



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council

# Chief Executive's Report



County Council Meeting  
09<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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## CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

### Customer Service Unit Statistics – August 2024

Task	August 2024
Phone Calls	3,300
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,745
Website Updates	34
Newspaper Adverts	49

### Environment Cases Logged – Year to Date 2024



**Comhairle Contae Loch Garman**  
Wexford County Council

**Customer Services**  
**Environmental Cases**

Total Calls

# 2957

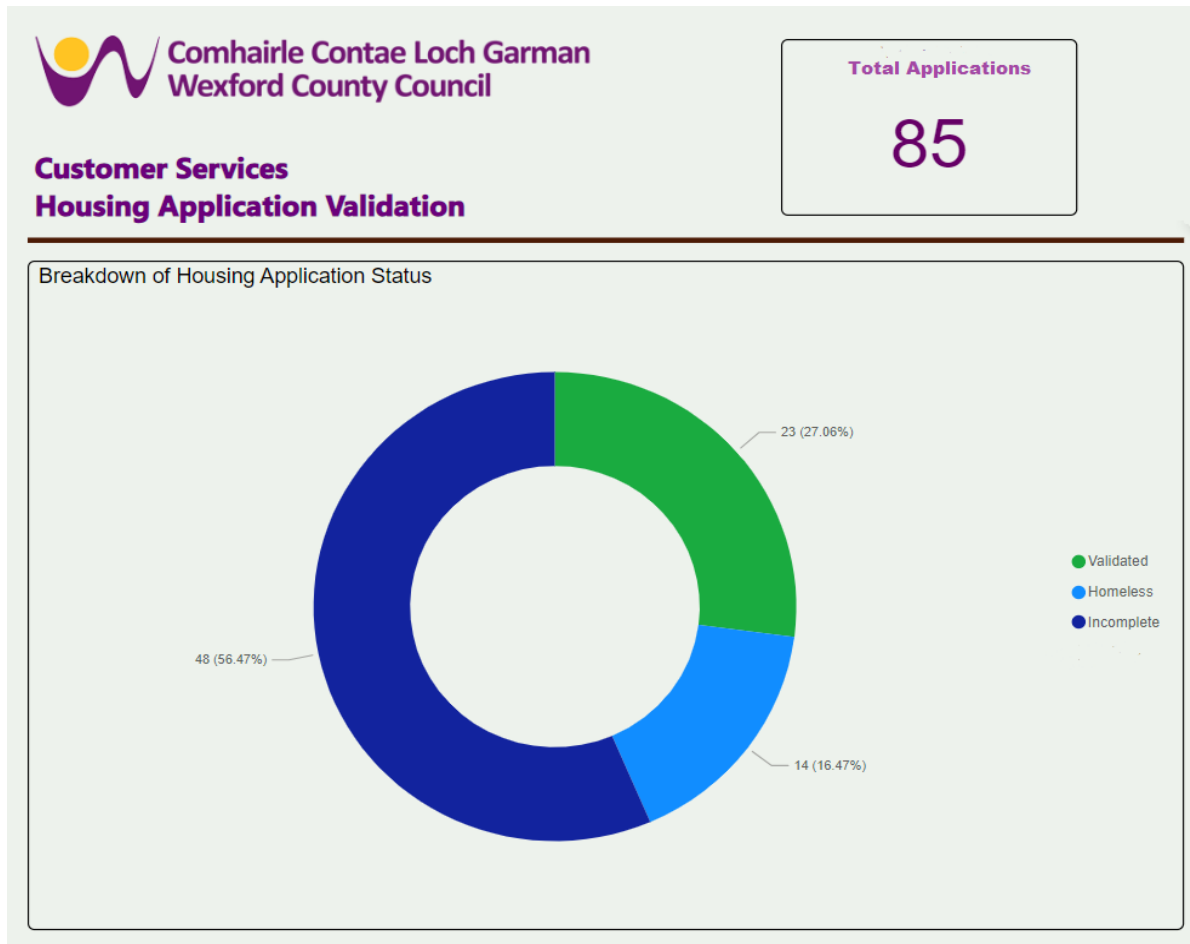
  

Type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	7	11	5	10	12	10	5	9	<b>69</b>
Air Pollution	7	3	9	10	6	3	6	3	<b>47</b>
Beach Bye Laws					1				<b>1</b>
Bring Banks Full	15	9	8	11	5	8	12	3	<b>71</b>
Coastal	3	1	1	7	9	8	4	2	<b>35</b>
Community Cleanup	10	11	25	11	6	6	10		<b>79</b>
Dog complaint		1	1	7		2	1	2	<b>14</b>
Fines								1	<b>1</b>
Litter	134	121	98	135	112	74	88	14	<b>776</b>
Litter (visible from Public Place)	15	12	13	16	9	16	33	24	<b>138</b>
Loose Animals		1			2		1	1	<b>5</b>
Noise Pollution	24	11	19	11	13	7	26	3	<b>114</b>
Oil Pollution	3	2	1		21		1	1	<b>30</b>
Waste Pollution	5	5	7	7	10	5	15	11	<b>65</b>
Water Pollution	8	5	6	3	10	9	11	4	<b>56</b>
Work Request	8	2	6	6	7	4	24	8	<b>65</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>2957</b>

### Top 5 Queries in August 2024



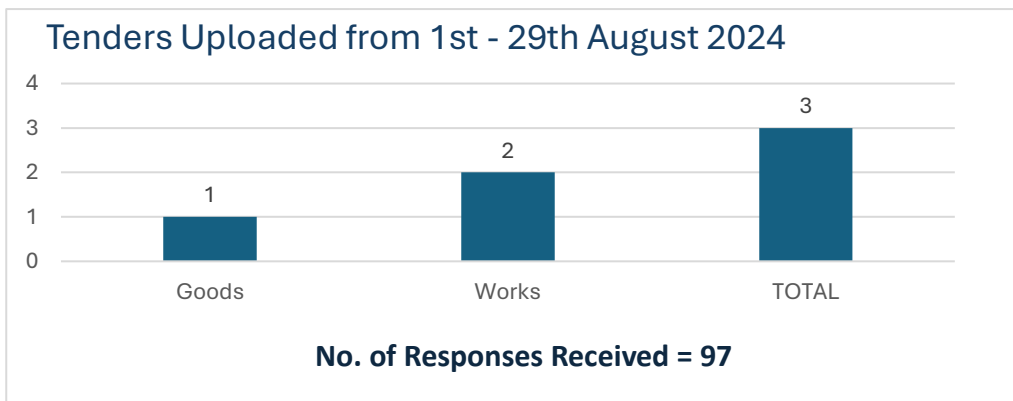
## Social Housing Application Validation Stats – August 2024



## Procurement Section Activity

Type	Requests July/August 2024
Freedom of Information	30
Customer Complaint	59
Ombudsman Complaint	4
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>

## Freedom of Information



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – International Linkages

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> August** - Building on the existing strong relationships between Wexford and Savannah, a number of high-level delegations from the wider state of Georgia visited Wexford recently where opportunities for further development of the economic, education, civic and tourism links between County Wexford and Georgia State were discussed.

Accompanied by members of the Georgia State University Executive, US Congressman Earl L 'Buddy' Carter visited Wexford. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pip Breen hosted a civic event where opportunities for developing further links with State of Georgia were discussed. Included in delegation itinerary were visits to Johnstown Castle and the Dunbrody Famine Ship.



**20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August** - Co Wexford welcomed a delegation of representatives of the Georgia State House of Legislature. During the meetings in the Council Chamber, the Legislature group were given an informative briefing on County Wexford. In promoting tourism, the opportunity was taken to

showcase and promote key tourism attractions in county Wexford. Before departing Wexford, Representative James Burchett, leader of the delegation extended an invitation to the elected members to visit the State Legislature in Atlanta Georgia. This was the first event to extend to the entire State of Georgia expanding the remit from South East Georgia.

**25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August** - Members of the Georgia Economic Development Department were accompanied by Economic Commissioner for Georgia State, Pat Wilson, as well as representatives of World Trade Centre Savannah and the Savannah Economic Development Authority and Georgia Southern University visited Wexford.

A key focus of the visit was an economic/trade forum hosted by Wexford County Council opportunities to grow trade between Georgia and Ireland were discussed. The Economic Department highlighted Wexford and the South East Region as an investment location and a place to do business followed by presentations by IDA Ireland, PwC and Rosslare Europort. A reciprocal presentation was given by the State of Georgia Economic Development Department on doing business in Savannah. Two Wexford companies, Kersia and Stafford Bonded also gave presentations on their businesses focusing on their international trading experiences. This was followed by an event in the Council Chamber to introduce the delegation to companies involved in the Tradebridge project and give the opportunity to explore further trade collaborations.

## Local Enterprise Office

**Student Enterprise Programme (SEP)** - The SEP forms part of a suite of programmes offered by the Local Enterprise Office network throughout Ireland to promote an entrepreneurial culture in second level schools. LEO Wexford following a request for tender for the provision of coordinator services has now appointed Ms. Emer Kirwan of Jigsaw to delivery the programme for the current academic programme. Over 1,390 students across 18 secondary schools participated in the 2023/24 programme. This year LEO Wexford is also collaborating with the Creative Community Engagement Officer to rollout a pilot programme of additional ideation workshops in a number of schools which are fully funded by Creative Ireland.

**Mentoring** - LEO Wexford is tasked with delivering mentoring support to businesses with up to 50 employees matching their needs to mentors in specialist areas such as Intellectual Property, Marketing, Finance etc. The mentors offer both practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance to help navigate the potential pitfalls of starting or growing their businesses.

As the existing panel of mentors is due to expire in September, LEO Wexford have completed an etender process across 16 different lots ranging from general business, financial management, digital marketing, international trade and sustainability. The tender also sought mentors with specific sectoral expertise in areas including food and beverage, tourism, engineering, content creation and maritime and renewable energy. A total of 90 tender responses were received and are currently being assessed.

### **Blás na h'Eireann Food Awards - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

17 Wexford food producers, many of whom have been supported by LEO Wexford will participate in the finals of the Blás Food Awards 2024 in Dingle. This year Wexford is represented by micro-producers, SME's and internationally exporting food businesses from across the county. The businesses range from jams, yogurts, chocolate, bread, crackers and seasonings and is an indication of the quality food producers in the county.

### **County Wexford @ Blás 2024**

- Bramble Cottage Kitchen
- Elderberry Farm
- Furlongs Food Hall
- Irish Country Meats
- Isle of Crackers Ltd
- Kellys Bakery
- Killiane Castle Honey
- Killowen Farm
- Naturally Cordial Ltd
- Pettitt's Supervalu
- Regan Organics
- Ryans Bakery Wexford Ltd
- Well Preserved Limited (Mor Taste)
- Wexford Home Preserves
- Wexford Sea Salt
- Zaeire Artisan Chocolates
- Zanna Cookhouse Ltd.





## Irish Made Awards

The Irish Made Awards are currently running in association with Irish Country Magazine. In total there are 135 finalists across 14 categories. This year, LEO Wexford clients have qualified for the awards in four categories – Sustainability, Food, Fashion and Homewares.



- Sustainability – Ceadogan Rugs
- Food – Zanna Cookhouse
- Fashion – The Linen Shirt Company Anneliese Duffy (Fashion Connect Ireland)
- Home – Ceadogan Rugs



Wexford is the only county to have a competitor in 2 categories with Ceadogan Rugs.

## National Ploughing Championships 2024



The Local Enterprise Village at the Ploughing Championship is one of several initiatives of the LEO Network to foster entrepreneurship across the country. Over 30 small businesses will have a stand in the Local Enterprise Village providing an opportunity to engage with thousands of prospective customers, which can have a significant impact on their business. LEO Wexford will be represented by Sully & Juno, Wexford's only sensory friendly design house, specialising in adaptive clothing for children and adults.

Sully & Juno have won numerous awards locally and nationally for their products and are growing their operation in Ireland and overseas exports.

## Showcase 2025

The Local Enterprise stand at Showcase, is another national initiative to support small businesses from the craft and design sector. The Showcase exhibition, which is Ireland's premier design and craft fair, takes place in the RDS Dublin in January each year is an opportunity for Irish makers and creators to meet and sell to domestic and international buyers.



Wexford LEO has selected 5 clients to participate at Showcase 2025 in the Enterprise Hall in the RDS, Dublin.

- Ceadogan Rugs
- Julie Caulfield Design
- Debroah Cogley Art
- Eoin O'Connor Art
- Ingadi Happy Pots



These companies will be supported by LEO over the coming months to prepare for the event and maximise the benefits of participation from same.

Fáilte Ireland in collaboration with Visit Wexford and WCC are scheduled to hold the first workshop for the Wexford International Tourism Sales Programme, on 9th of September.

This Workshop will help in Identifying the Unique Selling Proposition (USP) for Wexford in international markets and assist in defining the core target segments for International sales – Business to Consumer (B2C) and Business to Business (B2B) which will in turn help in crafting County Wexford’s International marketing messaging. The workshop will be facilitated by Helen O’Leary and Deirdre McDonald from the Innovate Room.

