



**Ceantar Bardasach  
Ros Láir  
Rosslare  
Municipal District**

*"For the Good of All"*

# **Strategic Plan 2024-2030**

**Achieving Our Full Potential Together**





## What does the Crest stand for?

**The Anchor** – represents the marine and coastal aspects of the District: Rosslare Harbour, Kilmore Quay, Carne, St Helen's, Cullenstown, Bannow

**The Celtic Cross** – represents Christianity and Pilgrimage: Our Lady's Island, Taghmon

**The Pikes** – represents the 1798 Rebellion: Forth Mountain, Saltee Islands

**The Norman Castle Tower House** – represents our Norman Heritage: The Bannow Landings, the Norman Way, Forth & Bargy, Yola



## VOR A GOOIDE O'AUL – “For the Good of All”

**Yola Language** – also known as the Forth & Bargy Dialect  
The southern baronies of Forth and Bargy in County Wexford retained the dialect known as Yola until the nineteenth century. Yola was the evolved dialect of the Anglo-Norman settlers who came to Wexford in the aftermath of the invasions of 1160 – 70. Yola meaning ‘old’ was a mixture of Middle English, French, Flemish and Irish.

Our Five Elected Members are, An Cathaoirleach Cllr Lisa McDonald, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Frank Staples, Cllr Ger Carthy, Cllr Jim Moore and Cllr Jim Codd.

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# Message from the Cathaoirleach of the Rosslare Municipal District (2022 - 2023)

Rosslare Municipal District, formed in 2019, is special in many ways as it is a rural agricultural district without a large urban centre and abounded by a stunning coastline. We, the members of Rosslare Municipal District see this as a real opportunity to utilise our unique assets and for the focus to be shared equally across the 23 Electoral Divisions and the 28 villages and settlements.

The global pandemic impacted on us all and meant that the establishment and development of our newly formed district was stymied. However, the pandemic is behind us now and it is very opportune to have a strategic plan that outlines a roadmap for the district to proactively meet the challenges head on and grow our district for future generations.

When I was elected as Cathaoirleach of Rosslare Municipal District in 2022 I set out my objectives for the year. This included the development of a focused and strategic plan for the district that would clearly: Identify and evidence local needs; Work with communities to highlight their priorities; and Establish positive initiatives and relevant programmes to strengthen and grow our communities, our settlements and our villages in a sustainable manner through working together collaboratively.

**We in the Rosslare Municipal District are committed to working together with our communities to achieve the following:**

- Proactively directing sustainable growth through a strategic led planned approach
- Forging and growing partnerships with key stakeholders to deliver innovative new initiatives of scale
- Finding new and collaborative ways to deliver relevant services where blockages exists
- Attracting EU, national and local funding schemes and programmes to successfully deliver change in the district
- Unlocking resources which are underutilised

**As elected members, we are striving to deliver innovative solutions to optimise:**

- Economic growth
- Housing for all
- A sustainable environment that charts a pathway to carbon neutrality by 2050 through tapping into climate change opportunities and delivering solutions
- Restoring, protecting and celebrating our natural, built and cultural heritage
- Innovative delivery of facilities and services within rural communities through capacity building and encouraging volunteerism
- Encouraging and motivate our youth to become the next generation of community leaders
- Maximising opportunities for tourism and recreation to create healthy lifestyles, positive well-being and new economic opportunities
- Public infrastructure that is accessible to all and safely connects people to their local facilities and services



# Message from the Chief Executive of Wexford County Council Tom Enright

I am delighted to support the development of this Strategic Plan for the Rosslare Municipal District and I commend the members for embarking on this initiative. The delivery of the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 is the overall framework for development of the county to guide, harmonise and facilitate development.

The Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan compliments this process by developing a road map for the district to plan, prepare and deliver projects and initiatives that will tap into the strengths and opportunities in the district to improve the quality of life for all the people and contribute to the positive growth of the villages and settlements.

There are exciting and positive major developments planned and progressing in the Rosslare Municipal District with the major development of Rosslare Europort and the planned Offshore Renewable Energy Hub Project, the development of the Kilmore Quay Marine Enterprise Hub together with the major infrastructure Roads Projects being progressed along the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour and N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road which in themselves will attract greater investment and growth for the district.

Plans are also progressing for the development of a strategic greenway/ blueway network in the County and Rosslare Municipal District is a particular focus in the early development of this network with plans progressing on Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand, Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour, and with a link between Kilmore Quay and Bridgetown and then on to Rosslare also in the pipeline which will add so positively to the community and tourism offering in the district and the county generally.

The people of the Rosslare Municipal District have dedicated and committed elected members representing the district and their vision to develop this Strategic Plan is another measure of their endeavours to work with the Executive of Wexford County Council and other stakeholders for the benefit of all who live, visit or work in this area.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Enright'.







# Section 1

## Introduction

# Introduction

The Rosslare Municipal District (MD) is a rural area, characterised by a high-quality agricultural resource, vibrant fishing sector, important tourism economy and direct access to the UK and Europe through the Rosslare Europort.

Rosslare MD is the newest district in County Wexford and this Strategic Plan, commissioned by the elected members of the district, recognises that there is a need to have an evidence based and planned approach to the future development and growth of the district over the next 7 years. This will ensure it has every opportunity to reach its full potential, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Positive initiatives delivered over the last three years prompted the ambition to complete a holistic strategy that would serve as a blueprint for developing the district by providing a roadmap to deliver beneficial projects for our communities.

## In particular, this plan aims to:

- Appraise our key attributes and explore the opportunities for enhancing the quality of life for everyone living, working or visiting the District.
- Identify resources which are underutilised and progress initiatives to develop them to their full potential.
- Exploit the unique direct access to Europe and the UK and the opportunities this presents and will continue to emerge.

The development of this strategy is particularly important as there is no large urban centre which therefore precludes it from applying for Urban Regeneration Development Funds. However, there are a wide and growing range of grants that are targeted at rural areas and a specific objective within this plan is to support communities in the district so that they have plans and proposals 'shovel ready' to apply for funding for their projects.

This is an ambitious and forward-looking Strategic Plan and it is the first of its kind to be prepared in the county. We look forward to collaborating with all of the stakeholders in an effort to deliver the extensive range of initiatives that have been identified through the consultation process and to working with relevant agencies and bodies to find better ways to deliver results. This will result in catalysts for positive change and sustainable growth and enhance the quality of life for people who live, visit and work in the district over the coming years.

**Rosslare Municipal District Manager:**  
Nóirín Cummins

**Rosslare Municipal District Director:**  
Annette O'Neill





# Achievements

- ✓ Secured over €6.5m in grants across the Rosslare MD delivering community projects
- ✓ Delivered 73 Social Housing Units, an increase of 12% bringing social housing stock to 688
- ✓ 63 housing units in the pipeline for the district
- ✓ Improved and strengthened 165kms of roads at a cost of €11.1m equating to 27% of the total 605kms of roads in the district
- ✓ Replaced and installed almost 22kms or 40,856m<sup>2</sup> of pedestrianised surfaces/footpaths equating to 10 acres of pedestrian walkways
- ✓ Retained 3 Green Coast Beaches at St Helen's, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown and secured an additional Green Coast Beach in Rosslare Harbour
- ✓ Secured the first Community Parks Green Flags in Our Lady's Island; Foulksmills and Rosslare Harbour
- ✓ Awarded 20 Civic Awards for excellence in Sport, Music, Education & Ploughing, Service to the Community and Milestone awards
- ✓ Constructed a dedicated Rosslare MD Office
- ✓ Constructed and enhanced amenity areas



# since 2019

- ✓ Construction of Kilmore Quay Link Road and site selection for the Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub
- ✓ Twinning agreement with Dunkirk and completed two student exchange programmes
- ✓ 5 new Wexford Walking Trails & the launch of the EuroVelo route
- ✓ Retained 2 Blue Flag Beaches - Rosslare Strand & Carne & Blue Flag Marina at Kilmore Quay
- ✓ Further developments of the Norman Way
- ✓ Purchase of the Bank of Ireland property in Rosslare Harbour for development as a Community Resource Centre
- ✓ Development of Skeater Point Amenity Area on Forth Mountain
- ✓ Installed Bike Stands and Bike Repair Stations in many locations
- ✓ New playground and park in Bridgetown
- ✓ Improved beach access & coastal protection
- ✓ Welcomed over 690 Ukrainian refugees
- ✓ Provided refuge for over 100 international protection applicants





# Key Resources in the Rosslare Municipal District

- 84km of stunning unspoilt coastline with 2 Blue Flag Beaches, 3 Green Coast Awards and the Kilmore Quay Blue Flag 60 berth Marina
- Rosslare Europort – Ireland's Gateway to Europe. One of the busiest ports in Ireland with 30+ direct sailings to the Continent per week
- 28 attractive rural villages / settlements with a total population of 23,573 living in the district (2022 CSO)
- Fishing Ports of Rosslare and Kilmore Quay (totalling together over 5% of landings by Irish Vessels by Port (Value) in 2021)
- Gateway to the EuroVelo Route 1 titled the 'Atlantic – Coast Route' connecting Ireland to the whole European continent stretching from Norway to the Algarve
- Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub: Progressing to Development
- Area of 400km<sup>2</sup> with substantial land in farmland. There are several speciality farm shops, pubs and restaurants offering produce from Wexford's fine food producers including apple juice, strawberries, home bakes and seafood
- Numerous community parks and amenity spaces
- The first Green Flag Community Parks in County Wexford and the first Blueway to be progressed in County Wexford along the river Corock
- The Great Saltee Island is a famous bird sanctuary in Ireland, situated 5km off Kilmore Quay
- There are 18 medieval heritage sites situated on the Norman Way – a true treasure of Ireland's Ancient East
- Johnstown Castle Estate, Museum and Gardens: A landmark tourism destination
- Two wind farms and solar PV farms under construction

## Johnstown Castle Estate:

Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc Research – Soils and the Rural Environment, New National Agricultural Sustainability Research & Innovation Centre (NASRIC: Teagasc)





# Section 2

## Evidence Based Strategic Plan



# Strategic Plan Road Map

To ensure the completeness and relevance of this plan to produce real deliverables for the Rosslare MD it is being prepared on a phased basis. It is critical to successful outcomes that there is a full understanding of where we are, what we need and who are the potential partners that will and can work with communities, members and the executive of the Rosslare MD to allow focus to be brought on relevant and sustainable projects and a road map to positive growth. As a result the approach is based on two phases as set out below.



## Phase 1: Consultation Process

- Introducing the six pillars that served as the framework for the consultation process: Economic; Tourism / Recreation / Heritage / Culture; Housing; Community; Environment / Climate Change; & Public Infrastructure
- Identification of needs through surveys and interviews
- Desktop analysis and development of interactive mapping of the district utilising CSO data and strategic reports
- Exploring potential partnerships and opportunities through discussions with key stakeholders
- Setting clear high-level goals for each of the six pillars

## Phase 2: Development of Proposals and Initiatives

- Prepare a Work Plan, based on the community consultations and stakeholder discussions
- Secure funding and implement projects

