Estate to join them for their Community Fun Day in August. This was a great opportunity to meet the residents and tell them about the library services available to them.

### **Heritage Week 12<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August**

Events for Heritage Week in Wexford Libraries were varied included a Hedgehog Adventures Art Workshop and information on Borris Lene - Past, Present and Future. Representatives from Wexford Walking Trails presented an overview of Sport Ireland accredited walking trails throughout County Wexford. A talk on Rails Through County Wexford and Hacketown - The History of Ballyhack also took place.

## **Decade of Centenaries**

### **The End of the Civil War and the 1923 Election in County Wexford**

This talk with Historian in Residence Barry Lacey discussed the end of the Irish Civil War in County Wexford and the election which took place afterwards in August of 1923, the first election since the foundation of the Irish Free State.

## **Learning and Information**

### **Work Matters at Your Library**

**Interview Preparation with Alan Maher:** In Bunclody Library Alan Maher from Maher Consulting shared his tips and views on how to present the best and most authentic version of yourself at a job interview.

### **Environment**

Talks during July and August in Wexford libraries included a talk from Swift Conservation Ireland, the Flora of Old Graveyards in Co. Wexford and An Introduction into The World of Bats delivered by New Ross Wexford Bat Group. New Ross Library also presented Finding Medicine and Magic in Your Garden with Feebee Foran.

### **Home Energy Kit.**

The Home Energy Saving Kit and Digital Radon Monitors are available to borrow for two weeks with library membership card.

### **Health and Well Being**

New Ross Library, in association with Sports Active Wexford, hosted a 4-week series of Yoga classes for adults in New Ross Library Park. Activator Poles continue to be borrowed from libraries across the county.

### **Age Friendly**

Wexford town library had an Age Friendly walkability audit as part of their Age Friendly recognition process. Wexford Library staff along with members of Wexford older person's council, Wexford Active Retirement Association, Wexford County Council Age Friendly programme manager attended the walkability audit. Feedback was very positive.

**Movies Memories:** part of Gorey Library's official Age Friendly Event programming continued in July and August.

### **IT Literacy**

The Digital/IT Help Hub, a stand-alone pop-up service point in Wexford Branch with two tutors from WWETB, invited all adults who have questions on how to make best use of their device to drop into them on 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

### **Services to Ukrainian Nationals**

Any News Adult Conversation Group continued throughout the summer with themed conversations for adults who want to improve English language.

### **Local History**

A total number of 45 local history requests and 47 genealogy enquiries were completed and responded to in Wexford Branch in July and August.

## **Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library**

### **Summer Stars Reading Adventure**

Summer Stars 2023 continued throughout the summer. Summer Stars is an important summer library initiative which encourages children to keep reading to maintain and improve their reading skills while on their summer break from school. Children receive a reading card and can collect incentives such as bookmarks, pencils and medals for reading books throughout the summer months. Every child taking part receives a Summer Stars certificate of achievement at the end of the reading adventure.

Libraries across the county held many well attended events to celebrate Summer Stars and reading. All usual children's events, story time, rhyme time and Lego Freeplay continued over the months of July and August. Harry Potter's birthday on July 31<sup>st</sup> was also celebrated in library branches.

### **My Little Library Bag**

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. The My Little Library School Starter Book Bags are available for collection in the library. Each child receives a library card wallet and families are encouraged to join the library if not already members. Library staff talk through the bags with the families, introducing the three picture books and resources in every bag and inform families about the services and resources available for free in libraries. Families continued to collect their My Little Library Bag throughout the summer months.

### **DEIS/Summer Provision School Visits**

Libraries were delighted to welcome visits from National School Summer Provision and DEIS Summer Camps throughout July and August for library tours, Lego Freeplay and story time.

## ARCHIVES

### Collections Management

In addition to 63 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 19 researchers visited the Archive over July and August. Research topics included a study of Clonmines and Tintern through extant rentals and maps (1700s-1880); death notices and obituaries through issues of the *Wexford Journal* (1814-20); publicity material on the National Opera House, Wexford (2005-20); advice on the preservation and conservation of a small family autograph book from the early 1900s; plans and drawings of the Adoration Convent, Wexford (1966); maps relating to the Portsmouth estate in Enniscorthy (1750-1900); six enquiries relating to historical adoptions in County Wexford (1893-1950).

### Acquisition

A series of historic charts of approaches to Wexford harbour were deposited in the Archive in late July. Dated 1882 and 1894, they complement an existing chart of the harbour dated 1845 which is housed in the Archive.

### Outreach

The Archive loaned a selection of objects and documents to Enniscorthy Castle in July for a new exhibition on pre-electrification entitled 'Power to the people – how electricity changed the world'. Items featured in the exhibition from the Archive's holdings include an enamel water carrier for household use; a domestic smoothing iron; a portable paraffin lamp; and copies of promotional materials from an anti-nuclear power show that took place at Carnsore Point, Wexford in August 1979. The exhibition will run from July to October 2023.