**Fringe Fleadh 2024 – June & July 2024** - The Economic Section supported four Municipal Districts in running Fringe Fleadh events around County Wexford in the lead up to the main Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann held in Wexford Town. Events included traditional music, song, dance and storytelling. From sessions, to workshops, to concerts and exhibitions. Some highlights are listed below.

**Carrig on Bannon Church on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024** - Muireann Nic Amhlaobh was the star attraction at the inaugural Fringe Fleadh Event.

**Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy Castle and Market Square - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June** - hosted the online sensations The Gardiner Brothers. The Gardiner brothers are professional Irish dancers who



previously performed with Riverdance. They have 3.3 million followers on TikTok and 1.6 million followers on Instagram.

**New Ross MD - Library Park, New Ross - 28th to 30th June 2024** - held a 3-day festival over the weekend.

**Gorey MD – July & August** - held a number of Summer Seisign in various bars and venues around the district including Gorey District Park, Kilmuckridge Village and Cahore Pier where those in attendance were treated to Cheoil and Craic with the Wild Turkeys.

**Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann** - As part of Fáilte Ireland’s Festival Team, Colin Hindle conducted independent research on Tourism/Economic impact during the Fleadh the results of which they will share with Wexford County Council later this year. The Fleadh in 2024 was a great success with the organisers, agencies, Wexford County Council staff and volunteers presenting an opportunity to showcase the warm Wexford welcome to visitors. It is expected that the Fleadh with 650,000 visitors generated €60M to the local economy. Well done to all.

## Regeneration Unit - Town Centre First

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.



*Wexford Town Centre First Public Consultation Meeting*

Over the last number of weeks, we have been engaging with the communities of Wexford Town, Taghmon, Castlebridge and Bunclody where we had Walk in Sessions. These sessions were met with great community engagement and participation.

3 of these Towns/Villages were successful in receiving €10,000 funding under Measure 1 of the TCF suite of supports for the establishment of TCF Team in these areas.



We will have Town Centre First Teams active in 7 Towns in County Wexford and look forward to working with these Towns Teams and the chairs.

*Taghmon Town Centre First Public Consultation Meeting*

Under Measure 2 of the 2024 Town centre first suite of supports Courtown/Riverchapel was successful in its application for €30,000 to complete a Town centre first plan for the Town. Wexford County Council is adding an additional €30,000 and we have procured LOCI consultants to help WCC and the Town Team create a Town centre first vision that reflects the needs and ambitions of the community. We will be starting this process very shortly and look forward to the potential this can have for the area.

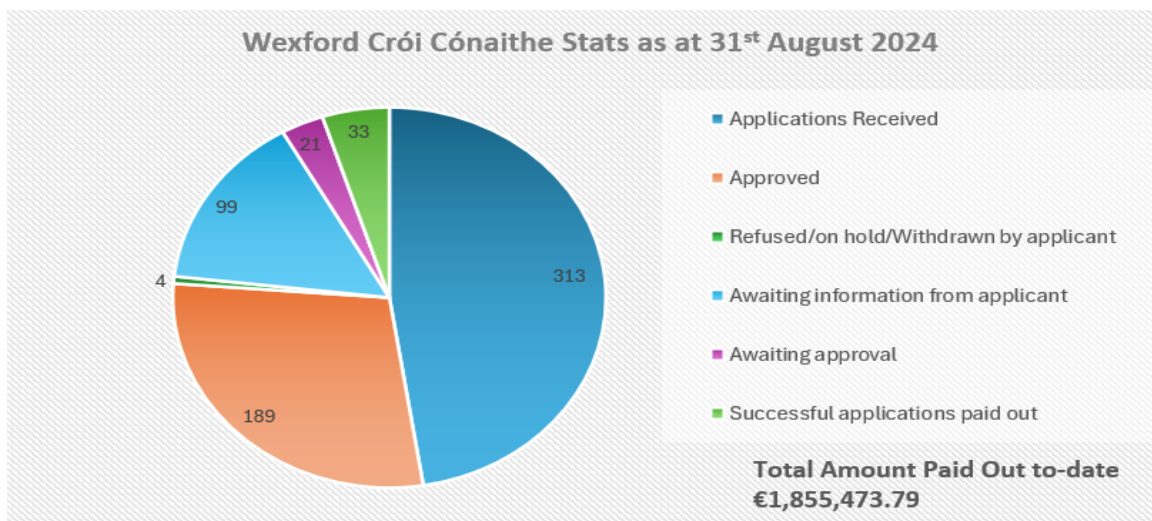
Under Measure 3 we applied for 2 Project Development measure Grants and we successful in receiving €49,500 for both, these announcements were made in late August 2024. The successful groups are 1. Feachtas Ealaian- T/A St Michaels Theatre 2. Kilmore Scope.

We will continue to work with the already established Town Centre First Teams in Enniscorthy and New Ross to promote Town Centre First values and principles.

### **Vacant Homes**

Interest is still very strong in the Croi Conaithe Grant as is evidenced by the figures below. This is a great opportunity to address vacancy and dereliction in the county. Every effort has been made to promote awareness of this grant through roadshows, radio, print and social media and by the circulation of our brochures proving details of the various grants and supports available.

The Regeneration Unit seek to make the process as easy as possible and have had a lot of success with the scheme to date. We are confident that we will have the replacement Vacant Homes Officer in place in the coming weeks.



### Ready to Build - possibilities for 2024

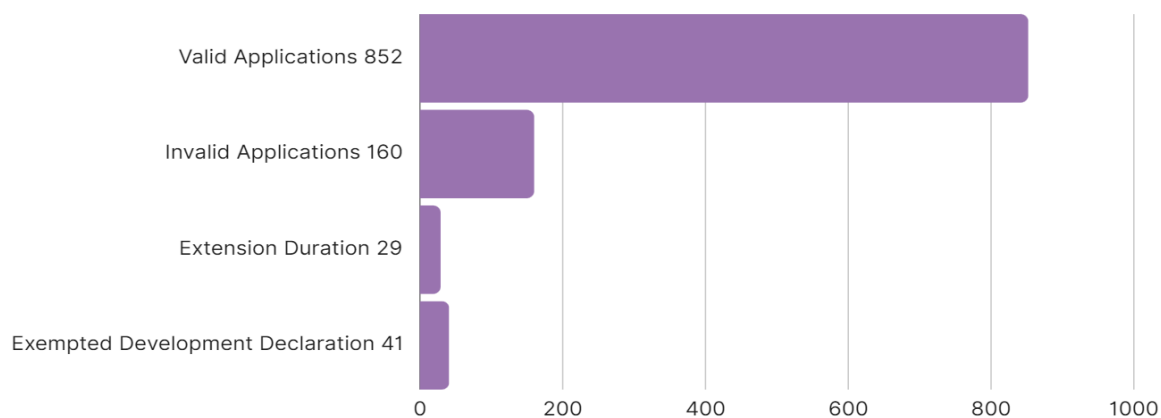
Local Authorities will make available serviced sites at reduced cost to support self-build home ownership.

- The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the Local Authority before the sale of the site but will not exceed €30,000 (being the max amount the Local Authority can claim from Department to get services to the site).
- Have direct access to adequate mains water supply and mains wastewater disposal infrastructure.
- Local Authorities will manage the prioritisation of applicants in line with the framework of priorities as outlined by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## PLANNING

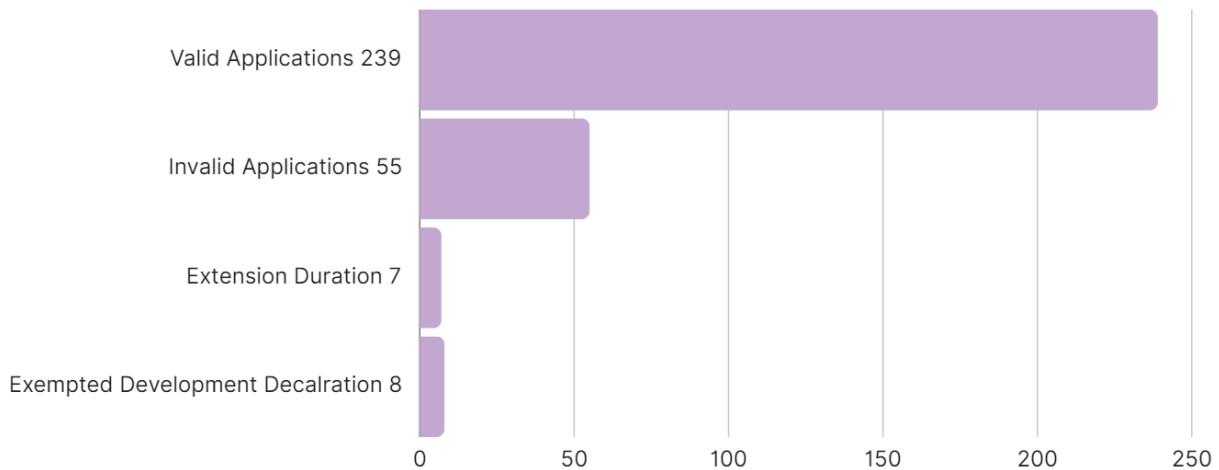
### Planning Applications - received year to date

1st January 2024 to 23rd August 2024



**Total number of applications: 1012**

## Planning applications received from 22nd June 2024 to 23rd August 2024



## Pre-Planning

Pre-planning applications year to date up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024

<b>237</b>	Applications received year to date
<b>199</b>	Applications closed year to date
<b>52</b>	Open applications to date
<b>61</b>	Average number of days to meeting (received and closed year to date)

## Major Pre-Planning

Year to date up to 23rd August 2024

<b>Meetings Held</b>  <b>44</b>	<b>Proposed Commercial Development</b>  <b>34,921</b> sqm. approx.	<b>Total Proposed Housing Units</b>  <b>1745</b> units approx.
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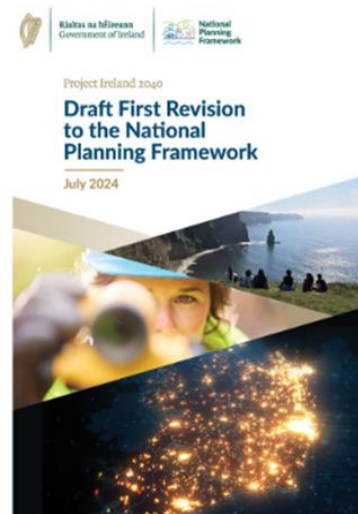
## Forward Planning

### The National Planning Framework

The Government has published the first Draft Revision of the National Planning Framework (NPF) for public consultation. The NPF is the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of Ireland to 2040.

The Draft Revision of the NPF focuses on the need to update the Framework (introduced in 2018) to appropriately reflect changes to Government policy that have taken place since its initial publication six years ago, such as climate transition, regional development, demographics, digitalisation and investment and prioritisation.

Members of the public and stakeholders are invited to make a submission or observation on the Draft Revised NPF during the period from Wednesday 10th July 2024 up to 5pm on Thursday 12th September 2024. The Forward Planning Section, in consultation with other sections of the Council, are currently reviewing the Framework and preparing a submission to ensure that County Wexford will receive tailored support and targeted investment for the duration of the revised Framework.



### Wexford Town Local Area Plan

Work on the Wexford Town Local Area Plan is advancing. The LAP team are progressing strategy development and completing site work that will inform the overall spatial planning framework for the plan area, including land use zoning proposals. With regard to the Rainwater Management Plan, draft versions of the Surface Water Study and the Rainwater Management Plan have been received from McCloy Consulting and are currently being reviewed by Wexford County Council.

The Urban Design Strategy consultants, Loci, continue to progress their work on the Ballynagee Master Plan, the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and the overall urban design strategy for the wider plan area. With regard to the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy, a draft version of the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy has been received from The Paul Hogarth Company with inputs from APEM ecologists, which too is currently being reviewed.

### Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

#### Chief Executive's Report on Achievement of Objectives

Work is ongoing on the Chief Executive's Report on the achievement of the objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The County Development Plan contains over 1,200 objectives covering the Council's key programmes, activities and projects, and monitoring ensures that these objectives are being met as set out.


The compilation of the Report is a complex task requiring input from many of the Council's sections. It is apparent that significant progress has been made by the Elected Members and the various sections of the Council in progressing the objectives of the Plan. It is anticipated that the Report will be submitted to the Members in early Q4 2024.