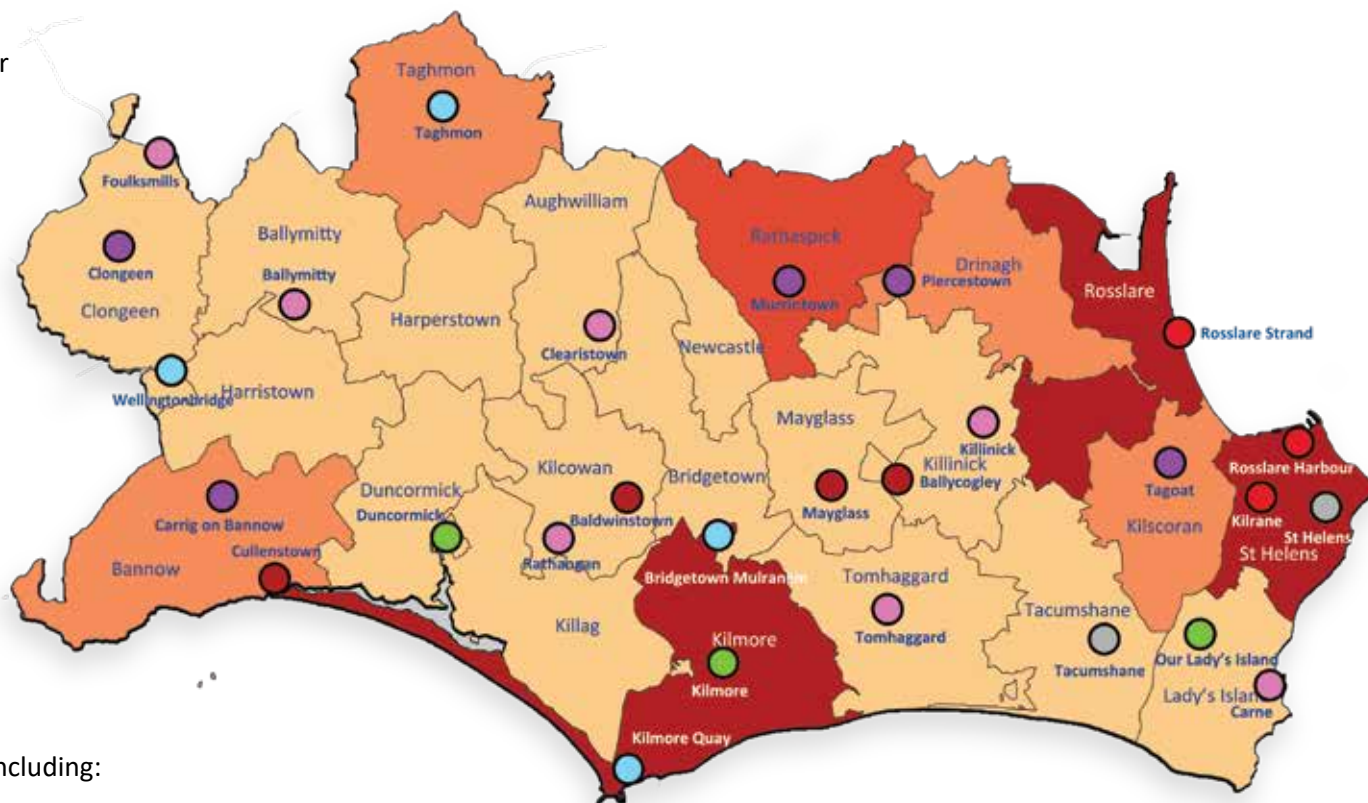




# Baseline Data Collection

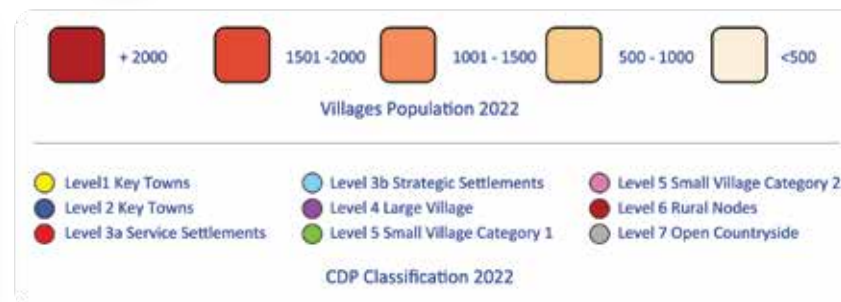
In advance of the consultation process, a series of baseline maps were developed to give a greater understanding of the district, its socio-economic profile and other key data. The mapping is set out in more detail in Section 3 of this report and the map below illustrates a number of key facts and baseline data statistics that help to inform the development of the vision for the district including:

- Location of the 28 Villages and Settlements
- 2022 Population by Electoral Division (ED) with colour coding (see legend)
- Village/Settlement classification as set out in the 2022-2028 County Development Plan
- There are:
  - Not any Level 1 or Level 2 towns
  - Three Level 3(a) Service Settlements
  - Four Level 3(b) Strategic Settlements
  - Five Level 4 Large Villages
  - Ten Level 5 Small Villages
  - Four Level 6 Rural Nodes
  - Two Level 7 Open Countryside



This mapped data provides some interesting information including:

- The population of Rosslare MD has grown by 19% in the period 2006 to 2022.
- St.Helen's ED which includes Rosslare Harbour / Kilrane experienced the highest population increase at 43%.
- Reductions in population in both Tomhaggard (-6%) and Drinagh ED (-6%)



# Key Statistics for the District



## Demographics

**23,573**

**Total Population** in 2022:  
a 19% increase from 2006 with a  
population of 19,738

**23%**

Are **one-person households** (2022 CSO)  
in line with national average of 23%

**Aged 65+**

**19% of the population**, compared to  
14% nationally (2022 CSO)

**under 20**

**26% of the population** are under 20  
years of age (2022 CSO) compared  
to 26% nationally



## Housing

**6%**

The percentage of **vacant houses** in 2022 totalling 740  
houses compared to 8%  
nationally

**11,449**

Total **number of houses** in  
2022: a 19% increase from  
2006 with a total of 9,586  
houses

**10%**

Of **households are rented** from  
private landlords compared to  
18% nationally (2022 CSO).  
8% are **rented socially**  
compared to 10% nationally



## Education

**14 Schools**

**13 Primary Schools** and **1 Post Primary School**

**18%**

Of the population have a  
**honours degree or higher qualification** compared to the  
state average of 27% (2022 CSO)

**13%**

Have **no formal education /**  
primary education  
compared to 10% nationally  
(2022 CSO)



## Employment

**58%**

is the labour force participation  
rate compared to 61% in 2022  
nationally.

**9%**

are unemployed (CSO 2022)  
This compare to 15%  
unemployment in 2016 within  
the Rosslare Municipal  
District.  
State average for 2022 is 8%  
Co. Wexford average is 10%





## Health

**10 Medical**

3 HSE Health Centres  
(Bridgetown, Taghmon and Rosslare) and 7 GP Practices

**52%**

Rated their **health as very good** in line with the national average of 53%



## Environment

**72%**

Of homes are **oil heated** compared to 39% nationally and 67% in County Wexford (CSO 2022).

**11%**

Use **coal** for heating compared to 3% nationally



## Services

**5**

**Garda Stations** in the District  
(Rosslare Harbour, Rosslare Strand, Taghmon, Kilmore Quay, Carrig on Bannow)

**0**

No **banks** but a number of credit unions

**8**

**Post Offices**

**9**

or more  
**Facilities**

Rosslare Strand  
Killnick  
Rosslare Harbour  
Bridgetown  
Taghmon  
Kilmore Quay  
Wellingtonbridge

**7-8**

**Facilities**

Murrintown  
Rathangan  
Our Ladys Island

**5-6**

**Facilities**

Carrig on Bannow  
Piercestown  
Clongeen  
Kilmore  
Kilrane

**3-4**

**Facilities**

Mayglass  
Tacumshane  
Ballycogley  
Tagoat  
Ballymitty  
Foulksmills  
Baldwinstown  
Cleariestown

**0-2**

**Facilities**

Carne  
St Helen's  
Cullenstown  
Tomhaggard  
Duncormick

### Types of facilities in the Community Survey

Pub, Café, ATM, Shop, Pharmacy, Post office, Playground, Sports Facilities, Daycare facilities for the elderly and disabled, EV Charging Point, Community Centre, Community Chilcare, Garage Filling Station

# Compatibility with Global, National and Local Strategies

The high-level goals identified in this strategic plan have been informed by global, national and local policy documents indicated below.



## Rosslare District Strategic Plan 2024 - 2030



### REGIONAL / LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANS



### NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANS

United Nations Sustainable Goals

Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027



# Design and Place-Making in Towns and Village Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

In order to create sustainable and successful villages in the Rosslare Municipal District it will require a partnership approach between Wexford County Council, Rosslare Municipal District, Government Agencies, Stakeholders, local communities and businesses. The Wexford County Development Plan (2022-2028) outlines the Council’s commitment to improving the quality of the county’s towns and villages and contains the objectives to ensure that they are attractive and functional places where people want to live, work, access services and raise their families.

The County Development Plan recognises the many components and conditions that are required for successful Place Making and provides a useful diagram that identifies these components and this diagram is repeated below.

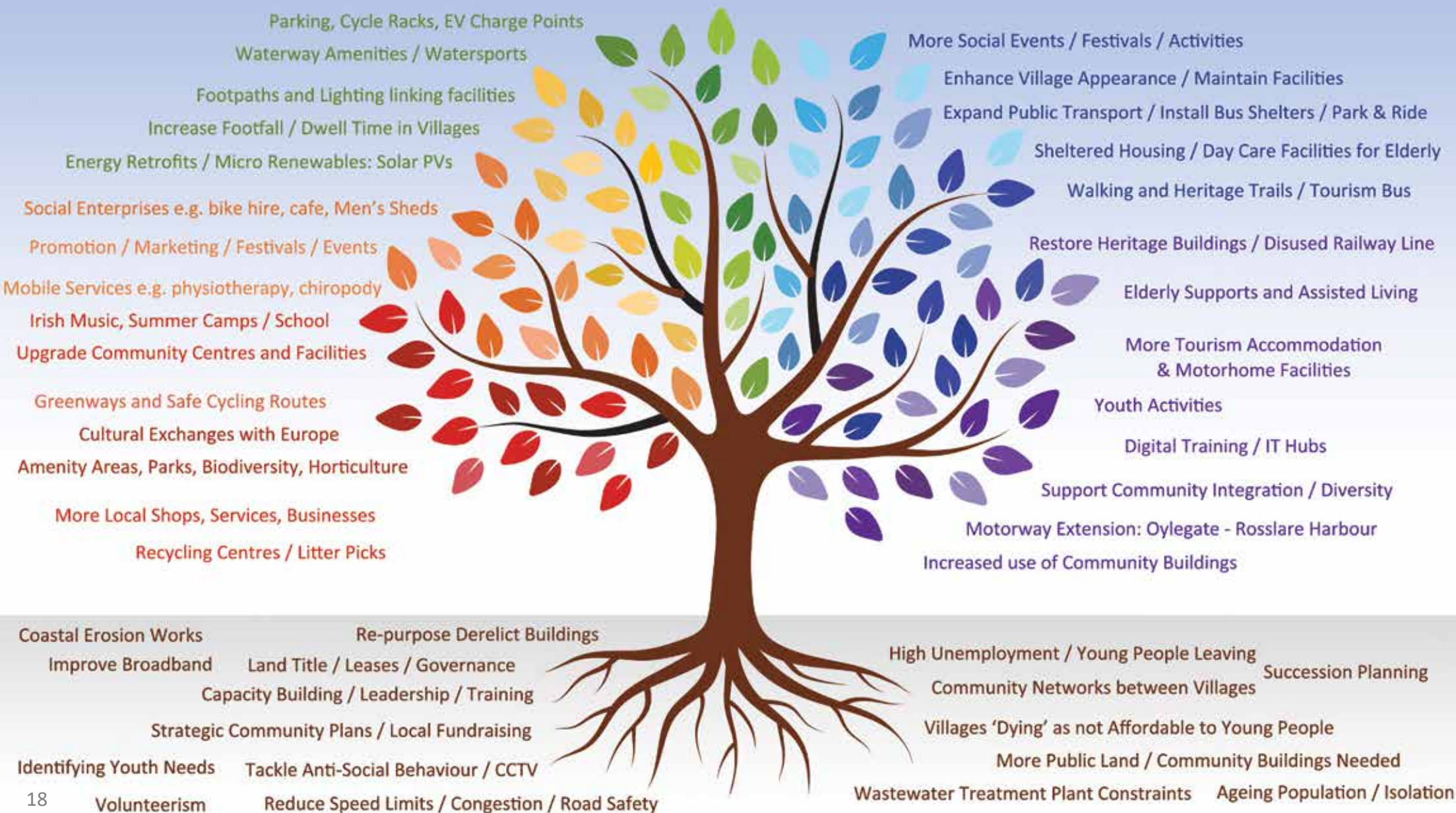
Components of successful places





# Community Input: Your Views

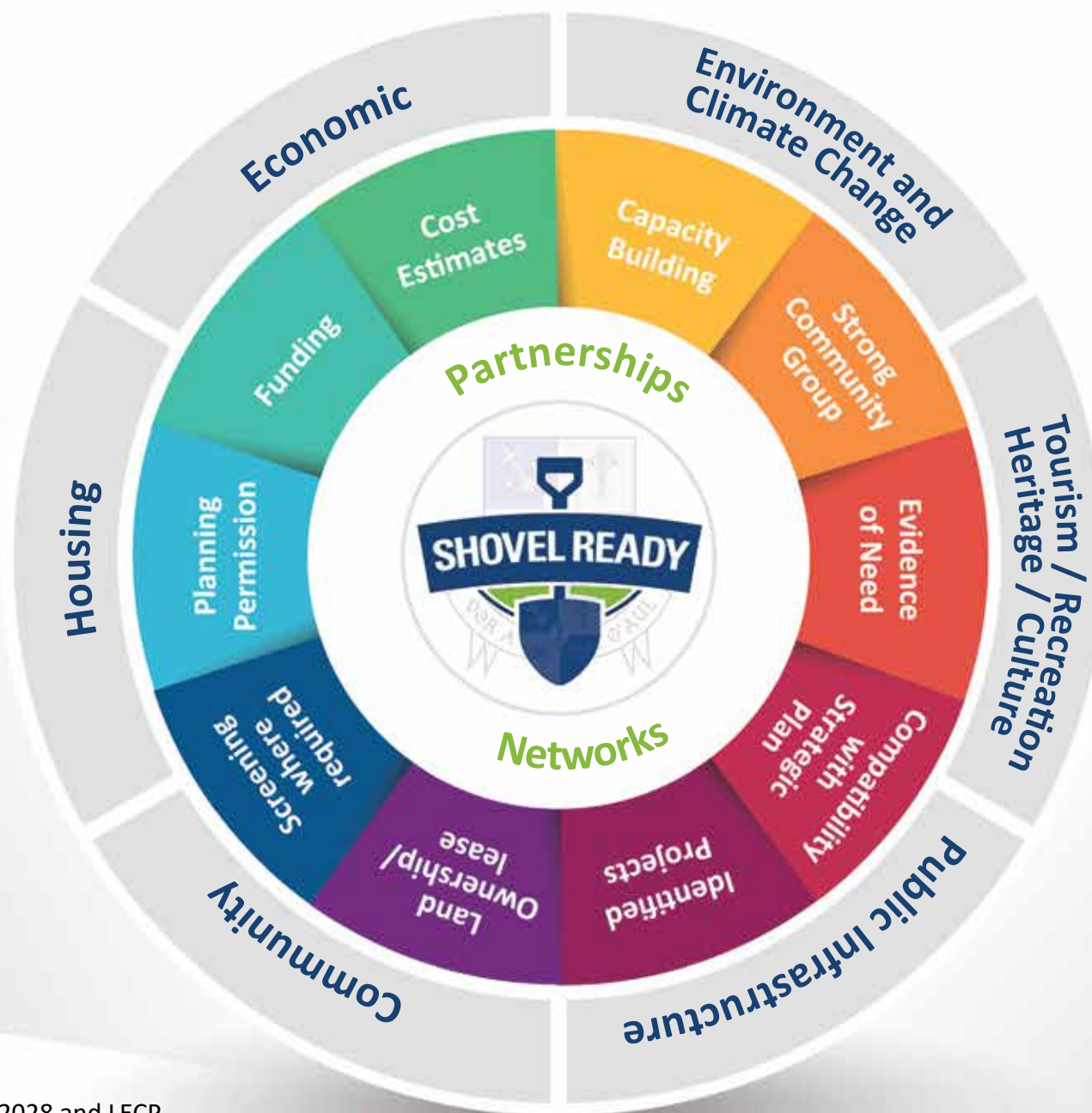
Engagement and consultation were a key component of this research. Representatives from the 28 villages and settlements contributed to this process by identifying their needs and priorities. This has enabled the voice of the community to be heard which supports a plan led approach to achieving thriving and sustainable communities. The diagram below captures the emerging themes relayed through the consultation process.