As part of the Comóradh 225 commemorations across County Wexford, the Archivist participated in an afternoon series of 1798 talks in McCall's Community Centre, Rathangan on 12 August which was organised by Rathangan/Cleariestown Heritage Group. An illustrated talk on holdings in the county archive of 1798 relevance was given to the public gathering. Many of the artefacts were showcased for the first time and will form part of a newly revamped exhibition in the National 1798 Rebellion Centre, Enniscorthy next year.

Crossabeg parish church liaised with the Archive to host a display centred around a replica carving of St Maelruain on 12 and 13 August. Maelruain was Bishop of Tallaght (Dublin) who died in 792.

## ARTS

### Reimagining Enniscorthy Exhibition

Reimagining Enniscorthy is public art and community decarbonisation project, that took place in 2022-23 throughout Enniscorthy town facilitated by artist Elaine Harrington. The Reimagining Enniscorthy exhibition ran in the Presentation Arts Centre from the 17<sup>th</sup> of June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. This project is funded through Creative Ireland and the Per Cent for art programme.

### 'Seedlings' Music Generation Youth Opera

A futuristic climate change opera based on environmental themes came to the National Opera House on Friday, July 14. Music Generation Wexford, in partnership with Wexford Festival Opera, presented Seedlings, a production developed as part of a series of collaborative workshops with young people from across the county. Seedlings was written and directed by Elizabeth Drwal and composed by Andrew Synnott. The project would not have been possible

without the support of Wexford Festival Opera, Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, The National Opera House and Wexford County Council.

### **Music Generation ‘Cool School of Rock’ Coolcoots**

Musician educators Peter McCamley, Louise Malone, Emily Jane Furlong and Justin Cullen from Frankenstein Bolts facilitated workshops from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August at Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts. The workshops were attended by young people aged between 10 and 18 years old. The workshops focused on learning new music and skills with instruments while also developing the skills needed to play in a band.

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

**GAP Arts Festival** – The GAP Arts Festival is a voluntary, non-profit, community and artist-led festival, located in the hills of North Wexford which took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of August in Ballythomas.

**2 Many Dance Moves** – Flow Youth Dance Festival took place in New Ross on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July. The festival provided opportunities to young people aged from 10 to 25, exposing them to dance as an artform. The festival also connected rural dance companies across the Southeast.

**New Ross Guitar Festival** – This exciting Guitar Festival took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of August and welcomed Irish and International guitarists of the highest calibre to New Ross to promote the various genres of guitar and inspiring a new generation to experience the benefits of pursuing a dynamic instrument.

**Fuddle Fest** – Fuddlefest took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August on the Millers farm in Killinick presenting a complete mix of styles from leading Irish and international musicians performing classical and contemporary music, to trad sessions and singer-songwriters, intertwined with sonic installations and topped off with rock music for dancing the night away.

**Wexford Arts Centre One Voice Festival** – a festival of short ten minute plays for one voice to be written and performed by local Wexford County resident writers and performers took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of August at Wexford Arts Centre.

### **Faite Ireland Festival Recipients 2023**

**Rockin Food & Fruit Festival** – the Rockin Food and Fruit Festival took place between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of August in Enniscorthy. The town saw Artisan Food stalls, Drink stalls, Crafts Market and free Live Outdoor music around the town.

**Duncannon Village Renewal Group** – Hooked on Folk included musicians from the New Ross District and south Wexford and beyond to come together to play in the pubs of Duncannon, Ramsgrange, Arthurstown and Ballyhack over the August Bank holiday weekend period.

**Leo Carthy Weekend** – The village of Our Lady’s Island hosted the Leo Carthy Festival over the August bank holiday weekend. The festival showcased many different types of musical genres, story-telling and art workshops.

**Bannow Folk & Traditional Society** – hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> Phil Murphy Weekend between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July in Carrig on Bannow. The village welcomed visitors from far and wide showcasing the culture of the area through workshops, concerts and singing gatherings.

### **Light & Shadow Exhibition – Streets**

The Arts Department is delighted to present an exhibition from Light and Shadow Art Studios in County Hall, showcasing work from children and young adults produced during workshops and classes at the studios under the guidance of artist Jonathan Murphy.

The exhibition will be in-situ at Wexford County Council from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August until Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of September and opening hours are Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm.

### **Creative Places Coordinator Enniscorthy**

Wexford Arts Centre in association with Wexford County Council Arts Office and a steering committee has been awarded a Creative Places Award from the Arts Council for a three-year developmental arts programme in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford from 2023 to 2026. The Creative Places Enniscorthy Project Coordinator was advertised in July and will be responsible for consulting with stakeholders and community representatives for the development, implementation and delivery of the Creative Places Enniscorthy programme.

## **CREATIVE IRELAND**

### **Creative Ireland - Open Call Arts awards 2023**

In early August, the Arts Department invited applications for creative awards funded under the Creative Ireland Programme for 2023.