## Planning CSO Returns

2024 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as at 31 July 2024

Housing Developments (total no. of units)	Apartments incl. self contained dwelling units (total no of units)	One off houses	LACs Local Authority Development	Total No. of permissions granted as at 31 July 2024
161	89	142	72	464

## 464 total number of housing units

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)</li> <li>• Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)</li> <li>• One-off Houses</li> <li>• Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use.</li> <li>• LAC's – Local Authority Development</li> </ul>
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## Building Control

From 22nd June 2024 to 23rd August 2024

Validated commencement notices <b>126</b>	Number of building Control Inspections <b>28</b>	Validated cert. of compliance on completion <b>44</b>
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## Planning Enforcement

Year to date up to 23rd August 2024

Live Cases <b>400</b>	Cases opened <b>188</b>	Cases closed <b>148</b>
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## Derelict Site, Dangerous Structures, URDF and Short Term Letting

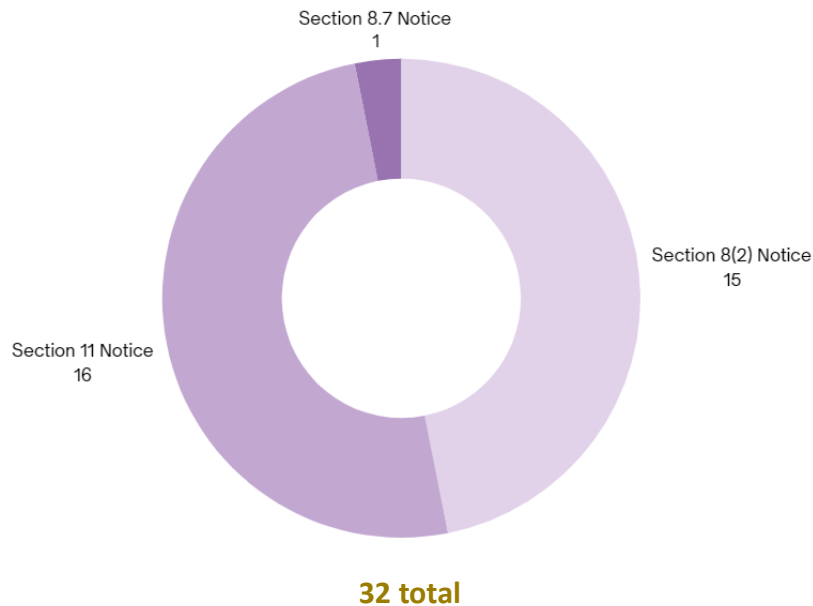
Derelict Sites - 22nd June 2024 to 23rd August 2024

- 102 properties currently on the Derelict Sites Register
- 50 Site inspection/visits carried out
- 9 new files opened
- 5 files closed



- A section **8(2) Notice** notifies the owner that the Local Authority intends to list the property on the Derelict Sites Register
- A section **11 Notice** notifies the owner that the Local Authority intends to list the property on the Derelict Sites Register
- A section **8(7) Notice** notifies the owner that the Local Authority has entered the property on the Derelict Sites Register

Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990:



Example of compliance with Derelict Site Act 1990 - 3 Selskar Steet, Wexford:





## Dangerous Structures

22nd June 2024 to 23rd August 2024

<b>Cases opened</b>	<b>Section 3(1) Notices</b>	<b>Section 3(2) Notices</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

Under Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 a 3(1) Notice requires the works to be carried out by the owner within a given timeframe. A 3(2) Notice, the works are carried out by the local authority with the owner charged for the cost of works.

## Urban Development Regeneration Fund Call 3 (URDF)

22nd June 2024 to 23rd August 2024

- **170** sites approved on the acquisition programme
- **3** new sites submitted to the Department for inclusion in the programme
- **36** Cumulative number of sites on the approved programme **closed** to date

## Short-term Letting

The letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment in the designated Rent Pressure Zone – Gorey.

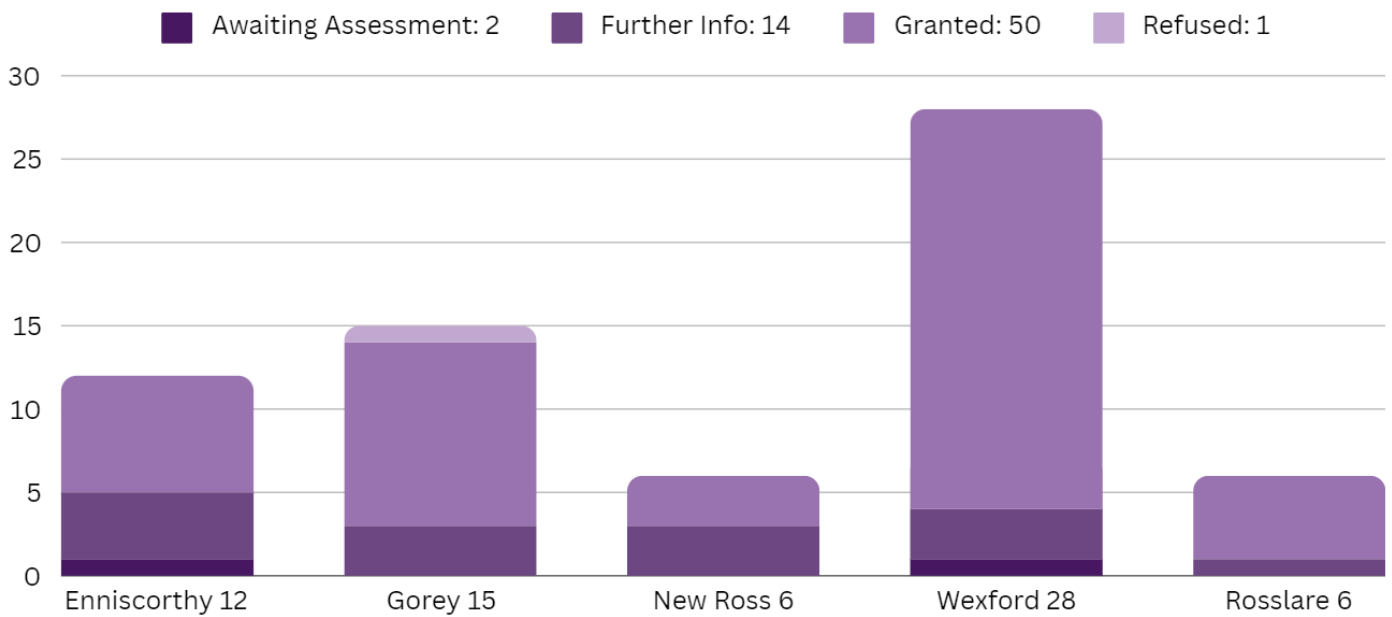
Year to date up to 23rd August 2024:

<b>Live cases</b>	<b>Cases Opened</b>	<b>Cases Closed</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

## Access

### Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

**67** valid DAC applications for the year to date up to 23rd August 2024



**Disability proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity**

Referrals:

LAC /PLAC/ LRD & General Planning Applications	Major Pre-Planning
<b>112</b>	<b>7</b>

**Access Items**

**The Beach Stroller Pilot Programme**

The Access section took part in *Your Council Day* in July by working on a video with Sports Active and Communications to promote our beach accessibility programme. [\(available here\)](#)

The beach stroller pilot programme that has been operating in Curracloe and Rosslare for the summer has been a considerable success, so we are hoping to be able to make these beach walking supports available in several other locations as soon as possible.



**National Age Friendly Awards** - We have also been shortlisted for this year’s National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards for our beach accessibility work, with judging due to take place in September ahead of the awards ceremony in November.

**Fleadh Cheoil** - Finally, for the Fleadh Cheoil we worked with Wexford Town Library to open a sensory space, to ensure a quiet space was available for people with sensory needs to get a break from the festivities. Our thanks to all staff in the library who worked so hard on the sensory space.

## WATER SERVICES

### Rural Water

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<p><b>Kilanerin GWS</b></p> <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>GWS received a quotation from EPS for the full installation of the Nitrate Removal System.</li> <li>Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<p><b>Blackstairs GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CaimTank</b> – WCC received estimate to carry out bypass of tank.</li> <li>Contractor appointed - T. Swaine &amp; Sons, work to commence in coming weeks.</li> <li>Contractor has advised that works shall commence next week on site.</li> <li><b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<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.</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>SI contractor to return to site and complete works which require further investigation to WCC satisfaction.</li> <li>Detail Design of pumping stations underway</li> <li>Detail Design of network within final stages.</li> <li>Tender documentation being compiled</li> </ul>
<b>MARWP 2024-2026</b>	<p><b>MARWP 2024-2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April</li> <li>Submissions made across a range of measures totalling €3.26 million.</li> <li>All submitted projects have progressed to Phase 2 assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<p><b>Individual Well Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of <b>47</b> new well grant applications were registered in July / Aug 2024</li> <li><b>36</b> Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €72,381.91</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>93</b> inspections to date carried out in June.</li> <li>▪ Workflow prototype meeting held in May, due to constraints in IT programme won't be resumed until Sept.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure A8 –</b>  <b>Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Needs for Villages &amp; Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</b>	<b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme.</li> <li>▪ Detailed programme for the delivery of project was submitted to Dept. on 10<sup>th</sup> May 24.</li> <li>▪ Meeting held with Dept. 28<sup>th</sup> June to discuss next steps for advancing project.</li> <li>▪ Project now with Uisce Eireann to progress to next stage.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Remediation Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9 applications received to date on revised grant, 6 paid, 3 approved.</li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Project</b>	
<b>DPI Resolution Programme 2019-2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cois Cuan, Kyle Close, Mountain View are all progressing from Preliminary Design to Detail Design. Works on the 3 projects are programmed to be undertaken and complete in 2025.</li> <li>▪ Gleann na gCaor is programmed for detail design in 2025 and works undertaken and complete in 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>DPI Resolution Programme 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beach View and Farrin Carraig are both progressing from Preliminary Design to Detail Design. Works on the 2 projects are programmed to be undertaken and complete in 2025.</li> <li>▪ Beechfields is programmed for detail design in 2025 and works undertaken and complete in 2026.</li> </ul>

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### Major National Roads Projects

#### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The Project is in Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Additional Traffic survey report is completed.

Archaeological Geophysical Surveys draft factual report is completed.

Real Estate Consultancy are under assessment.

The design of the Project is progressing, including additional tasks in relation to the Service Area requirements and Active Travel.

Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.

Meeting with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding was held in August.

Project teams are preparing proposal for the change of the scope of agreement due to additional Project tasks in relation to the Active Travel and Service Areas.

#### N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The Project is in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement.

Coordination with OPW/Irish Rail in relation to the OPW/Irish Rail temporary works and N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road is ongoing.

Technical Advisors are progressing through the Phase 5 (Enablement & Procurement) deliverables.

Archaeological Services (Stage 1 – 4) tender documents are completed and publication of the Tender is pending TII's approval.

Irish Rail Technical Approvals Process is ongoing for the proposed Railway overbridge on the scheme.

### National Road Pavement Schemes

Safety Schemes	N30 Tominearly	Driver feedback signs were installed in August on the approach to the bend.
	N 25 Tagoat	Feasibility and Options Report approved by TII. Tenders invited from consultants for design phase. The bus stop and shelter works were completed in August.
Pavement Schemes	N25 Orristown to Ashfield Cross	(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000) Tenders have been received and reviewed by THRDO. The lowest tender was valued at approximately €2,400,000. This Scheme is still suspended due to TII funding constraints in the current year.
	HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly	(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,000,000). This scheme will commence in early September to be completed by October.

## VRS (Vehicle Restraint System – Safety Barrier) Maintenance

This contract commenced in 2023. Barrier survey works are continuing. However routine barrier repairs have been suspended for the remainder of the year due to TII.

## Regional and Local Roads

Wexford's allocation for 2024 is €23,437,550. This allocation includes €2,000,000 for Severe Weather damage.

An additional €1,097,000 was awarded by the DoT on 31<sup>st</sup> May specifically for restoration improvements throughout the county.

<u>Resurfacing/Strengthening Programme</u>	<u>Municipal District</u>	<u>Road Completed last month</u>
The 2024 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in Jan'24  Less than 10% of the Roads Programme remains to be completed.	Enniscorthy	Rectory Road
	New Ross	Fary Road & Fary Cross
<b>Bridge Rehabilitation</b>		<b>Update</b>
A grant of €603,000 was received to repair 14 bridges	New Ross	<u>Completed</u> Dunbrody Bridge Abbey Bridge Phase 2
	Rosslare	<u>Completed</u> Ambrosetown & Waddingtown
	Gorey	<u>Commenced</u> Annagh & Cooraun
	Enniscorthy	<u>Commenced</u> Boormount, Templescoby & Ballycadden
<b>Climate Adaptation &amp; Resilience Works</b>		<b>Update</b>
A grant of €687,200 was received to complete 20 projects	Enniscorthy	<u>Completed</u> Tomafarney, Farmley & Raheenahoon
	Gorey	<u>Completed</u> Island Middle & Scarnagh
	New Ross	<u>Commenced</u> <u>Springpark, Campile &amp; Camross/Old Town</u>
	Rosslare	<u>Completed</u> <u>Commenced</u> Bridgetown; Rosslare
	Wexford	<u>Completed</u> Growtown Taghmon

**Surface Dressing Programme** - The 2024 Surface Dressing Programme is 98%, the remainder await the completion of the Wexford Rally.

**Community Involvement Schemes** - A grant of €502,650 was received to complete 8 road sections this year. Two of the eight are complete with 6 remaining roads being prepared for resurfacing.