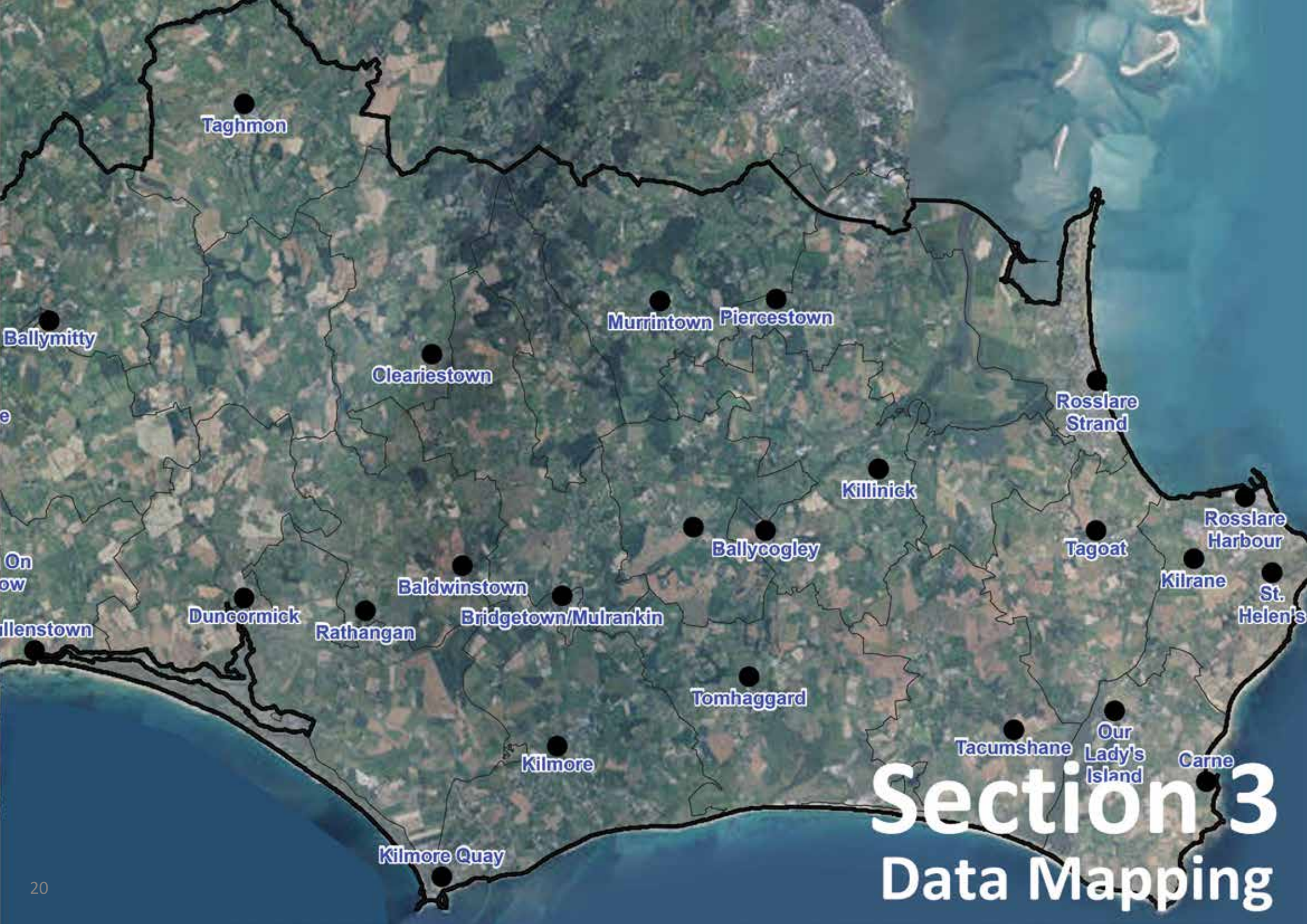
## Vision 2024 - 2030:

Working together, through a plan led approach, to nurture communities to realise their full potential, develop infrastructural opportunities, embrace climate action and improve the quality of life for all citizens living, working and visiting this rural district.



This vision builds on the objectives within the CDP 2022-2028 and LECP framework and embraces the principles underpinning Wexford County Council's Economic & Community Investment Programme for the County.





# Section 3

## Data Mapping



# Introduction To Mapping

As set out in the Strategic Plan Road Map earlier in this report, Phase 1 of the development of this Strategic Plan for the Rosslare MD involved consultation with communities and other stakeholders, a review of relevant strategies and the development of baseline maps.

This section of the report sets out a sample of the interactive maps produced, with the assistance of Wexford County Council's ICT team, to assist and complement other data gathered and analysed, with a view to establishing all relevant information in relation to socio-demographic and economic trends. The consolidation of the information and findings from these sources helped to improve the evidence informed high level goals delivered for this seven-year plan.

These maps aim to provide valuable information and statistics across a number of key parameters, under each of the six pillars which form the basis of the road map for delivery of this Strategic Plan.

The data has largely been sourced from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and includes the up to date analysis of CSO 2022 data at Electoral Division level.

The combination of data sources, using the interactive mapping tool, enables a focus on related information, so that an understanding of the overall position of the various settlements within the Rosslare MD can be obtained.

A sample selection of the maps and the findings are set out in the following pages and include:

**MAP 1 - General Overview: Population Movement 2006 to 2022**

**MAP 2 - Economic: Socio-Economic Profile of Rosslare Municipal District**

**MAP 3 - Economic: Unemployment Movement 2016 to 2022**

**MAP 4 - Tourism & Recreation: Mapping of Existing Trails and Recreation Awards**

**MAP 5 - Tourism & Recreation: Planned and Proposed Recreational Trails**

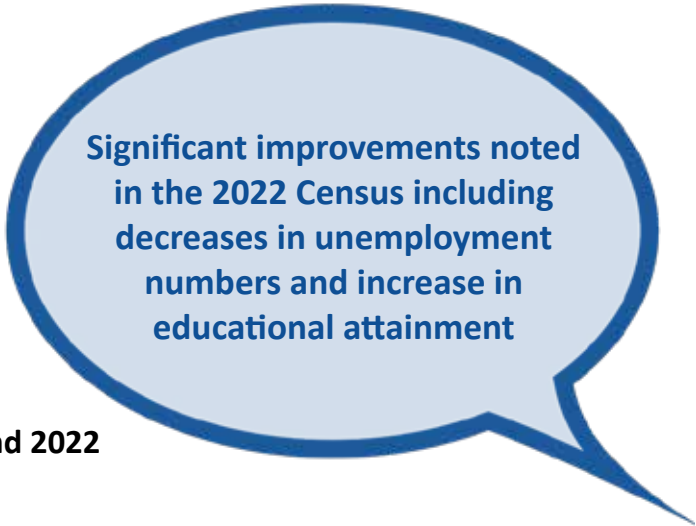
**MAP 6 - Housing: Housing Stock & Waste Water Services**

**MAP 7 - Housing: Vacant Housing and Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) between 2006 and 2022**

**MAP 8 - Community: Villages and Services**

**MAP 9 - Environment: Key Renewable Energy Sources**

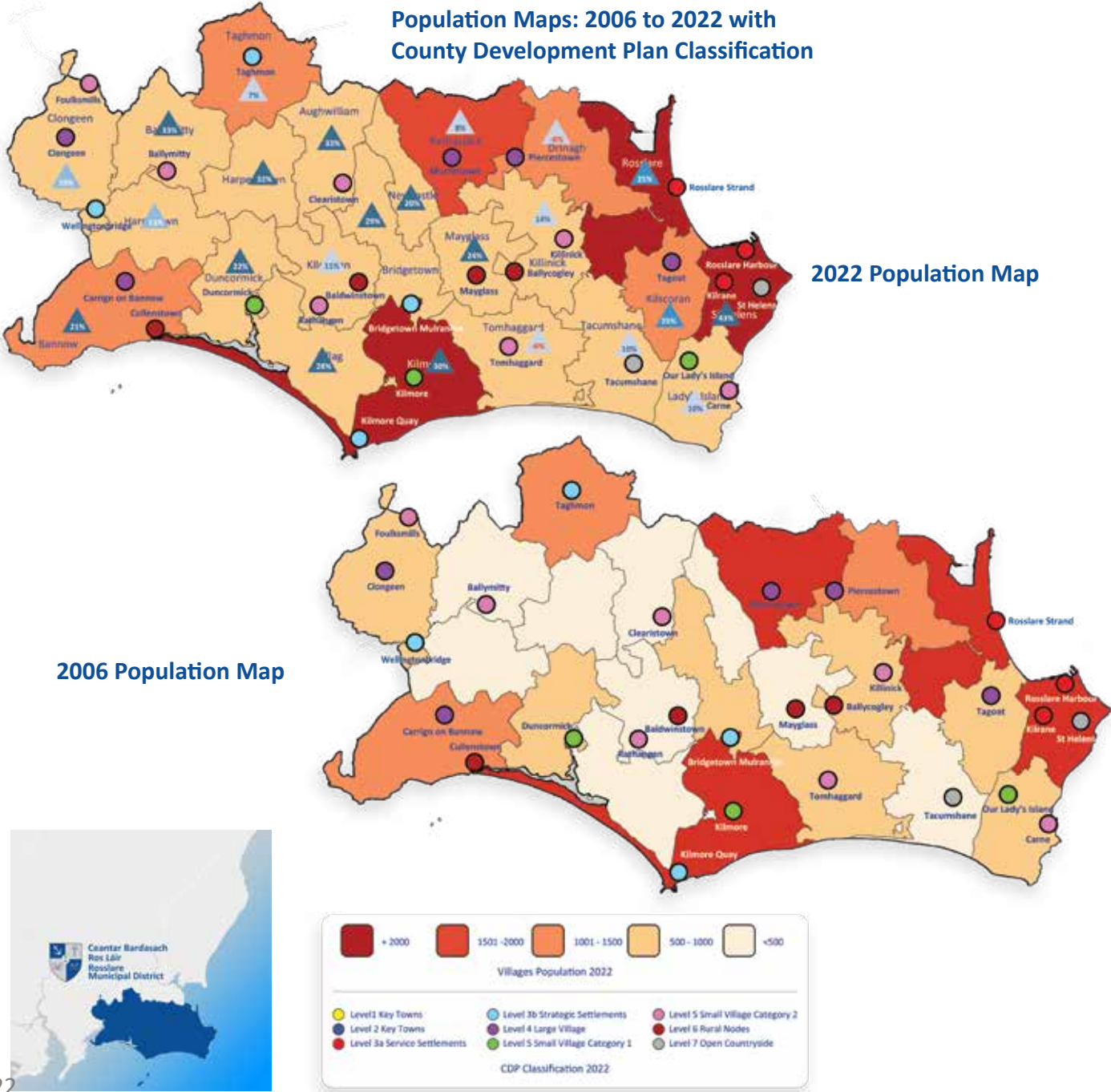
**MAP 10 - Public Infrastructure: Major Road Projects**



Significant improvements noted in the 2022 Census including decreases in unemployment numbers and increase in educational attainment