These awards will provide support to cultural organisations and artists collectives to provide innovative arts programmes and events that foster cultural participation in communities throughout County Wexford.

Closing date for applications is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 4pm.

### **Creative Ireland – Eco Showboat**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, the Eco Showboat arrived on the Dunbrody Famine Ship for an evening of music, poetry and performance by Wexford artists Joe Brennan, Suzanne Walsh and Ben Mac Caoilte. The Eco Showboat Journey to the East is a five month arts expedition along the Shannon, Grand Canal and Barrow, aboard the Mayfly, flagship of the Eco Showboat project. Setting off from the town of Askeaton on the River Deel, just off the Shannon estuary in the last week of April, the boat will arrive in Dublin in early September before a final event in Howth on the Irish Sea. The Eco Showboat is an art project aimed at raising awareness of climate change, supported by the Arts Council, SFI Discover, Creative Ireland, Lawpro and Waterways Ireland.

### **Creative Ireland – The Lighthouse Project**

The Lighthouse Project is a collaborative artistic response to lighthouses around Ireland, curated by Dani Gill. Working with local artists Sasha Terfous and Richard Carr, and Basciville over July and August Gill has developed a site-specific project for Hook lighthouse involving sound and spoken word performance. RTE filmed a 3 minute promo of this event in Hook Lighthouse in August which will be broadcast in advance of Culture night. The new work will be performed for the first time on Culture Night, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, where audiences will follow a free guided soundscape experience into the lighthouse, culminating in a live performance by Sasha Terfous.

### **Creative Ireland – Nursing Home Music and Poetry Programme**

Wexford was awarded Creative Ireland Age Friendly funding to develop a workshop programme of music and poetry to four nursing homes in Wexford in 2023 over a 5 month period. The first of the 'Swing Song' workshops commenced in early August. Musician Melanie O'Reilly, two



members of her jazz band and poet and spoken word artist Stephen James Smith, collaborated by interweaving live swing jazz songs with poetry readings. The aim of the workshops is to entertain and develop conversations and social interaction with the audience. The workshops have commenced in Castlebridge Nursing Home, St John's Enniscorthy and Middleton House Gorey.

## FIRE SERVICES

### Wexford Fire Service Report July 2023

#### Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls July 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	0	49	51
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1/5 (6)	34	38
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	1	4
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	0	1
Flats (2) Privately Owned	2	6	2
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	2	0
School	0	3	0
Other Institution	0	1	2
Factory	0	2	2
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	1	9	3
Shop/Supermarket	0	1	1
Office	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	1
Restaurant	0	1	1
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	3	27	23
Unoccupied Building	1	1	6
Agriculture Business	0	5	3
Forest/Bog/Grass	2	38	61
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1	3	16
Outdoor Storage	1	5	1
Outdoor Rubbish	2	14	20
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	0	5	7
Gas/Chemicals	0	3	1
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	1	0

Miscellaneous	3	24	32
Other rescue	6	36	32
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	1	4	5
Road traffic accident	25	110	95
Water pumping/flooding	0	2	2

Incident Type	Calls July 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	31	172	139
Malicious	0	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>552</b>

### Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in July 2023:	10
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	97
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	77

## Finance:

### **Q2 Finance Report – to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The Q2 Finance Report has been circulated to members. There is a modest surplus reported for Q2 of €42,585, but this mid-year figure should be considered with a note of caution, especially in light of the ongoing pressures from inflation and increased energy costs. The financial position of the council continues to be monitored very closely to ensure, in as far as possible, there is no slippage back into a deficit position. Within the reported financial position to the end of June, there are a number of income accruals which include grant income in respect of storm damage and Government support in respect of exceptional inflation/energy costs.

### **Budget 2024**

Preliminary work has commenced on the preparation of the 2024 budget. There will be no decision required by members to vary the LPT rate for 2024.

Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, states that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022 provided updated requirements for local authorities who may wish to vary their local property tax rates for a specified period, in accordance with section 20 of the Act. At the Council meeting in September 2022 members approved the adoption of a Local Adjustment Factor to vary the LPT rate by + 15% for a period of 2 years i.e. 2023 and 2024.

Therefore, the next decision of the council in respect of a local adjustment factor for the Local Property Tax and the associated public consultation process will not need to be undertaken until August/September 2024 in advance of the 2025 Budget process.

The prescribed periods for the holding of the statutory budget Meeting and GMA Meetings in the districts have also been notified with the issue of Circular Fin 06/2023. A draft schedule of meetings has been included in the Update report for members for discussion and agreement at the September meeting.

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2023. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2024 will be reviewed in the coming weeks as a formal application will need to be submitted to members in October to secure council approval and ministerial sanction for any extension of the facility into 2024.

### **Audit**

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Local Government Auditor has formally commenced the Audit of Wexford County Council Accounts for 2022 on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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