**Severe Weather - Flood Damaged Bridges** - Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are complete to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. It is hoped work will commence September 2024.

**Specific Improvement Grants** - A grant of €1,005,000 was received for the Owenduff river embankment stabilisation (R733 Wellingtonbridge) and to complete payments for the works on the Deeps Bridge. It is expected works will commence on the Owenduff river embankment in September 2024.

**Local Improvement Schemes** - The 2024 programme has been finalised with 17 lanes to be resurfaced. A grant of €850,436 has been allocated for 2024 and €619,894 allocated to 2025. This is a total of €1,470,330 for the 2 years. Individual schemes have been completed in New Ross and Enniscorthy districts.

## **Active Travel Update**

### **Newtown Road – Phase 1**

This scheme is now substantially completed with substantial completion awarded and snagging currently underway.

Stage 3 Road Safety Audit (RSA) completed by Roadplan. Issues highlighted by audit shall be addressed at same time.



*Fig. 1: Red surface being laid for cycletrack.*

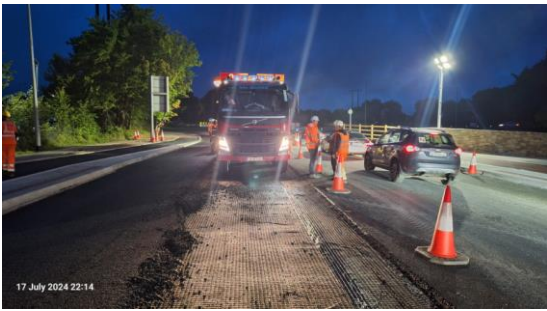


Fig. 2: Blacktop at roundabout being laid (note the geogrid).



Fig. 3 Road markings being painted

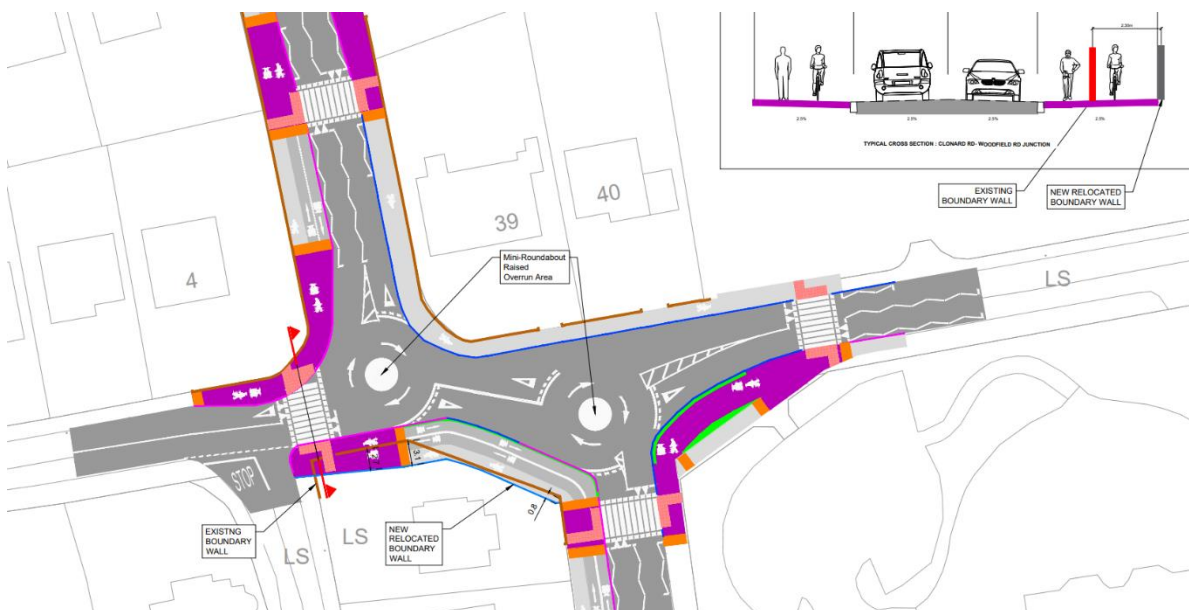
### **Newtown Road Phases Two and Three (Part of the Pathfinder Project)**

Phases Two and Three of the Newtown Road cycle scheme will involve the continuation of the footpath upgrades from Applegreen to Bayview at Wygram.

These schemes are now at the stage where tender documents will be completed this week w/b 26<sup>th</sup> Aug and once reviewed will go to E tenders with a return date of around 3 weeks.

### **Beechlaw/Clonard Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)**

Consultation with local landowners is underway, including with the HSE. A proposal to widen out footpaths at two small roundabouts will be explored with adjoining homeowners to facilitate cycle paths but to keep the current arrangements i.e. two roundabouts but with raised toucan crossings at intersection points.



The most recent Beechlaw drawings once approved by homeowners will be issued to RPS for Part 8 commencement.

Proposals to upgrade the school frontage (Kennedy Park NS) will be included as part of the Beechlawns/ Clonard scope of works for Part 8.

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

Part 8 Planning application to commence in Q3 2024. Stakeholders already engaged with were Nolans. Wexford Bus still to be consulted with.



The scheme will see an upgrade of the existing cycle lanes/ tracks and junctions along the road over 3km.

### **Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme (New Ross)**

Options selection report and Preliminary design for New Ross currently being reviewed by AT. It is intended to finalise design prior to Part 8 application. RPS intend to finalise Part 8 submission and produce a report on submissions by end of 2024.

### **Safe Routes to School Launches**

The Section 38 for **Ramsgrange Community School** received no objections. We have tendered works and currently await approval from NTA to proceed to construction.

The AT team together with An Taisce presented the draft delivery plan to **Gorey Central school** on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June to the Principal. AT team is currently working on the preliminary design where both the bollards and permeability will be addressed in conjunction with Joannes works.

AT will report back to An Taisce and school principal in September to arrange a meeting to present proposals. Following presentation to school, the public consultation will proceed.

**Crossabeg** was reviewed with An Taisce on the same day. Proposed changes shall include footpath buildout, bollards and lining to front of school to improve pedestrian/ vehicular separation.

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

Options Development Report has been completed by consultant and reviewed by Wexford County Council Roads and Planning department and the NTA. We are currently at Part 2b of the Plan (under 50 % completed). Consultants require information from planning on draft zoning mapping.

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

Baseline report (Part 1 of 6) has been completed and reviewed by Wexford Co.Co. NTA are to decide whether screening for the LTP is necessary in the interim until such time as the Wexford Town Lap and County Plan are yet to be finalised, draft completion dates of LAP late 2025.

### **Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy**

A topographical survey has been completed to explore design options for an Active Travel scheme on the Old Dublin Road in Enniscorthy. 5

### **Public e-Scooter sharing scheme.**

Wexford County Council accommodated the official launch of the aScooter Pilot Trial for an initial period of 6 months.



## **E scooter stats**

Early indications are positive. In the first week 954 trips were recorded with a total of 2,349 KM combined distance travelled. This data shows that there is a demand for alternative travel options over short distances within Wexford Town.

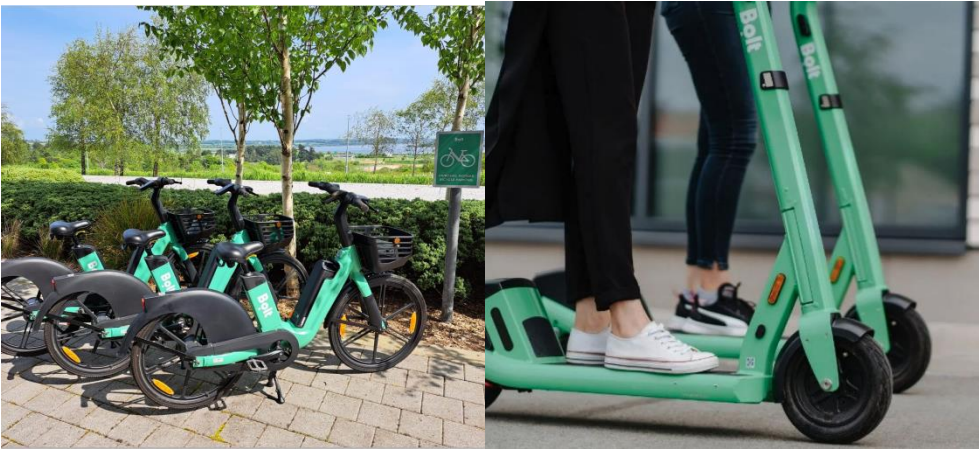


Fig.5 – Bolt eBikes & e-scooters now available in Wexford Town

## **Hospital Junction**

Active Travel are preparing a design for a protected junction at the Hospital Junction to provide connectivity through the junction for Active Travel. (Fig.6)

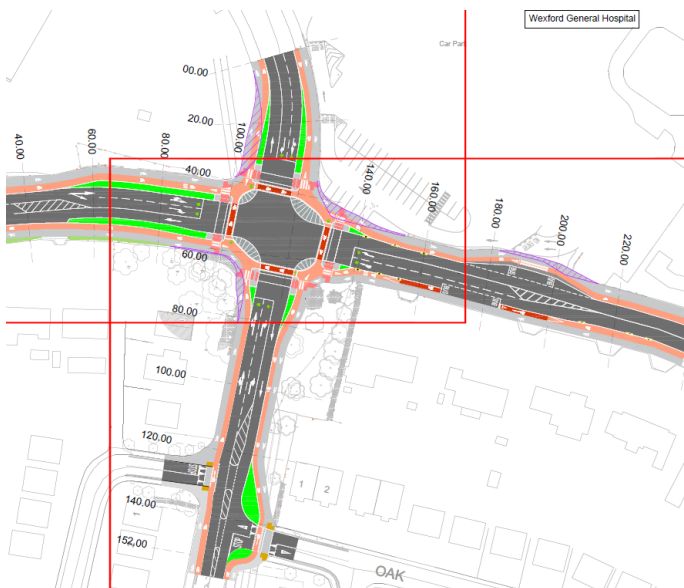


Fig.6 – Hospital Junction proposal

AA Screening report shall commence in Sept and AT has requested RPS to complete a TIA on junction as left turn lane shall be closed as part of the proposed Hospital Junction works and in its place replaced with a combined lane serving straight ahead and left turners.

## **Gorey to Courtown Footpath**

### **Update of Works to date:**

**Phase 1** –Works involve 412m of footpath adjacent to the R742, Junction tightening and 30m footpath works at Ballymoney junction and 155m adjacent to the L1000 Ballymoney Road.

Tendering awarded contract to Paddy McGee. Works commenced on site Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August with a work programme of 12 weeks.

**Phase 2** -DBFL Consultants have been engaged to carry out a traffic analysis on the Road. A detailed traffic count and junction analysis has been carried out and this will allow modelling to be carried out and show how different options at the bridge will affect traffic. We hope to have this modelling and the traffic analysis in September.

## **Speed Limits**

### **Proposed implementation of the new 60km/h Default Speed Limits**

Assessment of the County's Road network to identify local county roads suitable to retain 80km/h speed limits ongoing.

This list when finalised will be used to create an amendment to our existing Speed Limit Bye Laws. This Draft Bye Law to be presented to the Members at the September Municipal District meetings.

Delivery of the first tranche of poles from the Dept. of Transport is expected in early September with associated signage to follow shortly after.

District Engineers currently preparing installation plans for the poles and signs. Council Installation crews to commence installation of poles by the middle of September.

## **Public Lighting**

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

Funding applications to upgrade the lights on the 3 roundabouts on the M11 at Scurlocksbush, Templescoby and Milehouse to LED. Installations will be completed by the end of October.

Plans are in place to have public lighting upgraded to Led by the end of 2025.

### **Public Lighting Development Fund**

Due to energy savings from the Led upgrade programme, we are continuing to complete "infill" lighting programmes across all municipal districts.

Projects currently out for pricing in Kilmuckridge, Castlebridge and Ballindaggin. These are mainly larger infill projects with 5 or more lights providing a link to where footpaths are unlit.

Smaller infill projects are also taking place in each district using our maintenance contractor.

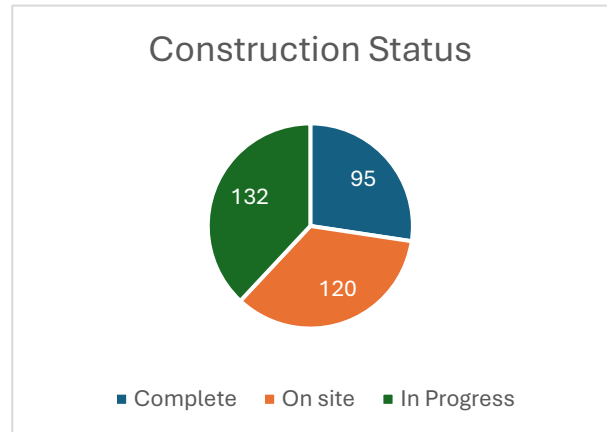
We also have multiple Taking in Charge lighting projects that are being completed through Building Control.