# MAP 1 – General Overview: Population Movement 2006 to 2022

Population Maps: 2006 to 2022 with County Development Plan Classification



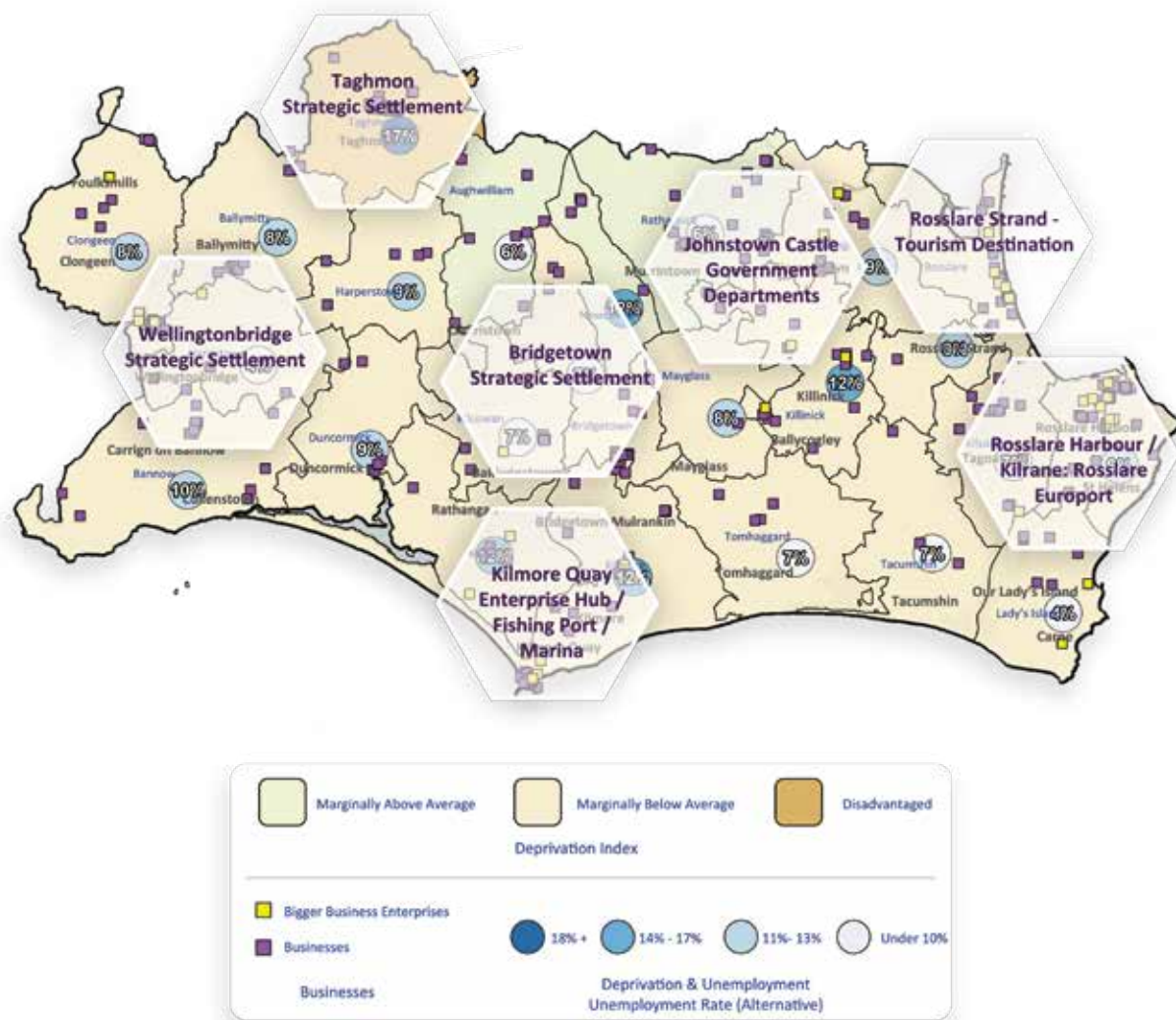
- The population of the Rosslare MD increased by 19% between 2006 to 2022
- St.Helen's ED which includes Rosslare Harbour / Kilrane experienced the highest increase at 43%
- Populations in Aughwilliam, Ballymitty and Harperstown, increased by over 30%
- Bannow, Bridgetown, Duncormick, Killag, Kilmore, Kilsoran, Mayglass and Rosslare have recorded population growth of over 20%
- Clongeen, Harristown, Kilcowan, Killnick, Newcastle and Tacumshane increased by 10% or more
- Lady's Island, Rathaspick and Taghmon saw increases less than 10%
- Reductions in population were recorded in both Tomhaggard (-6%) and Drinagh (-6%)
- Population growth in the district was 9% following the 2006 census, 1.2% following the 2011 and 8.3% following the 2022 Census.

Census	Population Growth	% Growth
2006	19,738	
2011	21,508	9.0%
2016	21,758	1.2%
2022	23,573	8.3%

Total Population in Ireland increased by 8% in the 2022 Census.



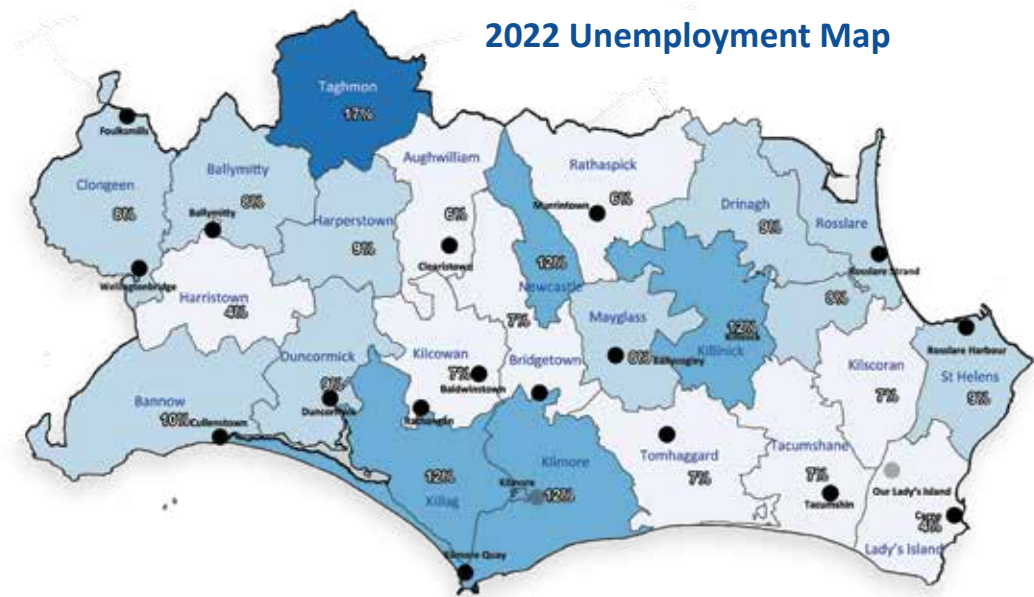
## MAP 2 – Economic: Socio-Economic Profile of Rosslare Municipal District



- The socio-economic profile is based on the combined mapping of commercial businesses, key economic areas, strategic settlements, unemployment rates and the Pobal Deprivation Index.
- A total of 444 businesses have been mapped across the district. This includes 38 larger type businesses.
- The key economic areas are determined by a cluster of commercial activity.
- The 2016 Pobal Deprivation Index determined that all EDs in the Rosslare MD were recorded as “marginally below average” with the exception of Taghmon which was recorded as “Disadvantaged” and Aghwilliam which was recorded as “Marginally Above”. The 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index has recorded improvements in a further 2 EDs with Newcastle and Rathaspeck being reclassified to “Marginally Above Average.”
- The deprivation index for Rosslare MD included in the map is based on 2022 data and shows a marked improvement since 2016.
- The unemployment level per ED is illustrated in the circles in the map providing the % of population that was recorded as unemployed following the 2022 census.
- The unemployment statistics are showing significant improvements across all but 3 EDs and even those EDs haven’t deteriorated but rather remained stable.

The Pobal HP deprivation Index is a series of maps measuring the relative affluence of a particular geographic area using data compiled from various census. The measurements look at 10 key indicators including: The proportion of skilled professionals, education levels, employment levels and single parent households. This data set is based of the 2022 census data and is determined at ED level. Pobal index mapping has been developed right down at street level based on small area statistics that relate to 80 and 100 households on average.

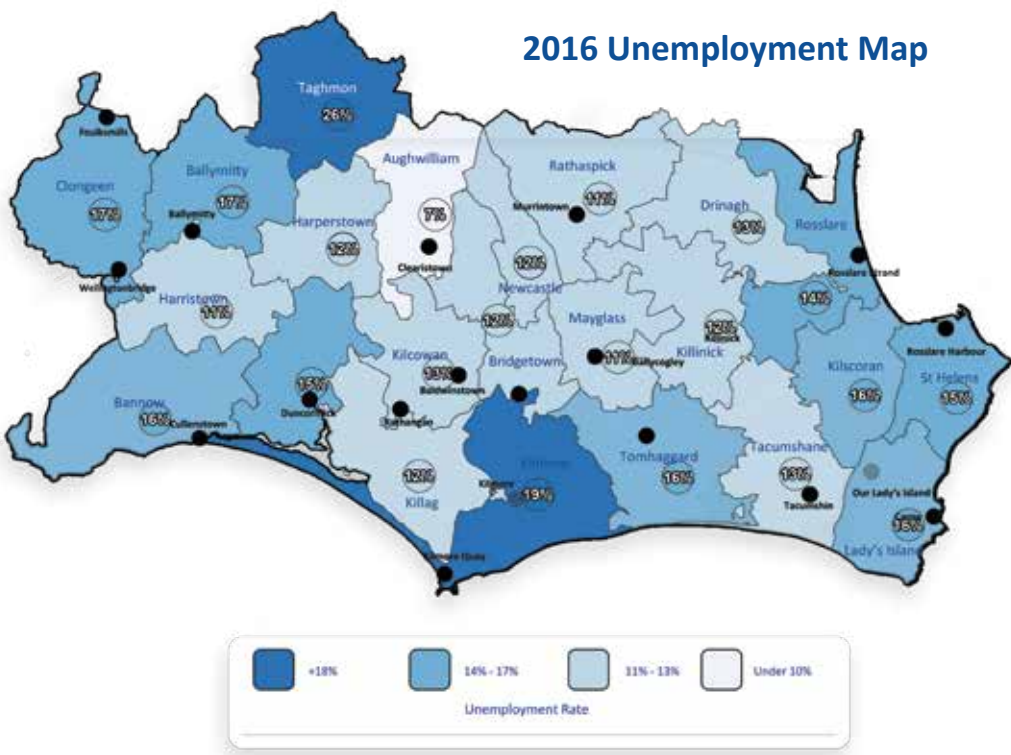
# MAP 3 – Economic: Unemployment Movement 2016 to 2022



These maps provide a focused view on unemployment levels in the district by ED. The data here is based on the 2016 and 2022 Census.

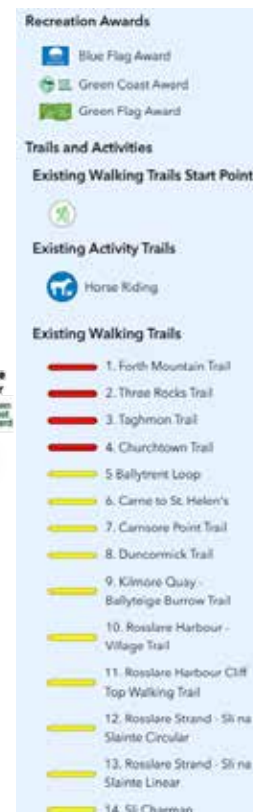
A summary of the unemployment trends for the district is outlined below.

- In the 2022 census, 6 of the 23 EDs in Rosslare MD were reporting unemployment levels in excess of 10% compared to 22 of the 23 EDs in 2016.
- In 2016 Taghmon reported the highest unemployment level at 26%. This improved to 17% in 2022.
- The largest reduction in unemployment recorded between 2016 and 2022 was in Lady's Island ED, showing a reduction from 16% to 4%.
- Killag, Killinick and Newcastle EDs were the only 3 EDs showing no reduction in unemployment but equally there was no increase reported either.





# MAP 4 – Tourism & Recreation: Mapping of Existing Trails and Recreation Awards



This map plots the existing Recreation Trails, Heritage Site Trails and Recreation Award Sites. The map tracks 14 existing walking trails, the EuroVelo and Norman Way routes.

It also maps the recreational awards secured in the district with:

- Blue Flag Beaches in Rosslare Strand and Carne
- Blue Flag Marina in Kilmore Quay
- Green Coast Awards in Rosslare Harbour, St Helen's, Ballyhealy and Cullenstown
- Community Green Flags in Rosslare Harbour, Our Lady's Island and Foulksmills
- The longest existing routes in the district are the Eurovelo 1 Route and the Norman Way



## Wexford Eurovelo 1 Route

Starting at Rosslare Harbour Ferry, the Wexford Eurovelo 1 Route quickly takes cyclists to mainly quiet, scenic country roads and villages finishing at Ballyhack Ferry where you can continue on to Waterford. The route predominantly hugs the coastal roads and is a total of 120km of signed cycle route most of which is located in the Rosslare MD.



## The Norman Way

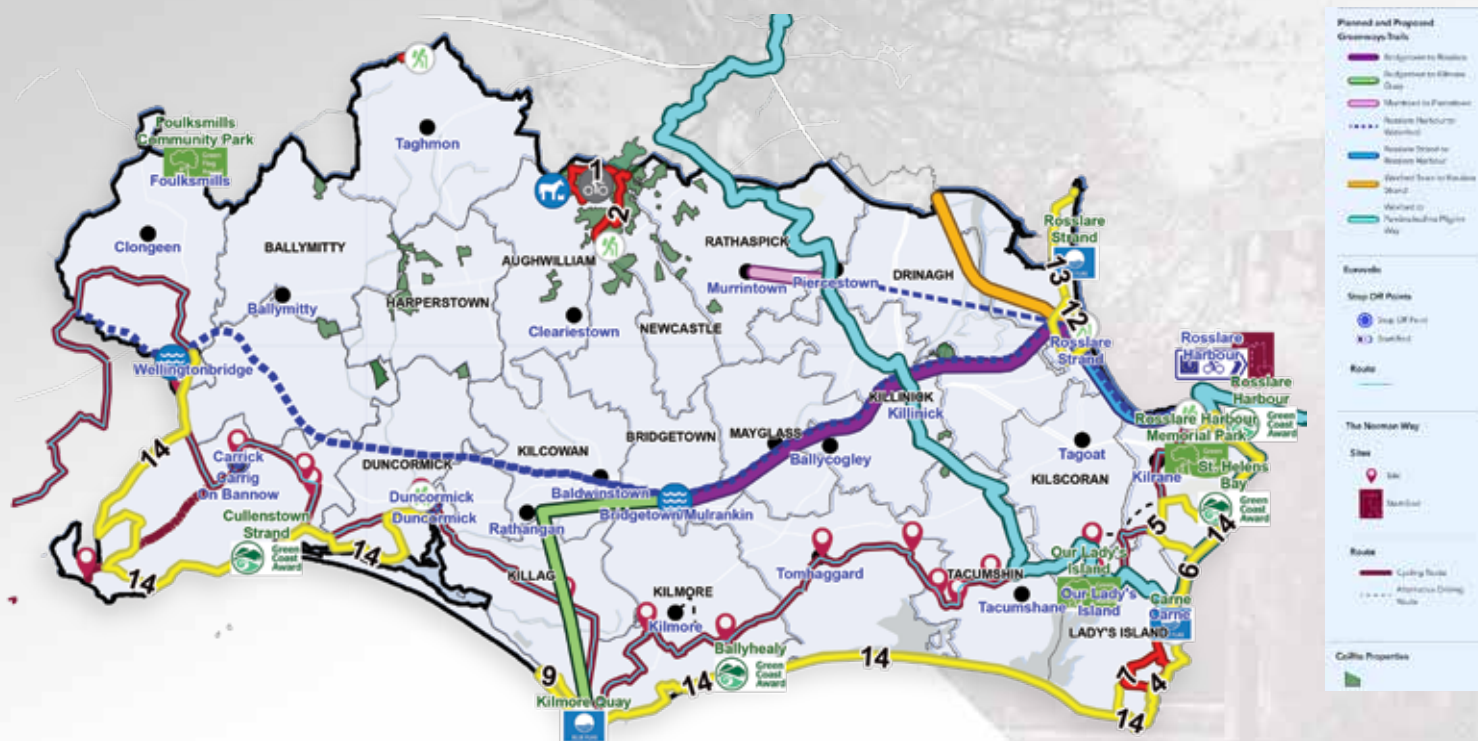
The Norman Way is a heritage route that runs along the south coast of the county bringing the user to authentic medieval sites along the way which provide a better understanding of the Norman way of life in Ireland over 800 years ago. The route brings the user down quiet country lanes, in the beautiful seaside villages and alongside stunning beaches across the south coast of the Rosslare MD. The Norman Way has been heralded as a true tourism and recreation treasure of Ireland's Ancient East



## The Sli Charman Route

The Sli Charman visits the dramatic side of the Rosslare MD coastline with the sea being a constant companion. The route traverses a contrast of country roads, boreens, stunning beaches and sand dunes. This coastal trail captures the wild and remote rugged coastline of the most south easterly tip of Ireland – a perfect trail for adventure lovers.

## MAP 5 – Tourism & Recreation: Planned and Proposed Recreational Trails



This map seeks to provide a vision of the proposed and planned additional recreational trails for the district over the term of the strategic plan. All proposals set out in the map are subject to landowner consents, planning and appropriate assessments and screening some of which are currently progressing.

Plans to move to planning consent for this project have now been impacted by the outcome of the “All-Ireland Rail Review”. Wexford County Council are now exploring alternative options and solutions to deliver this ambitious project in the coming years.

### Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand Greenway.

Consultants have been appointed to review the route options for this proposed Greenway considering the significant coastal protection works which have been carried out by Irish Rail. Public consultation on route options will commence in February 2024. It is planned to submit this section of Greenway to Part 8 planning in 2024 subject to screening for Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

**Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand Greenway.** Consultants have been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study and route selection for this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options was undertaken in 2022, with a further public consultation planned to commence in February 2024. It is expected to confirm the preferred route in mid 2024 and to submit to An Bord Pleanála for development consent approval in 2025.

**Bridgetown to Kilmore Quay.** An initial feasibility study has been completed on the preferred route for this walkway. Landowner engagement is on-going and arrangements are being made to bring the proposal here through the relevant appropriate assessments to facilitate the statutory planning process. It is hoped to be progressed to a planning application in 2024. There are also proposals to consider developing a further phase of this route which would see a connection from Bridgetown to Killinick and eventually to Rosslare Strand.

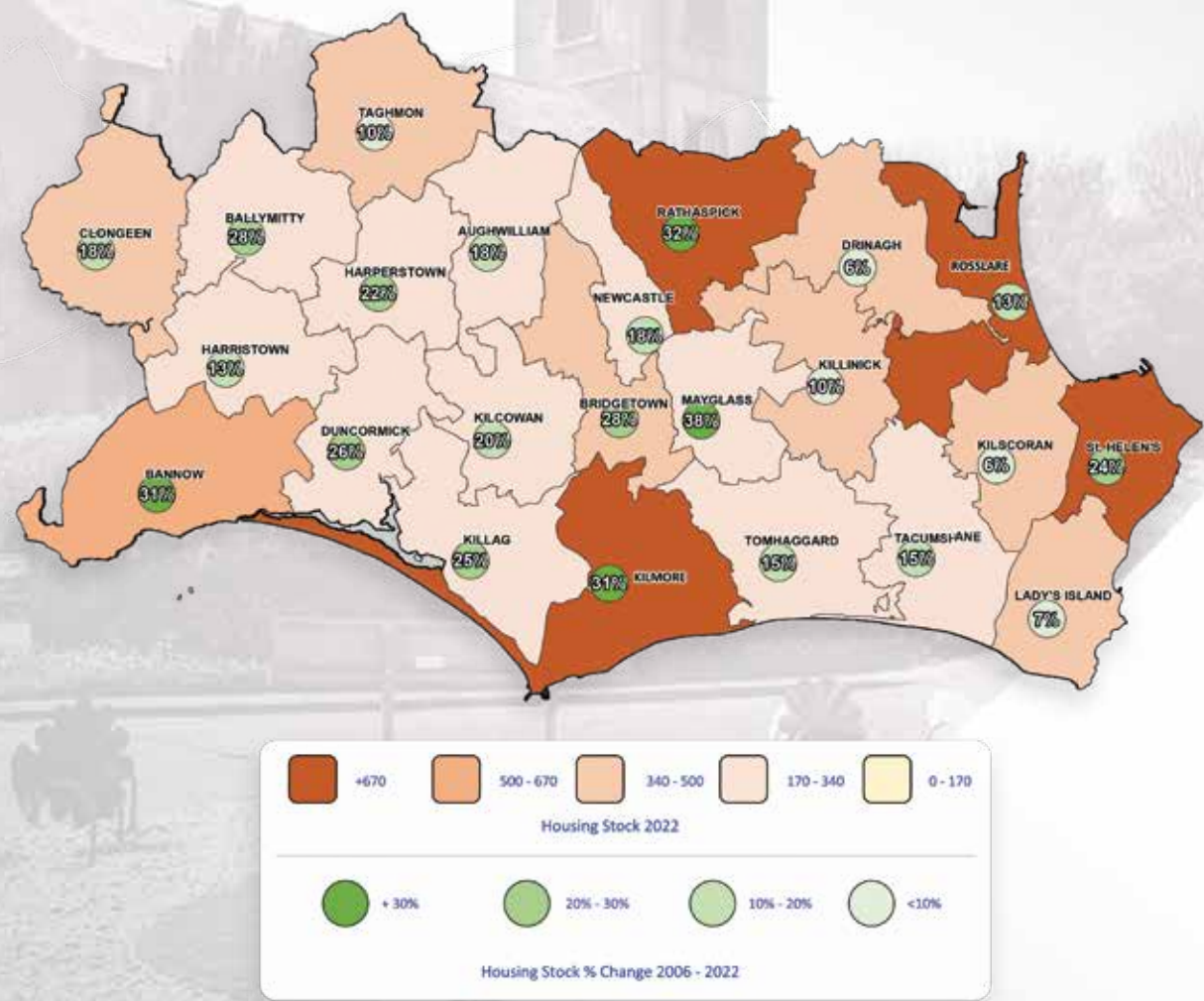
**Piercestown to Murrinctown.** This proposal is at the very early stages with the concept agreed. There is also a vision that this route would be eventually extended further to link into the Wexford to Rosslare Strand Greenway.

**Wexford – Pembrokeeshire Pilgrim Way.** This trail follows the footsteps of St Aidan's sixth century journey from Ferns to meet his mentor and teacher, St David in Wales. The route is characterised by wild Celtic landscapes and rich cultural heritage that continues to inspire musicians, poets and painters who live along its path. The route is a 260km (162 mile) journey with 3 stages of the route tracking through the Rosslare Municipal District.



# MAP 6 - Housing: Housing Stock & Waste Water Services

## Housing Stock and Growth between 2006 and 2022



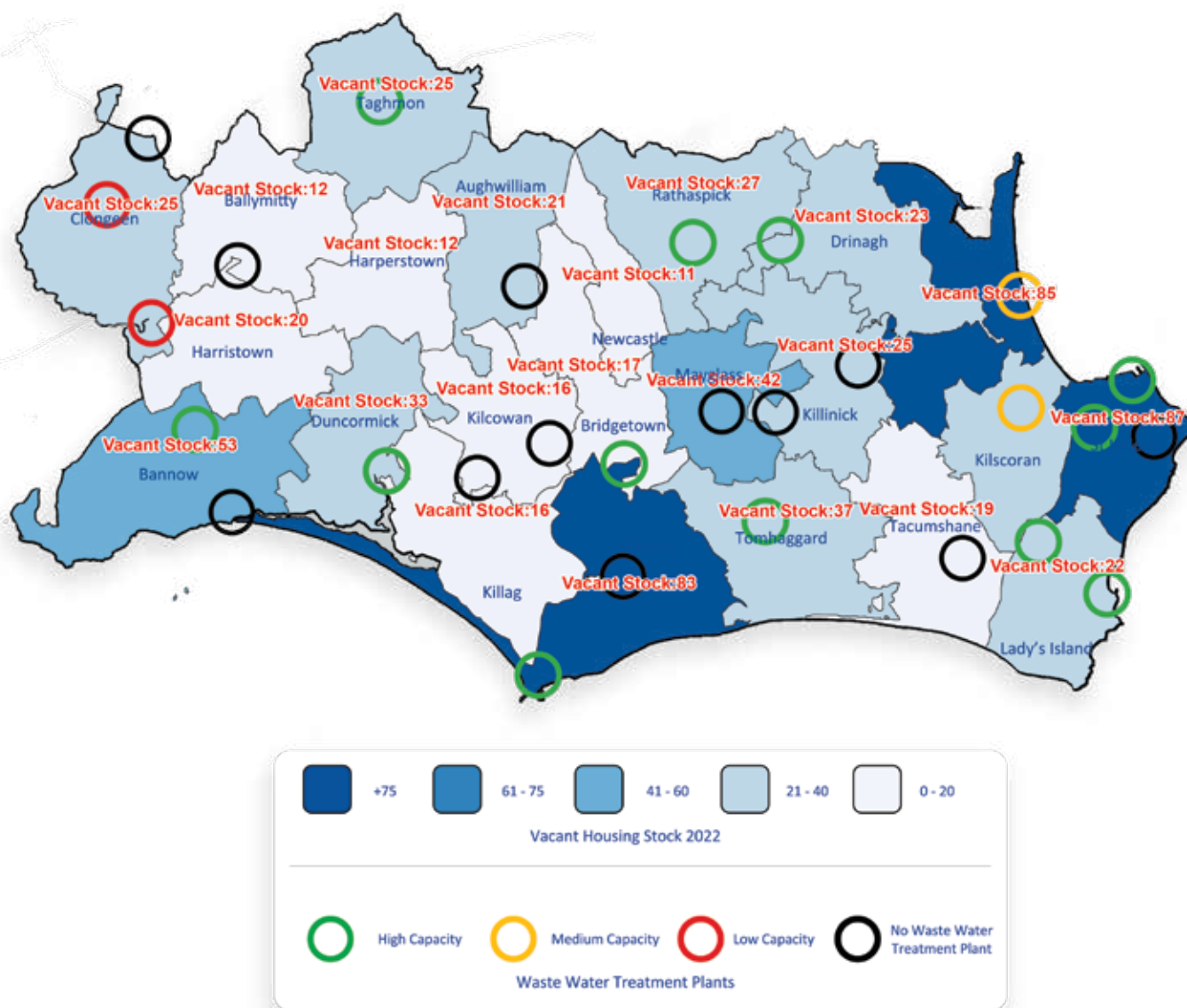
The colour coded background in this map provides an overview on the level of all housing stock in each ED in 2022 showing that:

- The largest level of housing stock is located in Rosslare, St Helen's, Kilmore and Rathaspick.
- The largest housing stock movement per ED between 2006 and 2022 was experienced in Mayglass at 38%.
- Other areas experiencing 30% or more growth in housing stock are Bannow, Kilmore and Rathaspick.
- The lowest growth in housing stock was experienced in Drinagh and Kilscoran, both at 6% and others recording a less than 10% growth are Lady's Island, Killinick and Taghmon.