# CAPITAL HOUSING

## Housing Supply - Capital Build Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

<b>Dwellings Complete 2022</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Dwellings Complete 2023</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Dwellings to Complete in 2024</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Dwellings to Complete in 2025</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Dwellings to Complete in 2026</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Social and Affordable Housing in the Pipeline</b>	<b>433</b>



### Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024



**Womens Refuge**

Rosetown Phase 2	12 Houses	Complete
Womens Refuge	12 Units	Complete
Whiterock Hill	22 Units	Q4
Ballyhine	8 houses	Q3

**Total 54**

### Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2025



**Wexford Street**

Wexford Street, Gorey	30 Units
Tagoat, Rosslare	18 Units
Creagh, Gorey	22 Units
Ramsfort Park, Gorey	20 Houses

**Total 90**

## Funded Projects for delivery 2025 – 2026



Francis Street, Wexford	2
Bullawn, New Ross	3
Rosbercon, New Ross	50
Killeens, Wexford	60
Monomolin, Gorey	5
Ballygillane, Rosslare	5
Grogans Road, Wexford	4
Adamstown, New Ross	3

**Total 132**

## Projects in Design / Pipeline Approval    Social and Affordable    Subject to Funding Approval



Clonard, Wexford	56
Group TAP Housing	5
Cluain Fada, New Ross	22
Bride Street, Wexford	3
Lacken TAP	1
Kilmore Quay, Rosslare	12
Creagh, Gorey	24
Castlemoyle, New Ross	75
The Lyre, Enniscorthy	50
St Walerans, Gorey	100
Park, Wexford	12
Belvedere, Wexford	8
Bunclody, Enniscorthy	65

**Total 433**

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### Projects at Planning Stages

#### Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

Following a public consultation as under the Part 8 process for the Market Square project, An Bord Pleanála requested, and received, further information from WCC in relation to the proposed development. On 7th June 2024, WCC were directed by the Board not to prepare an EIAR in respect of this development.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project is ongoing and it is intended make a Part 8 submission for this in Q4 2024.

ILLUSTRATED VIEW 01  
VIEW FROM CASTLE STREET INTO MARKET SQUARE SPACE



ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project.

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

The activity centre building and boathouse are currently subject of a scope review.

Gorey District Park - The Changing Places unit is now complete.



#### John Street Grainstore, New Ross

A Part 8 process for the Grainstore and building extension elements was approved on 8th April 2024. An application for Category 1 funding, under the RRDF, was submitted on 8th February. A further development consent application will be made to An Bord Pleanála in the coming months for the public realm area to the rear of the property.



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

WCC secured RRDF Category 2 and Category 1 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

### **Irish National Heritage Park: INHP**

Preliminary design and environmental assessments are ongoing, including a design for a new Visitor Centre in order to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2025.

### **Hook Lighthouse**

Tandem Design continue to work on the development of the Interpretive and Concept Design of the project which will be further developed and finalised when the Integrated Design Team (including Architect) is appointed.

The Tender assessment for the associated architectural and related design services is complete and is progressing to the next stage of appointment. A tender competition for provision of traffic and environmental consultancy services is also ongoing. It is expected that all design consultants will be appointed in Q4 2024.

It is expected that the full preliminary design including Environmental reports, Interpretative and Architectural Designs will be completed in Q4 2025 for submission to An Bord Pleanála.

### **New Ross Tourism Project**

The renovation of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre exhibition experience is now complete and open to the public. A formal opening of the refurbished Dunbrody Ship and Visitor Experience took place on August 30th 2024 by An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD. The renovated centre is expected to generate 9 million euros for the local economy and 36 jobs in the next 10 years.

Bright Ireland have been appointed as Interpretive designers for the Norman Themed Visitor Centre with conceptual design ongoing.

An integrated design team led by Hawkins Brown Ireland Ltd. was appointed in July 2024 for the preliminary & detailed design, procurement and supervision of the works.

### **Esmonde Street, Gorey**



The project is currently progressing through detailed design, with a tender competition for a works contractor to be published to etenders in September 2024.

**Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway** - The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced in parallel with the Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand greenway project.

**Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway** - The scoping and route options process is ongoing. A second public consultation on the preferred route corridor options is taking place from 14<sup>th</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and it is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q1 2025.

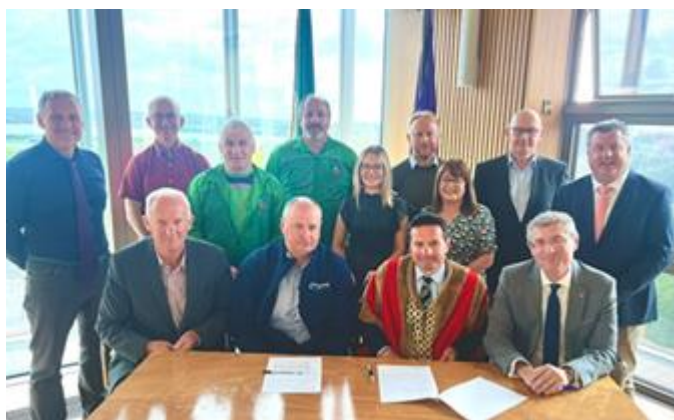
Fehily Timoney & Company are also project technical advisors for the Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Stand greenway. Public consultation on route options for this greenway is taking place in parallel with the Wexford to Rosslare Strand route. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q1 2025.

**Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme** - It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in 2024, subject to advance approval of a Marine Area Consent by the Marine Area Regulatory Authority.

**Crescent Quay – Dredging** - Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

**Enniscorthy Sports Hub** - A tender competition to procure a works contractor for the Sports Hub was advertised on eTenders on 18th June 2024. Tenders have been received and assessment is ongoing.

#### **Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, 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. The Contract signing for these works took place in late May 2024 with construction to commence shortly.

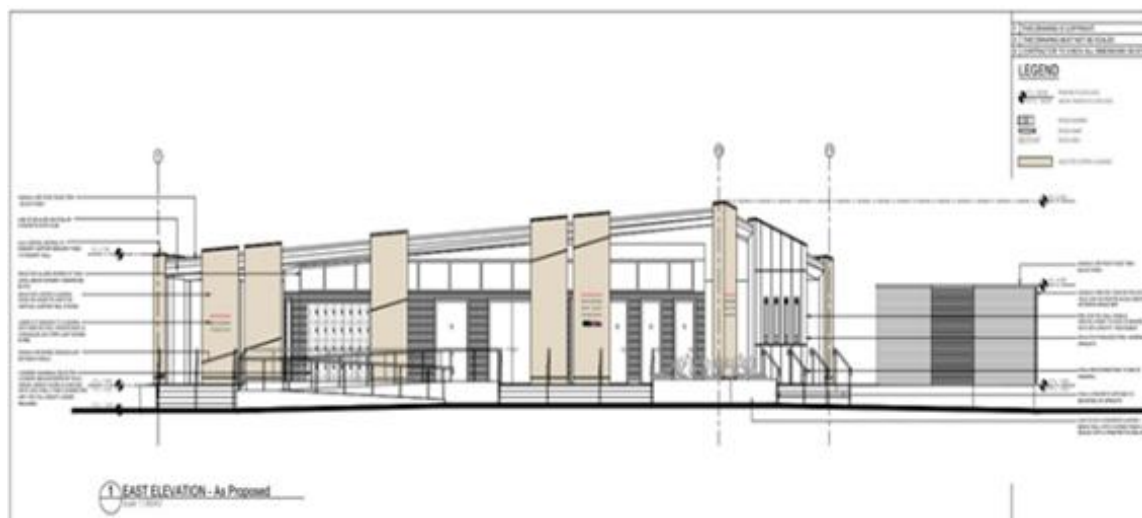
Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site, following confirmation of

€100,000 in grant funding through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023. The works are now substantially complete and in use by the public.





**Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility** - Tenders for the construction of the main building were received on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, and a preferred tenderer has been identified. It is anticipated that the Contract will be awarded in August, with construction to commence on-site in mid-September 2024.



**Adoration Convent Wexford** - Detailed design and associated survey works are now largely complete, with a formal presentation of design and cost proposals made to GSU in June 2024. It is intended to tender out these works out in September 2024, with works planned to commence in Q1 2025.



**New Ross Skate Park** - The Part 8 submission has been lodged with the process having formally commenced on 28.08.24.

**St Waleran's Link Road** - A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design, Environmental Impact Assessment and submission to ABP for approval, was published to etenders on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

No Tenders were returned as part of the competition. Options for the expedient appointment of consultants are currently being explored.

**Ballynagee Link Road** - A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design and preparation of a Part 8 submission (subject to screening) was published in July 2024. Tenders have been returned for this competition and are currently being assessed. It is anticipated to award a contract in Q4 2024.

**Gorey Market House** - It was announced Gorey Market House was successful in grant application under EU THRIVE scheme receiving the maximum allocation of €7m grant aid. The next step will be the procurement of an architect led design team for detailed design, procurement and construction supervision services. This process will commence following formal execution of the grant agreement.

## Projects Under Construction

**South East Greenway** - Work on Phase 2, a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore is due for completion in December 2024.

Fehily Timoney and Company are advancing designs for Lot 4 and all other lots for the completion of the greenway. It is targeted to commence works on Lot 4 in summer 2025.



## Trinity Wharf

Construction of the access road is now substantially complete. Ayesa has been appointed for design services for the next phase of the project. Procurement of site investigation works is ongoing with SI works expected to commence in Q4 2024.

The next works contract is due to commence in Q3 2025, which will comprise new sea wall, bulk filling site services and surface works.

**New Ross Emigrants' Park - Winner** of the LAMA best urban planning award 2024.



## Works Completed at Mechanics Institute & Oyster Lane



## Murphy Floods Redevelopment

A tender competition to appoint a works contractor for the demolition works onsite has been completed and a works contract awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons. Works are now commencing on site.

### 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
10	Emigrants Park, New Ross	2023



## Flood Defence Schemes

### 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. The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan, and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme. It was confirmed that the Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme will proceed on a phased basis.

#### **Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme - Phase 1 - New River Slaney Bridge Project**

This phase of the project will include the construction of the new River Slaney Bridge, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre. The baseline data for this phase is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are complete. The planning application is to be submitted in Q2 2025.

#### **Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme - Phase 2 - Flood Relief Works Project:**

This phase of the scheme will include the construction of the main flood relief measures for Enniscorthy town. 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 Q3 2024.

### Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Surveying and data gathering are ongoing to inform feasibility and conceptual design studies.

## UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

### Accommodation

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTPs) in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas.

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	244	772
Irish Red Cross	34	110

*Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 03/09/24 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker*

### Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Letters of Intent have issued for 4 properties and 3 properties are open and operational.

## HOUSING

### Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below.

Housing For All 2022-2026					
1,181 Target	–	( 560 Units Delivered	+ 883 Units Projected	= 1,443 Delivery Pipeline	) = 262 Shortfall/Over

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

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

### Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. An Expression of Interest opened on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and will close on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

#### Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project address	Unit Type	Estimated Delivery	Delivery Stream	Total Units
<b>Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey</b>	7 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q1 2025	TKY	29
<b>Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey</b>	20 x 2-bed apt 20 x 3-bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024  8 X 2 bed & 8 X 3 bed Delivered	TKY	40
<b>Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey</b>	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2025	TKY	2
<b>Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)</b>	14 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024	TKY	14
<b>Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey</b>	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2025	TKY	12
<b>Grattan Court, Gorey</b>	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2025	TKY	14
			Total TKY	111
<b>Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 &amp; 4</b>	2 X 3-bed 2 x 2-bed 4 x 2-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q1 2025  4 X 2 bed &	Part V	12

		4 X 3 bed Delivered		
<b>Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey</b>	2 x 2-bed	Q1 2025	Part V	2
<b>Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey</b>	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2025	Part V	8
<b>Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey</b>	3 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed	2 to deliver Q3 2024 Phased basis From Q4	Part V	4
<b>Grattan Court Gorey</b>	2 X 2 bed	Q2 2025	Part V	2
			Total Part V	28
<b>Ballytegan Rd, Gorey</b>	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q2 2026	AHB	86
<b>Ramstown, Gorey Phase 3</b>	21 x 2-bed 9 x 3 bed	Q3 2024	AHB	30
<b>Riverchapel Road, Gorey</b>	6 X 1-bed apts	Q3 2024	AHB	6
<b>Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey</b>	2 X 1 bed apt 4 X 2 bed apt 17 X 3 bed	Q1 2025	AHB	23
			Total AHB	145
<b>Total:</b>				<b>284</b>

### Gleann an Ghairdin



<b>Rosslare Municipal District</b>				
<b>Project address</b>	<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Estimated Delivery</b>	<b>Delivery Stream</b>	<b>Total Units</b>
<b>Carrig-on-Bannow</b>	5 X 1 bed 5 X 2 bed	Q3 2025 Q1 2026	TKY	10
<b>Carrig-on-Bannow</b>	2 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	Part V	2
<b>Forth View, Murrintown</b>	9 X 2-bed 14 X 3-bed	Q3 2024	AHB	23
<b>Total:</b>				<b>35</b>