CSO 2016 data also provides information on home heating, with 72% of homes using oil heating compared to 39% nationally and 67% in County Wexford. 11% of houses in the district use coal for heating compared to 3% nationally.

Housing Stock Numbers			
Census Year	Unit Nos	Movement	
2006	9,586		
2011	11,120	1,534	16%
2016	11,095	-25	0%
2022	11,449	354	3%
Total		1,863	19%

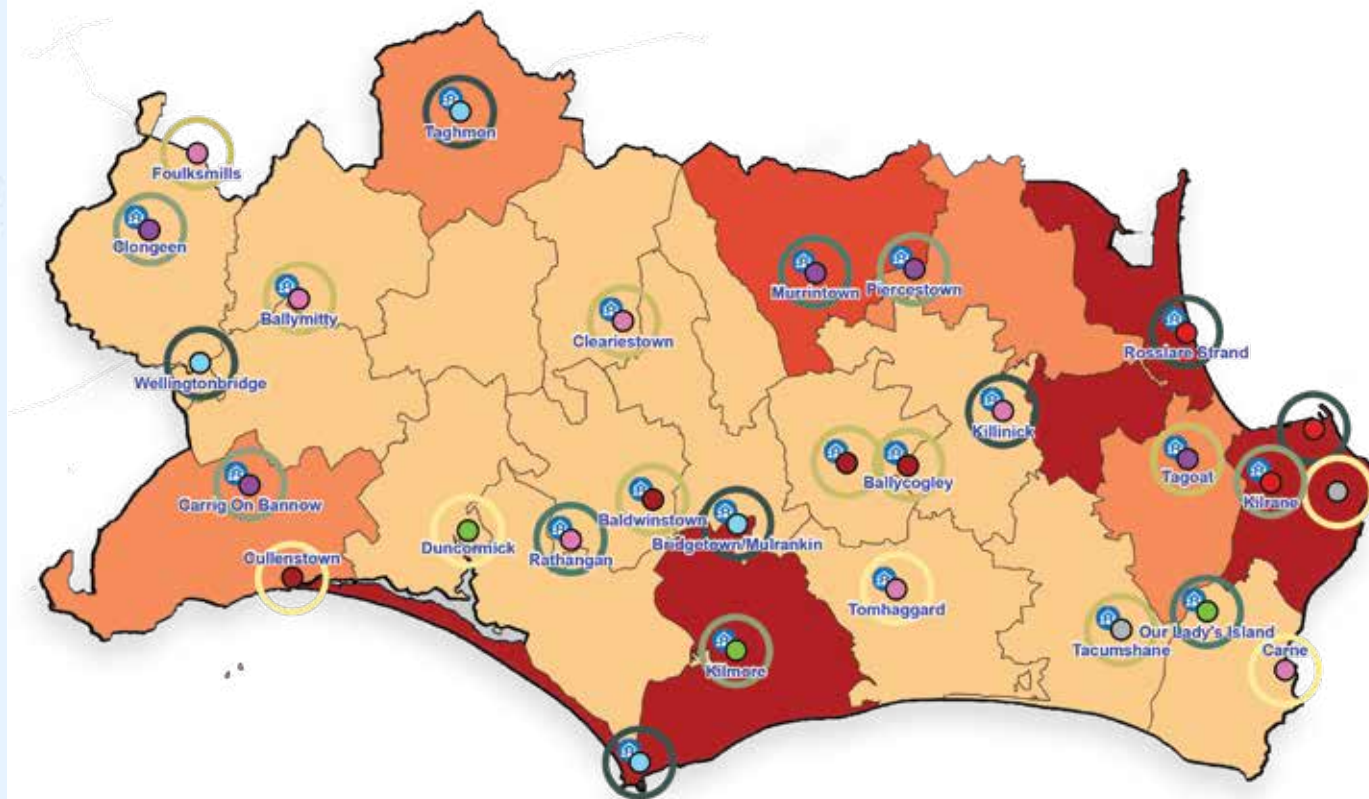
## MAP-7 Housing: Vacant Housing and Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) between 2006 and 2022



- The level of vacant housing stock (excluding holiday homes) as recorded by the CSO in census 2022 is mapped in the blue colour coding in this map. The CSO recorded a reduction in vacant housing stock in the district in the 5 years between 2016 (810) and 2022 (740).
- The highest level of vacant housing stock is recorded for Rosslare (85), St Helen's (87) and Kilmore (83).
- The lowest level of vacant housing stock is recorded in Newcastle (11), Ballymitty (12) and Harperstown (12).
- The percentage of vacant houses in the district is 6% of housing stock in 2022 compared to 8% nationally.
- The location of Uisce Éireann wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) is provided by the Green, Amber and Red rings and the black rings highlight the settlements where there are no Uisce Éireann WWTPs. The Green (Capacity), Amber (Medium Capacity) and Red (Very low or No capacity) colour denote capacity status within the WWTP.
- The stronger level of capacity is recorded in the Murrinstown, Piercestown and Taghmon settlements which are all serviced by the main Wexford WWTP.
- There is also strong capacity in Kilmore Quay (as a result of the recent major WWTP development, commissioned in August 2023) and in Carrig on Bannow, Bridgetown, Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane.
- WWTPs in Wellingtonbridge and Tagoat are currently on the Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) with Uisce Éireann preparing outline design proposals for both sites.



## MAP 8 – Community: Villages and Facilities



### Community Survey Findings

**9**  
or more  
Facilities

Rosslare Strand  
Killnick  
Rosslare Harbour  
Bridgetown  
Taghmon  
Kilmore Quay  
Wellingtonbridge

**7-8**  
Facilities

Murrinstown  
Rathangan  
Our Lady's Island

**5-6**  
Facilities

Carrig on Bannow  
Piercestown  
Clongeen  
Kilmore  
Kilrane

**3-4**  
Facilities

Mayglass  
Tacumshane  
Ballycogley  
Tagoat  
Ballymitty  
Foulksmills  
Baldwinstown  
Clearestown

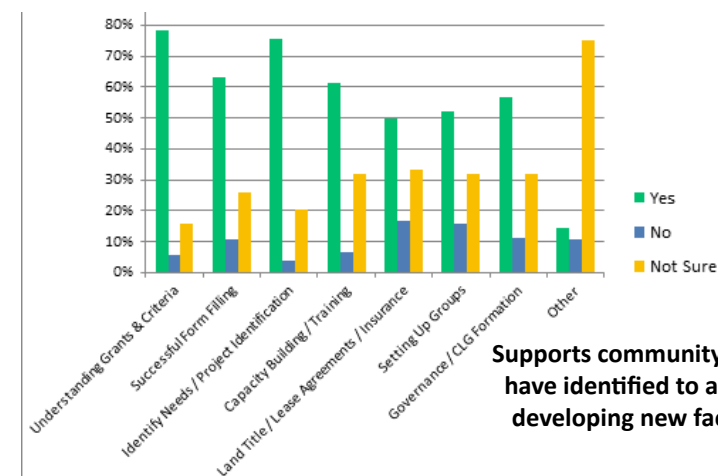
**0-2**  
Facilities

Carne  
St Helen's  
Cullenstown  
Tomhaggard  
Duncormick

**Types of facilities in the Community Survey**  
Pub, Café, ATM, Shop, Pharmacy, Post office, Playground, Sports Facilities, Daycare facilities older people & those with a disability, EV Charging Point, Community Centre, Community Childcare, Garage Filling Station

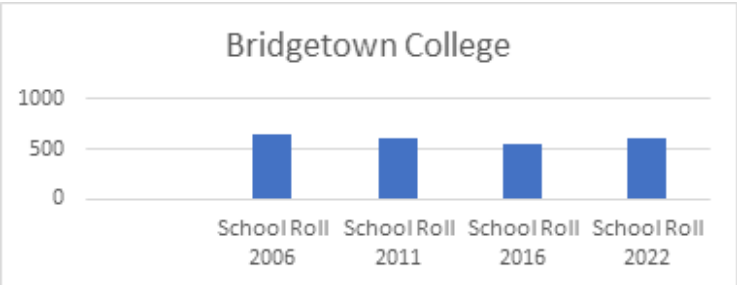
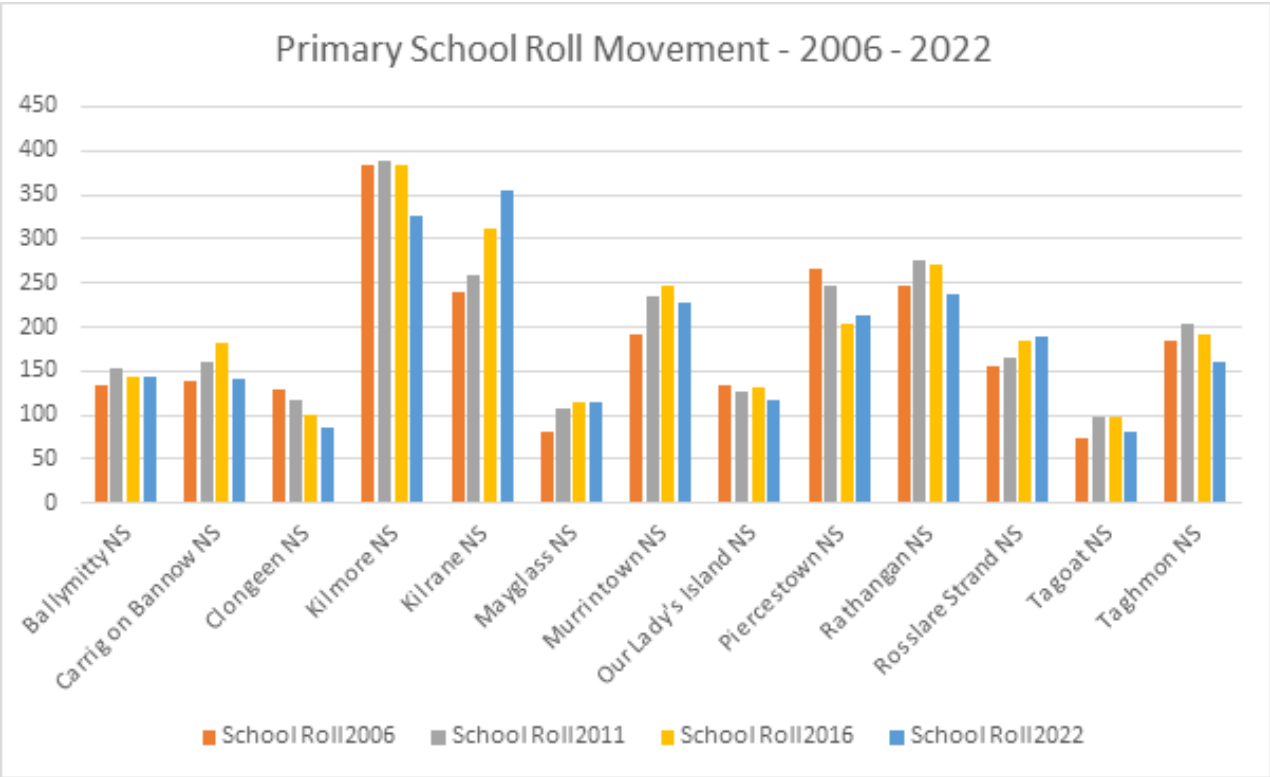
The villages facilities map combines a number of statistics including:

- Number of local services in the villages based on data gathered in the community surveys
- Location of the 13 Primary Schools and 1 Post Primary School
- Location of the Community Halls
- The County Development Plan classification of the village/settlement
- These data layers have been placed on the population 2022 database to give context to the demand for these services and where there is need for improved services.



**Supports community groups have identified to assist in developing new facilities**

# Schools Profile in the District



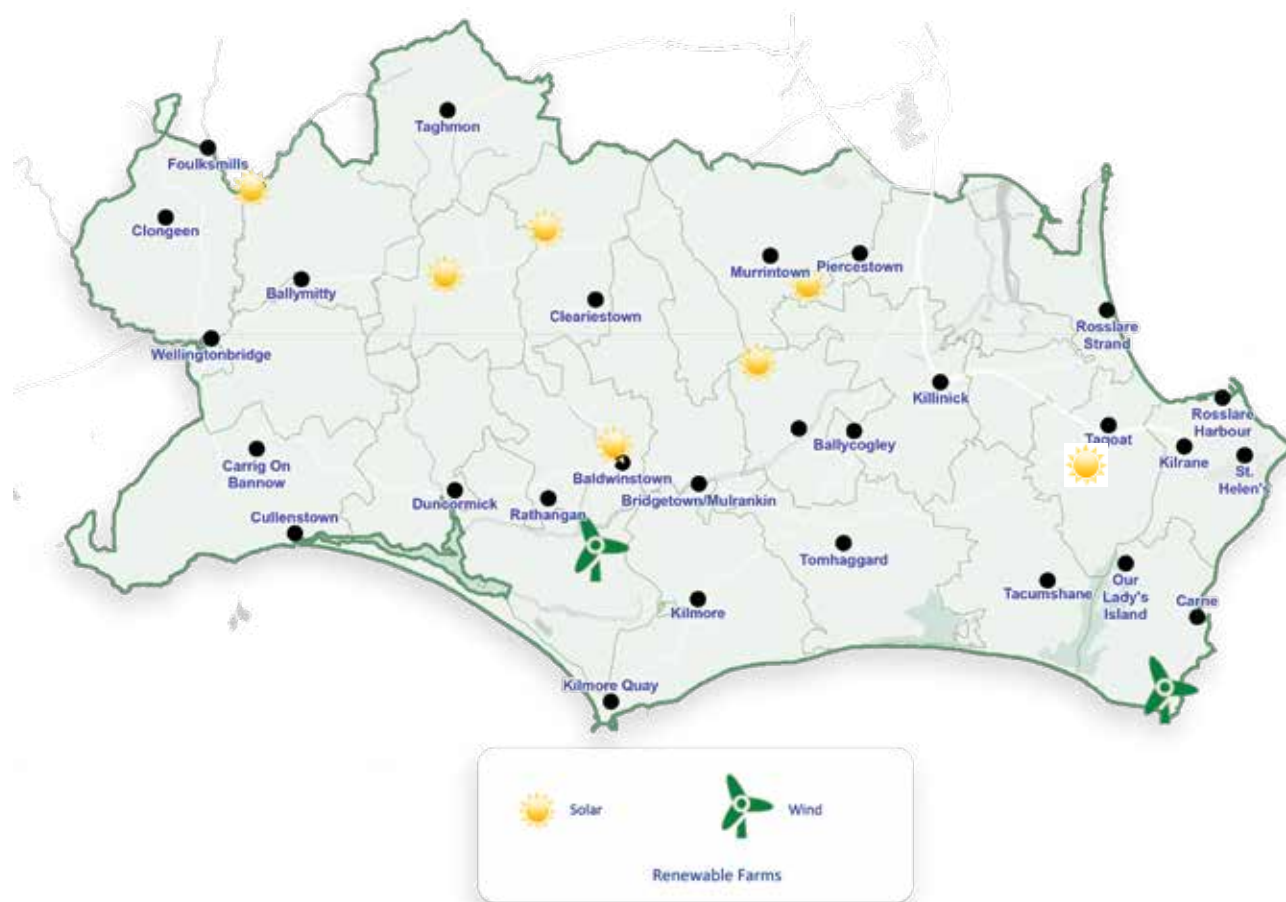
School Roll Numbers RMD		
Census Year	Primary	Post Primary
2006	2,357	636
2011	2,533	597
2016	2,564	549
2022	2,395	604
Total	9,849	2,386

All primary schools and the post primary school in the district have experienced fluctuations in school roll numbers during the period 2006 to 2022, the most notable being:

- The sustained growth in numbers attending Kilrane primary school
- The decreasing pattern of reduced numbers over the 4 reporting periods in Clongeen
- The steady growth in numbers attending Rosslare and Mayglass Primary Schools
- The marked reduction in numbers in Kilmore recorded for 2022 compared to the three previous recorded periods



## MAP 9 – Environment: Key Renewable Energy Sources- Existing and Planned



2 Windfarms in the district at Carne and Richfield (Kilmore)

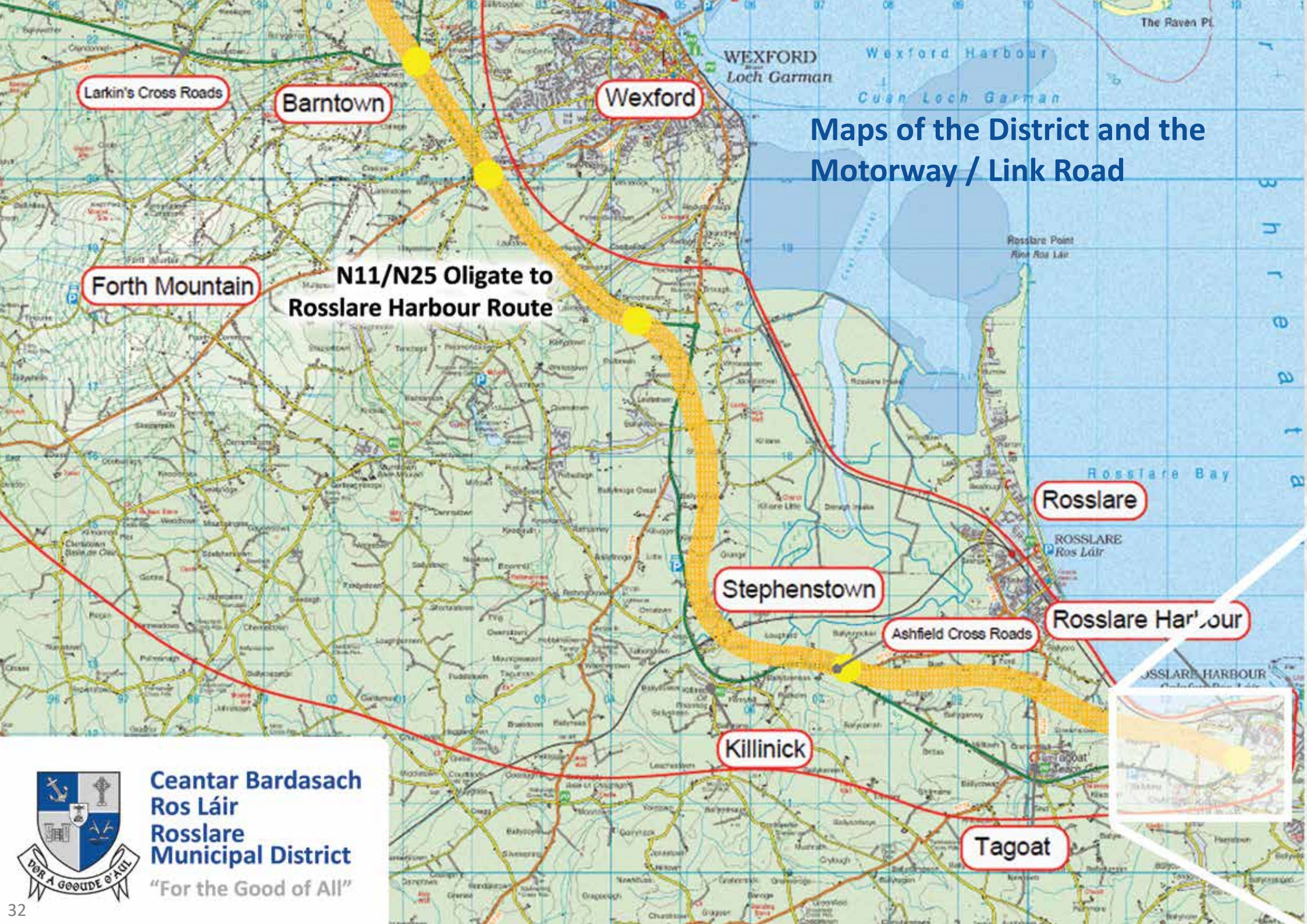
7 Solar Farms in place or progressing to development

- Rosspile, Foulksmills
- Youngstown, Aughwilliam
- Dennistown, Milltown, Sallystown, Murntown Lower, Rathaspick
- Ralphtown, Kilcowan
- Blusheens
- Rochestown, Harperstown
- Gardimus Great, Mayglass

A key feature of Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) is that all renewable electricity generation projects ("RESS Projects") must establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the community living in close proximity to the renewable energy installation.

The contribution is set at €2 per Megawatt hour of generation of the RESS Project. This means there are real and quantifiable funds being made available annually for the benefit of the local community living in close proximity to renewable energy projects illustrated in the map.





## Maps of the District and the Motorway / Link Road

**N11/N25 Oligate to  
Rosslare Harbour Route**

**Ceantar Bardasach  
Ros Láir  
Rosslare  
Municipal District**  
"For the Good of All"





# MAP 10 – Public Infrastructure: Major Road Projects

Wexford County Council is working in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to develop an approximate 30km section of high-quality road which will link Rosslare Europort and Wexford with both Dublin via the M11 and Cork/Waterford via the N25. This is a strategically important part of the national transport network, and the project aims to ensure that the proposed road has the capacity and resilience to safely meet the future transport needs on a national, regional, and local level.

The current phase of the project is at the detailed planning and design stage. This involves further development of the scheme, including surveys, transport modelling, road and junction design, identifying the landtake required, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This design stage of the project will be completed in 2024, following which the planning application will then be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.



## Rosslare Harbour Europort Access Road and Connecting Infrastructure

Offshore Renewable Energy Hub

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

OPW Border Control Terminal

Rosslare Europort Masterplan Development

Dublin – Rosslare Rail

Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenway

EuroVelo Cycle Route 1

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road - Cycle / Walking Track

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout

## N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The Rosslare Europort Access Road will provide safe, sustainable, and much improved access to Rosslare Europort. The new access road will also link with and complement the multimillion Euro port upgrade currently underway at Rosslare Europort. This will further secure the sustainability and competitiveness of this key transport link.

Planning for this scheme is now fully approved by An Bord Pleanála and it is expected that construction of this vital road infrastructure will commence in 2025.



# Section 4

## High Level Goals





# High Level Goals

Phase 1 of the development of the Strategic Plan for the Rosslare Municipal District is now complete and this work has informed emerging goals which are set out in the following pages. These goals will inform Phase 2 which includes the setting of objectives and the more detailed planning, research, development and implementation of projects during the 7 year period of the plan, 2024 to 2030.

The six high level goals are set out under the banner of each of the Strategic Pillars that formed the foundation of the plan. The six pillars combine together, and reach across all aspects of society, to ensure everyone who lives, works, or visits the district experience positive benefits from the deliverables achieved through this strategic planning process.

This ambitious plan is setting out a journey that will allow the communities, elected members and executive of the Rosslare MD to ‘Achieve Our Full Potential Together’ through maximising our existing resources and un-tapped opportunities, thereby building on the strategic vision developed for the Rosslare MD.

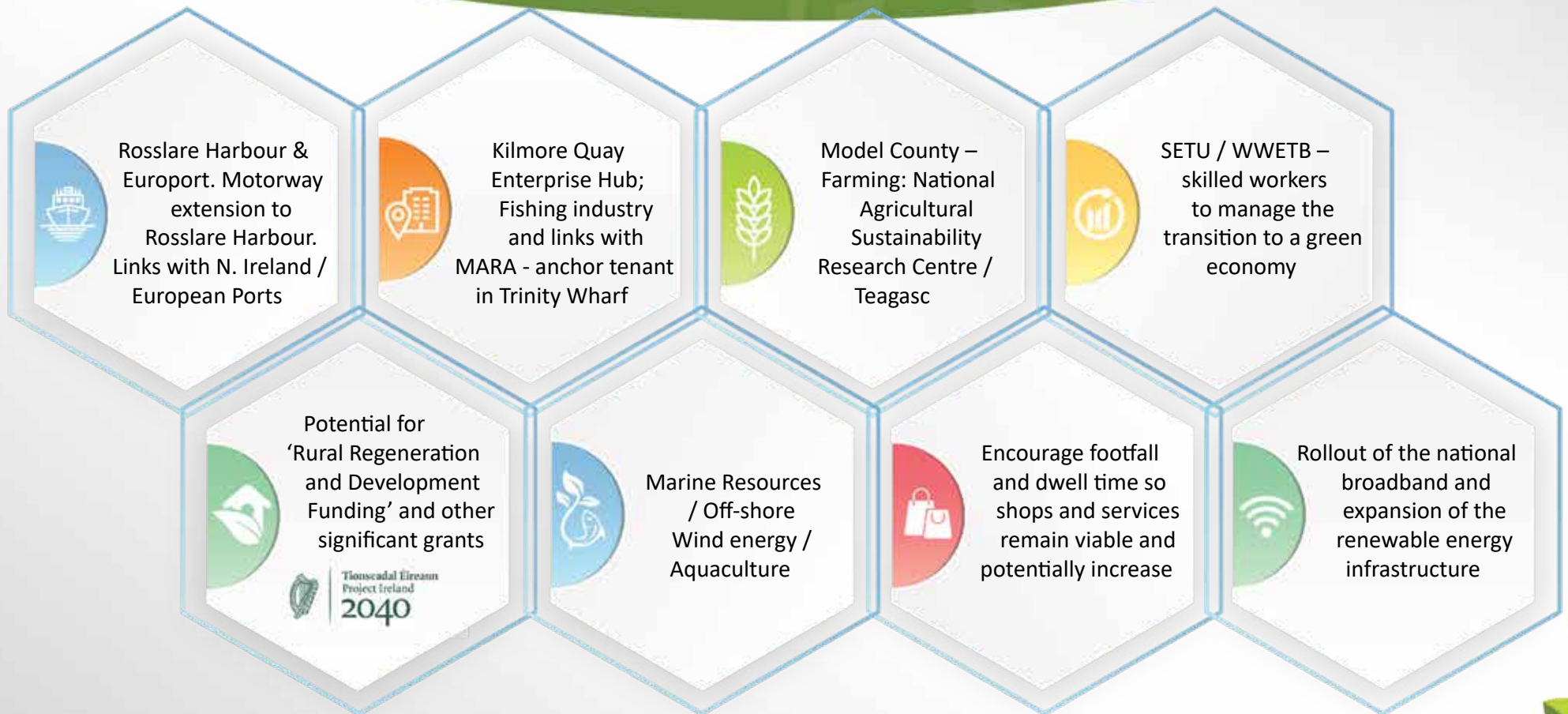




# Goal 1

To optimise the economic opportunities in the Rosslare MD to support its sustainable development