<b>Enniscorthy Municipal District</b>				
<b>Project address</b>	<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Estimated Delivery</b>	<b>Delivery Stream</b>	<b>Total Units</b>
<b>An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy</b>	8 x 1-bed	Delivered	TKY	8
<b>Castlelands, Ferns, Enniscorthy</b>	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Q3 2024	TKY	20
<b>Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy</b>	5 X 2-bed	Q3 2024	TKY	5
<b>Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy</b>	3 X 2-bed 9 X 3-bed 2 X 4-bed	Q2 2025	TKY	14
<b>Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy</b>	11 X 3 bed 1 X 4 bed	Phased from Q3 2024	TKY	12
			Total TKY	59
<b>Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy</b>	6 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q2 2025	Part V	6
<b>An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy</b>	8 x 1-bed apt	Delivered	Part V	8
<b>Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy</b>	5 X 3-bed	Q3 2024	Part V	5
			Total Part V	19
<b>Pairc na Bearna, Enniscorthy</b>	5 X 3bed	Delivered Q2 2024	AHB	5
<b>Milehouse, Phase 1, Enniscorthy</b>	3 x 2 bed apt 7 x 2 bed hse 27 x 3 bed	Phased from Q2 2025	AHB	37
			Total AHB	42
<b>Total:</b>				<b>120</b>

<b>New Ross Municipal District</b>				
<b>Project address</b>	<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Estimated Delivery</b>	<b>Delivery Stream</b>	<b>Total Units</b>
<b>Ard an Bhile, New Ross</b>	8 X 2 bed 8 X 3 bed 12 X 2 bed apt 4 X 1 bed apt	Q1 2025	TKY	32
<b>Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)</b>	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q4 2025	AHB	48
<b>Ard an Bhile, New Ross</b>	4 X 2 bed 4 X 1 bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q1 2025	Part V	8
<b>Total:</b>				<b>88</b>

<b>Borough District of Wexford</b>				
<b>Project address</b>	<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Estimated Delivery</b>	<b>Delivery Stream</b>	<b>Total Units</b>
<b>Coolballow, Wexford</b>	4 X 2 bed 4 X 2 bed 4 X 2 bed 8 X 2 bed	Withdrawn by Developer – Sale of Site not proceeding	TKY	0
			Total TKY	0
<b>Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd</b>	2 x 3-bed	Q4 2024	Part V	2
<b>Ard Uisce, Wexford</b>	10 X 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q4 2025	Part V	10
			Total Part V	12
<b>Beechfield, Clonard</b>	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q3 2025	AHB	50
<b>Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)</b>	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Q3 2024	AHB	24
<b>Wexford Womens Refuge Maudlintown, Wexford</b>	12 x 1-bed	Q4 2024	AHB	12
<b>Whiterock Hill, Wexford</b>	6 X 2 bed 34 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	AHB	40
			Total AHB	126
<b>Total:</b>				<b>138</b>



Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 447 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

<i>District</i>	<i>No of Units</i>
<b><i>Enniscorthy</i></b>	38
<b><i>Gorey</i></b>	189
<b><i>New Ross</i></b>	72
<b><i>Rosslare</i></b>	77
<b><i>Wexford</i></b>	70
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>447</b>

## Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024:

<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 ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024</i> )	95	59	92	115	72	433
Repair Requests Year to Date	867	523	800	990	574	3754
Accommodation Units Repaired ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024</i> )	72	49	75	92	54	342
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	569	355	525	634	360	2443
<b>CLOSED</b> Repair Requests ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024</i> )	50	38	65	59	49	261
<b>CLOSED</b> Repairs Requests Year to Date	437	233	450	478	300	1898

**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

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

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.

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.

Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 147 properties in 2023. Completing the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value of the grant funded works for 2023 was €3.99 million.

The 2024 allocation has been received from the department with an approval given for a target of 116 units: 77 of which have been completed.

## Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Status update January to October 2023	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	Complete
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – Windows and Doors	Complete
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	Completed
Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford 1offs (incl. Rosslare MD)	Completed
Doors Only Tender – Countywide	Works underway

## Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

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

There were <b>981</b> calls to the HSSU up to 27 <sup>th</sup> August 27, 2024 the following is the breakdown of same:-	
911 (93%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
33 (3%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
29 (3%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
8 (1%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

## Affordable Housing Programme

**Contract Signed for the Construction of 20 Affordable Dwellings in Ramsfort Park, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**



Wexford County Council is pleased to announce the signing of contracts with Mythen Construction Ltd for the delivery of the ambitious Affordable Homes Scheme at Ramsfort Park, Gorey. This significant partnership marks an important step towards delivering affordable housing in county Wexford.

Ramsfort Park (Radharc na Beannóige), will be the first affordable housing scheme for county Wexford with

funding secured to develop this pilot project via the Affordable Housing Fund under the Governments 'Housing for All' Programme and will make homes available at a reduced price for buyers who are seeking to purchase a newly built home but need to bridge the gap between their mortgage and deposit to cover the full price of the home.

The development will consist of a total of 20 affordable homes, available for sale via Wexford County Council's 'Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme', providing A rated homes which are designed to meet the needs of eligible families and individuals in the Gorey area.



Construction is set to commence in the coming weeks and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. All enquiries, please contact [affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie)

## Choice Based Letting

89 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2024 to **28/08/24**.

As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 169 properties were available for allocation. Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table:-

Municipal District	Number of Properties Advertised	Properties Available for Allocation	Number of Views	Number of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	21	35	6354	1205
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	18	52	7260	1929
New Ross	17	17	3643	629
Rosslare	17	39	5937	1245
Wexford	16	26	7835	1906
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>31029</b>	<b>6914</b>

## COMMUNITY

### Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024

Most of July and early August was dedicated to preparations for and delivery of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann where our Community and Sports Active teams supported the delivery of the volunteer requirement.

Volunteers are the heart of the Fleadh and it was no less so in Wexford with upwards of 1,000 volunteers taking to the streets and venues across the town to assist with the huge number of events and competitions on the schedule.



Well done to everyone and in particular the selfless volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make this such an outstanding event.

### Community Recognition Fund 2023

Progress to date	
Works complete (19 no. projects)	70%
Works in progress (4 no. projects)	15%
To be started (4 no. projects)	15%

#### The following milestones have been completed this period:

WCC (Special Projects)	Ferndale Park MUGA
WCC (Risk & Insurance)	Kilmore Quay Playground
WCC	Bellefield Enniscorthy (Phase 2)
Rosslare MD	The Killinick Project bus shelter, road improvements, landscaping etc.
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	Upgrade to heating system at Kilmuckridge Memorial Hall

## Community Recognition Fund 2024

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms Heather Humphreys TD announced €798,291 for County Wexford. This will deliver 11 community projects across our 5 Municipal Districts under Window 1 of the Community Recognition Fund

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County Wexford Phase 1 approved projects (page 10ff)

[www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/301511/40112dd0-59e2-403c-8412-8f51e76cc3bd.pdf#page=null](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/301511/40112dd0-59e2-403c-8412-8f51e76cc3bd.pdf#page=null)

WCC Community Development working with community groups to bring shortlisted projects to eligibility status under Department's Window 2 (September 2024).

## Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) is a cross-government initiative funded by the Dept. of Health and implemented locally by WCC. The aim is to reduce area-based health inequalities by providing targeted health and wellbeing services and community development initiatives. It currently operates in the towns of Wexford, Enniscorthy, Taghmon and Edermine electoral divisions.

### 2024/2025 SHCP Seed Funded Projects Approved by Dept. of Health

Project	Description	Funding
<b>Enniscorthy Inter-Agency Team Project</b>	Implementation of a work plan focused on housing estates in the most disadvantaged areas of the town	€30,000
<b>Taghmon Education &amp; Food Poverty Project</b>	An educational/grinds and food programme targeted at children and families most in need of support in Taghmon.	€20,000
<b>Parable Garden Green Therapy in Schools &amp; Youth Centres Pilot Project</b>	Development and roll out of a module for TY students and other youth services to get teenagers interested in the benefits of being in nature (green therapy) rather than e.g. social media. Funding includes making a 'green area' in the school.	€15,600
<b>Ferndale Community Street Football</b>	A street soccer programme for young people in Ferndale, Wexford Town delivered by coaches from Wexford F.C. with community outreach and support from FDYS youth workers and Wexford Community Gardaí.	€3,580

### Enniscorthy Inter Agency Team meeting 10<sup>th</sup> July

Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team met on 10<sup>th</sup> July and the meeting had updates from the working groups (as below) and presentations from Rapparees-Starlights GAA Club and Wexford GAA, Cluid Housing, Enniscorthy Community Alliance Community Safety Project (Plants and Places).

### **Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team Working Groups**

Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team has a number of working groups who meet separately to ensure delivery of specific priorities identified. These include:

- Moving Around/Transport
- Communication
- Care and Maintenance (estates & surrounding areas)
- “Tea on the Green” – social event in Gimont & Cluain Dara on 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Family Resource Centre – preliminary work on identifying the need for a FRC in Templeshannon

### **Edermine Rowing Club new boat launch – July 12th**



Their new boat ‘Legacy’ was launched at the club surrounded by members as well as representatives from WCC and Enniscorthy MD. Funding for the boat was provided by the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme.

This intergenerational project saw older club members passing on boat building skills to younger members of the club. Additional grant funding also allowed the club to purchase new lifejackets and training for younger members.

### **Ferndale Street Soccer Programme – August 20th – 50 local children attended**



Led by Mark Ross, Football in the Community FSR Officer with Wexford FC, this initiative gave children aged 5yrs to 15yrs the opportunity to participate in soccer with trained coaches on the new Astro pitches recently installed by WCC. Alongside the soccer, youth workers from FDYS based in Coolcotts and Wexford Community Gardaí were there to engage with the kids. Sláintecare Healthy Communities was delighted to fund this initiative and it is planned to run this programme weekly on an ongoing basis.

## FEAST Enniscorthy in Pairc na gCon - An initiative of Enniscorthy Inter Agency Team



This project brought sports to 30 children living in Pairc na gCon. This was organised over a 4-week period and run by Ray Harris, Games Development Manager with Wexford GAA and Garret Kavanagh from local Rapparees/Starlights GAA Club. Children and parents were also invited to a BBQ hosted by the GAA Club and Sacre Coeur Boxing Club in Bellefield.

It is hoped that the children will continue to engage with sports in Bellefield. Partners on

this project were Wexford GAA, Cluid Housing Association, WLD SICAP Programme, Sports Active Wexford and WCC Slaintecare Healthy Communities who facilitated this project as part of the work of Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team.

## AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD



### Snooker Coaching – commenced July 17th – St Joseph’s Community Centre



These lessons ran over a 6-week period with coaching from Rodney Goggins a Former Professional Snooker Player and current International Amateur.

The idea behind this was not only for Rodney to pass his knowledge and tips to participants, but to raise awareness of the Snooker tables in St Joseph’s so participants by taking part could continue to meet up afterwards for a game and to socialise with each other.

### Age Well Expo - St. Joseph’s Community Centre, Wexford

Age friendly Wexford in a joint initiative with Wexford PPN and Wexford Healthy Homes are holding an Age Well Expo on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 from 13.30pm to 17.30pm.

There will be information stands and also talks on Crime Prevention, Fire Safety, being fraud smart and keeping your brain active. Energy advisors will also be available to provide one-to-one advice on home energy upgrades.



## HEALTHY WEXFORD



### Healthy Ireland Fund Round Four

Planning is underway for quarter four activity, including further programmes of our pilot projects of **Womens Health Through the Ages and Healthy Home Environments**.

Project work continues on the **Playful Spaces For All** in Gorey and Enniscorthy, which the Age Friendly and Sports Active Wexford teams continue to plan for **Let's Get Moving** activities also

### Other Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

Healthy Wexford supported the recent Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in sourcing **Sunsmart Sunscreen Dispensers** for use at the event and providing additional **'Not Around Us'** event signage. Our Coordinator also played an active part in the Community team who supporting the **Volunteer** element of the event.



On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June the Family Summer Fun Day took place in New Ross as part of the **New Ross Community Activity Hub – Access for All** project.

To see more of the fun on the day check out the video here [Family Fund Day New Ross Video](#)

On a rainy evening in July Healthy Wexford packs were presented to the young participants of the Woodbine Close FAI Mini Soccer League in New Ross.

Healthy Wexford supported this initiative through the Healthy Ireland fund, in collaboration with Sports Active Wexford and FAI Wexford.

This is part of our **New Ross Community Sports Hub – Access for All** project.



**Awards**



Wexford County Councils  
**Nature Walker App** won the Community Category in the Digital Town Awards

<p><b>Staff Training</b></p> <p>A staff member completed their PSI ‘postural stability instructor’ training through later life training, an evidence-based approach to designing and delivering falls prevention exercise classes in the community.</p>	<p><b>Funding – Successful Applications</b></p> <p>€25,000 Swimming Infrastructure Grant To deliver the building of Swimming huts on designated beaches. This is in partnership with Wexford County Council Environment section.</p> <p>€2,400 Allocated for the Her Outdoors week</p>
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**Summer Activities**

**12th to 18th of August**



Activities included: Inclusive Kayak, Outdoor Yoga, Trail Run, Adapted Bike Taster, Wild Women’s Folklore & Forage Walk, Teenage Girl’s Learn to Swim, Adults/Teens Mountain Bike Taster, Teens Beach Tour, Volleyball & Surfing, Adults/Teens SUP Yoga, Inclusive Archery & Adults Archery Come and Try

**Rosslare Summer Fest – 28<sup>th</sup> July** – Sports Active provided an inclusive games session to support Rosslare Summer Fest

**Breathe Well - Sing for Health - The Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy - 5th July** - An 8-week singing and breathing programme for individuals living with respiratory conditions such as COPD or Asthma.

**Cardiac phase IV Community Rehab Programme - 23rd July - Apex New Ross** - A specialised 8-week follow on programme for individuals who have completed Phase III cardiac rehabilitation or those who are living with a cardiac condition.

**Breathe Well - Exercise programme - Kilanerin Community Centre - 22nd July** - An 8-week exercise programme catering for individuals living with a respiratory condition such as COPD or Asthma.

**Neuro activator pole walking programme - Murrintown Community Centre - 14th August** - A walking, strength and mobility programme for individuals living with a neurological diagnosis such as Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson’s Disease.

**Dream Big Project, Fun in the Sun Taster – Geraldine O’Hanrahans GAA facilities** - A Fun in the Sun taster session for 2hrs with the Dream Big Project, a disability organisation for children in New Ross.

**Fun in the Sun Taster** - A Fun in the Sun taster session was delivered in Garden City, Gorey (-25.17 deprivation scale, very disadvantaged).

**Direct Provision Teenage Girl Creative Program – 4<sup>th</sup> July** - Baginbun Beach Day- Beach Yoga and Sand Art Workshop. Kelly’s Woods – Sound Workshop and Trek in the Woods.

**GAA 4-week Integration Program – 31<sup>st</sup> July - Pairc n gCon** - A collaboration project with Cluid Housing, Slaintecare Healthy Communities, Wexford Local Development, Raparees GAA and Wexford GAA.

**Safeguarding Courses 2024** - Safeguarding Courses 1, 2 & 3 were completed with a total of 190 participants overall.

### **Fun in the Sun camps in Enniscorthy 24<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August**



## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Coastal Matters**

**Harbours** – Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. An Bord Pleanála approved planning permission for this project on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. We are in the process of finalising the foreshore consent.

Duncannon Harbour –Coastal team is monitoring structural cracks in the pier very closely. Consulting engineers are appointed to prepare a design and tender documents.

**Operations** - The regularization of the public lighting system on the Barrow is ongoing. The business development plan for the port is expected to be completed by Q4 2024.

The sale of the Port facility of Raheen (Stafford’s) is complete. This should see an increase in shipping movements towards the end of 2024. No further developments yet, from Molloy Shipping.

An expression of interest from a private company for explosive shipments into Marshmeadows has been received. Draft explosive byelaws are due to be circulated for public consultation soon.

Ballyhack Slipway Piles need upgrade works. An initial meeting with WCC, Waterford CC and the Ferry Company has taken place, agreement in principle to work together to find a solution. Initial prep work to obtain a dredging studies / survey license from MARA has commenced.

## Beaches

- Bathing Water Quality: sampling and testing of the bathing water at 19 beaches around the county is ongoing. Results are uploaded to [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie) website.
- Grange Beach Cliff Stabilisation Works: a contract to remedy sections of the unstable cliff was awarded in July 2024, with works expected to commence in Sept 2024. The beach access at the beach is temporarily closed until the works are completed late 2024 / early 2025.
- Ballyconnigar and Clones Strand: temporary bridges were installed to access beaches.

## Coast

- Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme:
- Site investigations contract to determine ground conditions for the flood scheme on the Burrow Road, Rosslare has been awarded with works commencing late summer 2024.
- Seaview, Kilmore: The process of contract award for construction of the coastal protection scheme is underway and subject to funding from central government. Partial funding approval was received from OPW, with further funding approval pending.
- Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – Wexford CC has signed and sealed the fore-shore lease and it is now gone to the Chief State Solicitor's office for final signing and sealing.

## Public Conveniences

- Cahore PC: Carpark surfacing to be carried out in September October by contractor.
- Carne PC: Contractor to install new external shower and upgrade toilet facilities
- Courtown PC: Change Disabled Toilet to Universal Access Toilet for all. Upgrade toilets

## Beach stroller

Received two new beach strollers (Ballymoney & Duncannon) in addition to the ones already at Rosslare Strand & Curracloe beach.

## Water, Air & Noise

**Water Framework Directive** - Under this 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 WCC in conjunction of LAWPRO is being supervised by the Sub-Catchment Unit of the EPA.

**Water Sampling** - A Total of 344 water quality samples were taken by WCC staff from 78 sampling sites in the county for 2023 with analysis carried out by the EPA. 8 surveillance sites were sampled 8 times per year in 2023. In 2024 a total of 340 river water samples will be taken from 76 sampling sites on 36 rivers by WCC staff. 7 surveillance sites will be sampled in 2024 with analysis of all samples carried out by the EPA lab in Kilkenny.

**Septic Tank Inspections:**

<b>NIP Grants 2024</b>	31 applications Received	20 Grants Paid	11 outstanding for review
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**Court cases**

- 6 currently in the court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices
- 5 cases closed prior to court hearing as works were already carried out.

**Open cases**

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2024
2017	154	62	92	5	0
2018	150	51	99	2	2
2019	156	48	108	5	5
2020	111	38	73	5	1
2021	91	24	67	14	2
2022	139	50	89	10	3
2023	123	54	69	29	15
2024	55	11	44	44	0

**No of Verification Inspections**

2023 - Verification Inspection = 72	2024 - Verification Inspections = 25
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**Section 4 Discharge Licences:**

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977-2007 a licence is required for the discharge of trade or domestic effluent to surface waters or groundwaters.

If the activity does not fall under the remit of the EPA Act 1992 an application for a discharge licence is made to Wexford Local Authority at the location where the discharge is to occur.

Effluent Discharges for which a licence under Section 4 must be obtained as are follows:

- All trade effluent discharges to surface water
- All trade effluent discharges to groundwater
- All domestic wastewater discharges to surface water
- All domestic wastewater discharges greater than 5m<sup>3</sup> per day discharged to groundwater from an on-site waste water treatment system

Prior to issuing a Discharge Licence WCC must be satisfied that the waste water is adequately treated and will not cause water pollution.

Currently, there are 91 active discharge licences with scheduled biannual, quarterly and bimonthly monitoring returns assessed for compliance on receipt by Environmental Technical Staff and actively

pursued to address any ongoing issues arising from exceedances in chemical/microbiological and flow parameters as laid down in the discharge licence for the site.

There are currently 7 Discharge Licence applications under assessment and review.

WCC maintains a register of Licences issued in the County. Both discharge licence applications to surface and groundwaters are available on the WCC Website for download by members of the Public who intend to apply for same.

**Air Quality:**

WCC enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with WCC – vehicle refinishers, dry cleaners and petrol stations. These certificates must be renewed every 3 years. On-going enforcement action is carried out to ensure sites remain certified.

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

Category of Facility	2021	2022	2023 (to 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec)	2024 (to end July)	On the Spot Fines (to end July)
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	20	6	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	14	19	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	1	N/A

**Low Smoke Fuel Areas** - The 2 stations in New Ross & Wexford have now had their monitors updated to measure air quality and noise levels. These were installed in July 2024. There are also 5 low cost sensors installed in Enniscorthy monitoring PM10 & PM2.5 only still operational.

**Noise and NAP 2019-2023** - Two complaints of persistent noise pollution are currently under investigation.

The Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2019-2023 relates to general noise nuisance from large infrastructure or from motorways. Since the first plan was produced, WCC has steadily improved its resources with respect to the management of noise.

**Agriculture** - WCC continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. WCC engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices. Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon farms where major non compliances are observed and cross reported to DAFM.

A total of 48 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been assessed in 2024 to date. 10 of these applications related to further information been submitted on behalf of the applicant.

WCC continue to complete odour monitoring assessments on two separate sites for 2024 on foot of hundreds of complaints from the public. These sites included a pig farm and a composting facility where compost is produced by processing straw and animal waste. Section 24 & Section 26 notices under the Air Pollution Act 1987 have been served upon these businesses.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections (NAIP)	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	204	n/a	n/a	0
2024	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

## Planning

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

### Breakdown of planning applications referred from Planning Section to Environment

	Single dwellings	Commercial	Discharge/ glamping	Housing estates	Schools	Solar Farms	Sports	Agricultural	Compliance assessments
2023	630	94	4	42	17	3	16	104	121
Q1 2024	99	25	0	0	0	0	0	47	33
Q2 2024	58	6	0	5	1	0	4		13
Q3 2024	29	5	0	1	0	0	0		13

## Waste Management

**New Recycling** - Re-turn Scheme. Irelands new deposit return scheme. In February 2024 the new deposit return scheme commenced throughout Ireland. Plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can with the Re-turn logo, are refund a deposit typically be 15c to 20c per item. For more information, please see [www.MyWaste.ie](http://www.MyWaste.ie)

**Food Waste** - Since 1 January 2024 every household in Ireland, regardless of location, were entitled to a brown bin collection service. Follow up enforcement for the roll out of the Brown Bins are being carried out through the county at present.

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

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

## Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites July 2024	Recycling out (End July) 2023 (t)	Recycling out (End July) 2024 (t)
Glass bottles		2143	2137
Aluminium Cans		54	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2197</b>	<b>2176</b>

### Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities

WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul 2024(t)	Recycling out Jan-Jul jun2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- Jul 2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- July 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- July 2024(t)
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	356	<b>367</b>	382	<b>411</b>	468	<b>528</b>	288	313
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	1894	<b>2061</b>	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
Daily Average Customers Jan-Jul	2023	<b>2024</b>	2023	<b>2024</b>	2023	<b>2024</b>	2023	<b>2024</b>
	73	<b>79</b>	115	<b>114</b>	160	<b>162</b>	83	<b>89</b>

**Rapid Response Crew** - Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with a four-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey MD's and a second six-man crew servicing Wexford and New Ross and Rosslare MD's.

Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	To end July 2023	July 2024	To end July 2024	% +/-
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>+37.7%</b>
<i>Gorey *</i>		33		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		49		
<i>Wexford *</i>		43		
<i>New Ross*</i>		29		
<i>Rosslare</i>		20		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Total Ringbuoy Inspections</b>	<b>10,153</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>10,954</b>	<b>+7%</b>
<b>Other Works</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>+8%</b>



Other Works done by Holmestown photo record are as follows.

- Beach and lifeguard work
- Black spot checks across county
- Town inspections every morning
- Trails maintenance
- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep
- Community Clean up across county

**Waste Facility Permits** - The full list of 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council’s website.

**Enforcement** - RMCEI 2024: The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan was submitted to the EPA on 15 March 2024. The plan aims to undertake 6,921 routine inspections this year by 21 full time equivalent staff members to cover waste, water, air & noise. The mid-year review was carried out in July and presented to the SPC Environment Committee.

Clean Soil & Stone: As part of the circular economy on 29 August 2024 the EPA published National By-Product Criteria for Greenfield Soil and Stone. The National By-product Criteria apply to greenfield soil and stone destined for lawful use at another development with appropriate planning permission or exemption.

Waste Recovery Levy: The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications are looking for feedback before 16<sup>th</sup> August on the phasing out of exemptions for C&D waste.

- Phase 1 1 September Remove levy exemption for C&D waste to incinerators & landfills.
- Phase 2 1 January 2025 Apply levy €10/tonne on greenfield soil & stone to landfills
- Phase 3 1 September 2025 Apply levy waste recovery facilities > 200,000 tonne.
- Phase 4 1 March 2026 Apply levy waste recovery facilities < 200,000 tonne.

## Litter/Waste Management

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2023	TOTAL FOR JULY-2024
No of incidents reported	2284	1467
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	212	102
Fines Paid in Full●	64	46
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	56	26
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	28	25
Legal Proceedings in Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	41	30
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€13,023	Litter €6837.00, waste €575.00. Total €7412.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded for litter and waste cases) - overall	€6,210.00	€3,993.00

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

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices
- Fines paid in full- data excludes fines partly paid.
- Amount collected in fines- includes part payments.