## Economic





To unlock the District's full tourism and recreation potential

# Goal 2



## Planned & Potential Tourism / Recreation Initiatives

### Over-arching theme: Tourism Branding

<b>Water Amenities Infrastructure</b>	<b>Greenways</b>	<b>Railway Line</b>	<b>Coastal Villages</b>	<b>Tourism Infrastructure</b>
Bridgetown to Kilmore Quay blueway / greenway  River Corock Blueway: Bannow Bay to Codd's Quay	Wexford to Rosslare Strand (spur to Piercestown). Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand. Bridgetown to Rosslare (via Killinick) greenway	Rosslare Harbour to Waterford Railway Line: Consider options for shared use greenway in sections	Branding of the necklace of coastal tourism villages linked to Slí Charman / EuroVelo / Norman Way	Tourism offerings building on the Norman Way / EuroVelo / Heritage Sites
<b>Tourism Accommodation</b>	<b>Coastal Beach Facilities</b>	<b>Twinning / European Links</b>	<b>Events / Festivals</b>	<b>Waterway &amp; Marine Users</b>
Solutions: Hotels, Campsites / Motorhomes etc.	Enhancement of beach access and facilities	Twinning, Schools Exchange, Cross-border & European cultural networks	Expand the event and festival offering in the District	Waterway activities, clubs and private providers  Growth of tourism offerings linked to coastal water activities



# Goal 3

To research and deliver innovative housing solutions to serve the diverse needs of local people, promote the reuse of properties and efficiently deliver the Local Authority Housing for All Programme

## Housing



### Delivery of the Local Authority 'Housing for All Programme'

Work with WCC Housing Departments to pro-actively:

- Deliver the Social Housing Capital Programme and exceed government targets
- Support and assist applicants for the Local Authority Home Loan scheme (LAHL)

### Potential and Innovative Solutions: Housing

- Group Waste Water Scheme options
- Sheltered Housing options for the elderly
- Movement on Vacant Properties
  - (740 vacant properties in the MD: 6% of housing stock)
  - Vacant House Grant: €50,000
  - Derelict House Grant: €70,000
  - Increased and improved focus on dereliction
  - Other potential reinstatement initiatives
- Pilot waste water schemes linking non-serviced areas to locations with capacity
- Developer Waste Water Scheme in locations where capacity is planned
- Explore potential opportunities with willow bed or reed bed systems
- Explore national innovations in delivering housing solutions in rural areas and pilot in the Rosslare MD
- Ensure new housing developments are linked to village settlements with footpaths and lighting
- Encourage Uisce Éireann to invest in settlements as per the County Development Plan settlement hierarchy



Working together to encourage, enable and foster flourishing sustainable communities

# Goal 4



## Sustainable Communities

Community Leadership Training Programme

Succession Planning and Attracting Volunteers

Delivering more Services / Facilities in Community Centres

Preparation of 'Shovel Ready' Projects for Grant Applications

Establishment of a Community Network in the District

Daycare Facilities -Kilmore, Kilmore Quay, Bridgetown or other locations

**'Making Wexford a Healthy County for All'**  
**Healthy Ireland / Healthy Wexford**

Accessibility for All and Disability Proofing

Village Health Checks / Settlement Plans

Explore innovative solutions to the Delivery of Rural Services

Guidance on Land Title Issues / leases

Youth Consultation and Activities

Guidance on Grant Applications; Managing Project Delivery; Bridging Finance

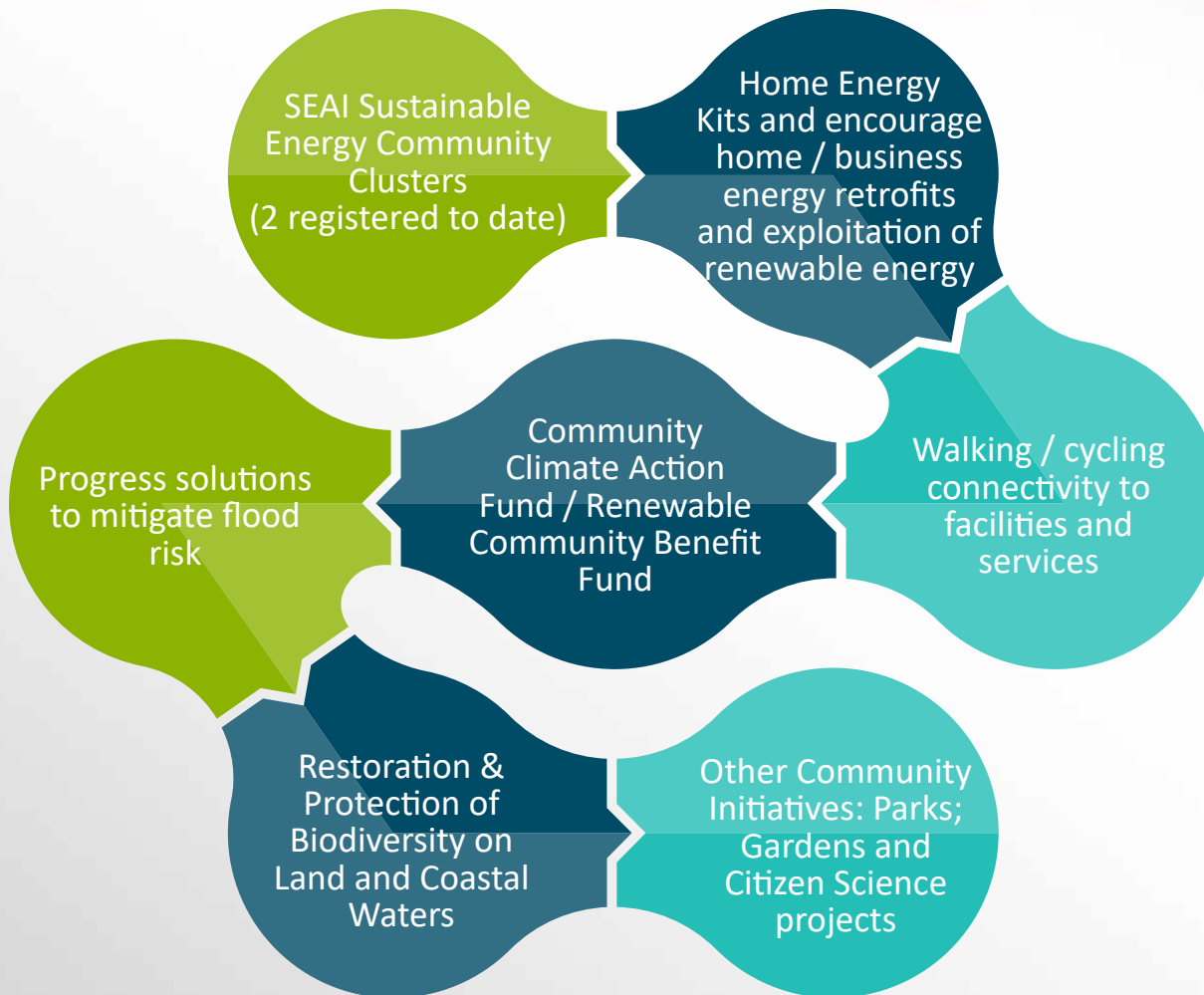


# Goal 5

Supporting the transition towards, and implementation of, carbon neutrality and the protection and restoration of the natural environment

## Environment / Climate Change

Delivery of Initiatives to meet the Climate Action Targets



### Climate Action Fund 2023 Targets:

- 51% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030
- Reduce the distance of car journeys by 20%
- Walking, cycling and public transport to account for 50% of our journeys
- 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 in the residential sector
- 35% reduction on emissions by 2030 in the business / enterprise sector
- 25% reduction in emissions by 2030 in the farming sector





## Public Infrastructure

### Accessibility

Walkability audits of the larger villages



### Public Amenities

Development of recreation amenity areas and fully accessible community buildings



### Age Friendly

Age Friendly infrastructure where appropriate



### Public Transport

Collaborate with TFI Local Link Wexford to promote and enhance the public transport services



### Active Travel Concept

Support the installation of footpaths, cycleways, EV charging points and bicycle storage facilities across the District



### Connectivity

Enhancement of the Broadband network in the District



### Promotion

Promote and market 'Active Travel' options to encourage a behavioural shift away from the car





# Section 5

## Implementation and Next Steps





# Partnerships and Stakeholders: Examples of Current Supports

Wexford County Council		
Amenity & Arts Grants	Residents Association Grants Scheme	Planting Grants

Grants Administered by Wexford County Council			
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023			
Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	Project Development Measure
Up to €30,000	Up to €200,000	Up to €500,000	Up to €50,000
Walking, hillwalking, leisure cycling, Mountain Biking, Horse riding, Running, Orienteering, Rock climbing, Caving, Play in nature, Canoeing / Kayaking, Rowing, Wild swimming, Wind surfing / Kite surfing, Sailing, Diving, Angling, Stand Up Paddleboarding, Paragliding, Hang-gliding			

Community Climate Action Fund 2024 (Upto €100,000)				
Energy	Travel	Shopping / Recycling	Food & Waste	Climate & Environment
LED Community Lighting	Cycle Parking	Community Repair Hub	Community Composting	Mini Forests / Dispersed Orchards / Forest Schools
Small Community Renewable Projects / EV Charging Points	Community Electric Vehicles / Car Services	Swap Shops	Community Gardens	
Retrofitting Community Buildings	Safe or Active Travel to Schools	Water Filling Stations	Allotments	Community Gardens / Roof Gardens
		Single Use Plastic Elimination	Food Markets / Community Fridges	Pollinator Projects / Climate Resilience Projects

Local Enterprise Office: Wexford			
Energy Efficiency Grants	Feasibility Study Grants	Business Expansion Grants	Priming Grant
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	Agile Innovation Fund	Trading Online Voucher	Training / Mentoring



## Other Grants

### LEADER (Opening 2024)

Training

Feasibility Studies

Capital Investment

### SICAP: Target Communities

Rosslare Harbour

Taghmon

Bridgetown

Travellers

Early School Leavers

Ukrainian Refugees

International Asylum Seekers

### Community Centre Investment Fund

New Build Centres

Investment in Up-Grading existing Community Facilities

### Rural Regeneration Development Fund Capital Investment. Typical Minimum Investment is €500,000 – No upper limit

Investment to support rural renewal, strengthen and build resilience in rural communities and assist in the regeneration of towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas.

### Sports Capital and Equipment Programme

Development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment. It is part funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery.

### SEAI

#### SEC Mentor Support

Energy Master Plan

Better Energy Community Grants

#### Home Energy Retrofit Grants

One Stop Shop

Individual Grants / Free Energy Upgrades

#### Business Grants

Energy Audit Vouchers

Business Grants

### Employment Support Schemes

Community Employment (CE) Schemes

TÚS Programme: Wexford Local Development

Rural Social Scheme (RSS): Wexford Local Development

Community Services Programme: POBAL

# Public Consultation and Environmental Screening



The Rosslare Municipal District would like to express sincere appreciation to the communities, stakeholders and others who have contributed to the completion of the Rosslare Strategic Plan.

A public consultation process was completed for the Rosslare MD Strategic Plan 2024 – 2030 and submissions were invited in writing via Wexford County Council's On Line Consultation Portal at <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie> by email to [rosslaremunicipaldistrict@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:rosslaremunicipaldistrict@wexfordcoco.ie) or in writing to the District Manager, Rosslare Municipal District Office, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.

In addition to the publicised consultation process the following environmental authorities were contacted directly and provided with a copy of the draft RMD Strategic Plan and a copy of the initial SEA Screening completed in respect of the draft plan: Environmental Protection Agency, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

The period of consultation was June to September 2023 and a total of 15 submissions were received. The contents of these submissions were included in the SEA Screening process completed in respect of the Rosslare MD Strategic Plan 2024-2030.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and a Strategic Assessment Screening were completed on the Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan by Minogue & Associates, Environmental Consultants, Tuamgraney, Co Clare. The full reports are available on the Wexford County Council website at <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/council-and-democracy/municipal-and-borough-district-offices/rosslare-municipal-district>. This Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) determined that in order to be realised, potential projects or proposals arising from the plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting framework.

Based on these findings the environmental consultants determined that the Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan 2024- 2030 does not require a full SEA.



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This number should be used at all times (office hours, for out of hours emergencies including evenings and weekends).





Credits:

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