Month	No.of cases heard	Outcome	LITTER	WASTE	Water	Air	Noise
May	2	Total fine	250	0	1500	0	0
		Total Costs	250		0	0	0
June	8	Total fine	1028	260	0	0	0
		Total Costs	1000	900	0	0	0
July	1	Total fine	0	0	0	0	0
		Total Costs	0	1127.48	0	0	0

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2023	2,461	Up 11%	1054	Up 3%
Jan – July 2024	1,511		681	

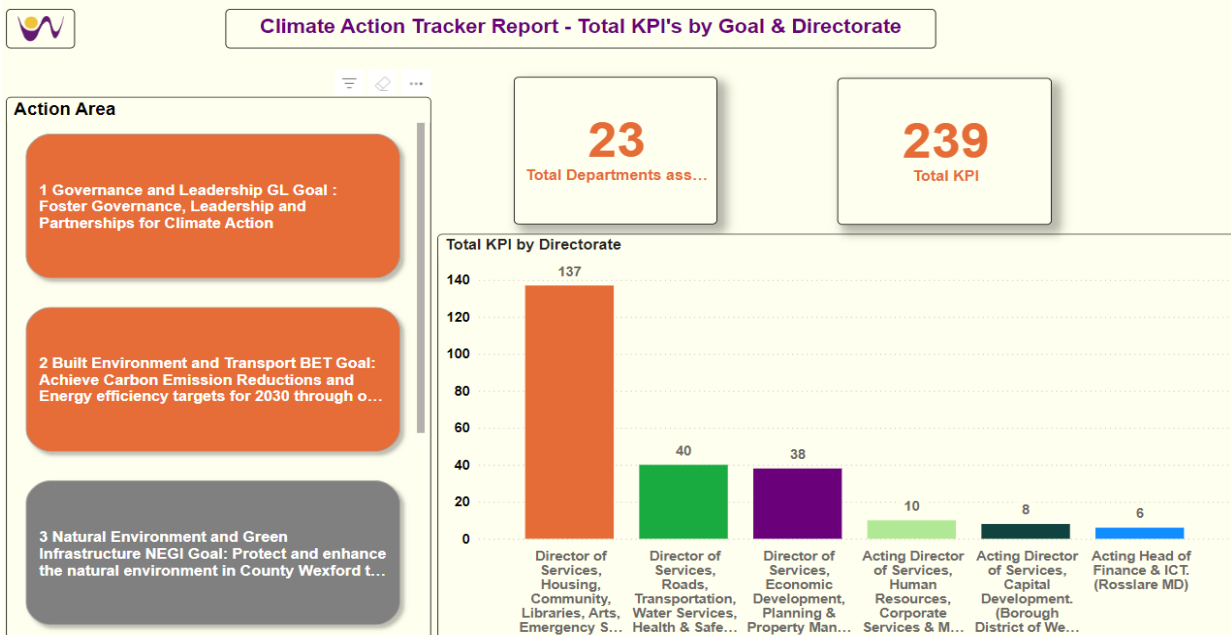
The reduction in reported dumping incidents is also reflected in a similar decline in attendances by the Environment Clean Up Crew to incidents.

## Climate Action

### Climate Action Plan – Tracking of Actions

Following the launch of the Climate Action Plan Tracker in June, staff with responsibility for actions are continuing to input progress on actions across 239 Key performance Indicators. There are some actions in the plan where progress will be challenging as the positions are currently vacant.

A reporting feature is included in the tracker to facilitate reporting to different stakeholders.

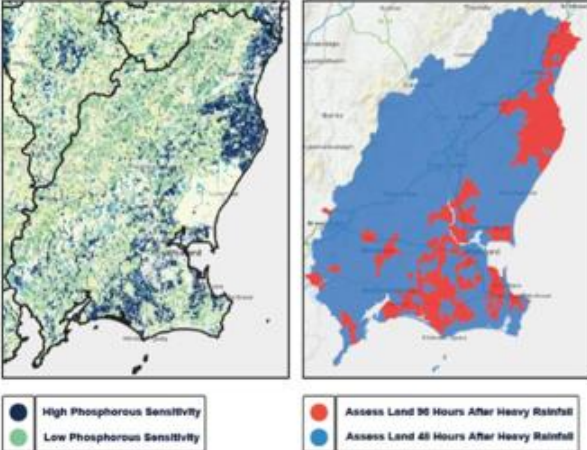


Promotional work continued in July including

- Video on native woodlands in Cullinstown
- Promotion of the newly developed mapalerter agriculture alerts at the Killag agricultural show
  - 900 subscribers based on email campaign
  - 89 additional via Killag and social media promotion
- Awareness video on Sand Dunes Protection & Restoration & their role in coastal protection

# MapAlerter

*Agricultural alerts for your local area*




High Phosphorous Sensitivity

Low Phosphorous Sensitivity

Assess Land 96 Hours After Heavy Rainfall

Assess Land 48 Hours After Heavy Rainfall


**ATTENTION WEXFORD FARMERS**



**1** 48 hours prior to a heavy rainfall event - chemical fertilisers and organic manures must not be spread.


**2** MapAlerter offers text alerts, notifying of date and time, when land can be assessed for spreading.

**The 3 R's** Right field... Right time... Right rate!



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## Funding

- 100% funding of €7 million under the Town Centre First Heritage Scheme was secured for the renovation and adaptive reuse of the Gorey Market House. The Climate Action Team contributed to the Climate Proofing and Climate Resilience section of the application.
- Input from the Climate Team on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation provided for the Funding application through the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) 2024 for St Walerans.
- Funding was awarded by Creative Ireland, to place a sculpture of a house made of wood in 2 coastal locations (North & South) in the Summer 2025. County Wexford was selected for the south location. The sculpture is a metaphor for our home - the houses we live in, the environment we live in and our planet – all of these are fragile and under urgent threat from sea level rise, forest fires, coastal erosions and climate change. The project is led by Trinity College Dublin.

Work continued on the integration of Climate Action into all Policies, Procedures and Work Plans throughout the organisation including

- Presentation to Executive team
- Corporate plan Working group
- Review of Events Management Guide to include Climate Proofing
- Input from climate Action Team into review of Travel for Work policy
- Assess feasibility of including Climate proofing in all Project Endorsement Proposal (PEP)

## Biodiversity Officer

The Biodiversity Officer is prioritising making contact with community and environmental groups currently with the aim to offer support and advice as appropriate.

## Local Biodiversity Action Fund

Over €120,000 of funding to WCC was approved under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. The ecological survey for Holmestown Waste Facility has commenced, as has Phase 2 Wetland Survey of selected sites in Enniscorthy Municipal District.

## Community Climate Action Programme

€669,000 has been allocated to 16 community groups across Co Wexford to deliver local climate action projects.

WCC and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) have announced the applications that were successful in securing funding under the Community Climate Action Programme. A second round of funding is expected in 2025.

Applications approved by DECC are as follows:

<b>New Ross</b>	12th Wexford Scouts Horeswood	€20,000.00
	New Ross Rugby Football Club	€33,504.40
	South West Wexford Family Resource Centre	€84,598.40

<b>Enniscorthy</b>	Enniscorthy Community Allotments	€19,393.78
	Reachability Enniscorthy (Kilcannon)	€89,380.00
	Marshalstown/Castledockrell GAA Club	€21,551.76

<b>Wexford</b>	Glynn Barntown GAA Club	€49,066.40
	Faythe Harriers Hurling & Camogie Club	€72,387.40

<b>Gorey</b>	Buffers Alley GAA Club	€18,073.25
	Kilanerin Ballyfad Community Dev. Assoc.	€49,974.54
	Naomh Eanna GAA Club	€72,011.83

<b>Rosslare</b>	Yola Hedge School	€12,835.51
	St Martins GAA Club	€19,333.30
	Our Lady's Island Community Dev. Co.	€33,068.65
	Rosslare Community Development Assoc.	€33,533.55
	Bannow Ballymitty GAA Club	€40,287.23

An information evening was held for representatives from the 16 groups in the Astro Active Centre in Enniscorthy on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

## 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 – Dec 2023	Jan -July 2024
<b>Incidents</b>	<b>4749</b>	<b>4999</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>3896</b>	<b>4235</b>	<b>2663</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>4733</b>	<b>4963</b>	<b>5066</b>	<b>3558</b>	<b>3674</b>	<b>1904</b>
<b>Closure Rate</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>71%</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	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023	Jan – May 2024
Dogs collected	429	546	575	324
Dogs reclaimed	133	117	128	76
Dogs re-homed/transferred	267	370	404	252
Dogs put to sleep	29	51	38	18
Dog Fines	18	21	14	4

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


## Environment Education and Awareness:

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

**Rubbish Film Festival:** Expressions of interests have been circulated to all secondary schools for participation in the festival for 2024 /2025 academic year.

**Leave No Trace Workshops:** 10 primary schools participated in Leave No Trace Workshops. Another 10 schools will be funded for the academic year 2024 /2025.

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

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/06/24 – 30/06/24	83
	01/01/24 – 30/06/24	602

**Planting Grant:** Closing date for the planting grant was Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 4p.m. 97 applications have been received. A maximum grant of €300 is available to voluntary groups under the scheme.

**Keep Wexford Beautiful:** Closing date for the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition. was Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Judging will take place in July and awards will be presented at the annual Environment Awards which will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Local Waste Prevention Grant:** This grant is funded by the Environment Section of WCC as part of their Waste Prevention Programme for the County. Closing date for the 2024 scheme was 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. 6 applications were funded. This scheme aims to support communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas, and encourage partnership between local businesses, local schools, charities and voluntary groups. Maximum grant allowable under the scheme is €500.

**Green Dog Walker:** The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website. Packs are provided to community groups for promotion at events. An event in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife services will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July to promote the campaign at the Raven woods, Curraclloe.

## LIBRARIES/ARTS/ARCHIVES

### Community and Culture

**Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024** - Wexford Branch Library was a hub for cultural activity during Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Fifteen very well attended adult events were held over the week with acclaimed traditional musicians such as John Roche, Mark Redmond, Martin Hayes, Toner Quinn and CUAS. Prof. Kevin Whelan gave a lecture on Old and New Wexford Maps. Aileen Lambert spoke about local song collections and Newfoundland and Appalachian songs. A presentation with Colm Brennan, an internationally renowned sculptor and writer. Michael Fortune presented a talk on The Unique Folklore of County Wexford. Book and CD launches were also held to coincide with the Fleadh.

There were six child and family friendly events held during the Fleadh. A sensory space with play resources for children was set up on the children's floor of the library. The top floor IT room was turned into a sensory quiet and calming space for the week for anyone who needed some time out.

**Heritage Week 19th - 24th August** - Several events were held in all libraries to mark Heritage Week:

**Library in the Park! – New Ross Library** ran a special Pop-Up Library & Rhymetime in JFK Arboretum

**Woolcraft Talk and Demonstration - Bunclody, Wexford and Enniscorthy libraries** - Annie Gambrill spoke about the history of textiles -- giving a demonstration on 'Drop Spindle' spinning. A **Wildlife and Heritage Workshop** for 7yrs - 13yrs with Emma-Jane Leeson was also available.

**The Female Builder: with Jarlath Glynn** - A lecture on Mary O'Connor 1827-1937 who was responsible for many impressive buildings in and around Wexford Town.

### Learning and Information

**Back to School** - The Library Service provided support to parents and students on the return to school with the following events including healthy school lunches, managing anxiety through play and big school-themed storytimes.

### Environment and Climate Action

**'The Amazing Swift' by Swift Conservation Ireland – Enniscorthy Library** - Lynda Huxley, Swift Conservation Ireland, discussed this iconic bird species and how communities can help them. The talk was held in partnership with Enniscorthy Tidy Towns.

**An illustrated talk on the ‘Lady’s Island Tern Conservation Project’, with Davy Daly Wildlife artist.** An insight was given into the lifecycles and issues facing the terns that breed at Lady’s Island Lake; Ireland’s largest inland seabird colony.

**Hay Meadow Crafts – New Ross Library** - Artist and ecologist Monica Fleming led this traditional craft event to celebrate our hay meadows and traditional crafts with an adult crafting event.

**Wildfowl Reserve and Biodiversity Talk Family Event – New Ross Library** - Grace Bettayeb from Wexford Wildfowl Reserve gave a talk on the wildlife of the Reserve and adjoining Raven Nature Reserve.

## Health and Well Being

**Gentle Yoga** was held in New Ross library in collaboration with Sports Active Wexford. This event was in celebration of Her Outdoors Week.

Mindfulness and Sound Therapy Workshop with Sundara Self Care - was held in Bunclody Library.

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

**The Summer Stars Reading Adventure - 17<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.**

A full programme of children’s activities took place in every branch to celebrate the reading adventure. These included story times, rhyme times, crafts and many other fun events.

**School Summer Provision Visits** - Libraries across Wexford partnered with Summer School provision to provide library visits and activities and to promote the library to children and teachers.

## Archives

**Digitisation** - The remaining nine volumes from the Enniscorthy poor law union collection were digitised and will be uploaded to the Archive’s website shortly for online access.

**Outreach** - Two archive displays were arranged by the Archivist for Fleadh Cheol na hÉireann – a display in Wexford town library to showcase a 180-year-old set of Uilleann pipes from the Archive’s holdings that belonged to master piper Tom Moore from Enniscorthy. Material from the collection of Wexford County Board of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann was showcased in a display case in County Hall, which included the inaugural minutes of the board (16 July 1959) and a small collection of CCE medals and lapel pins.

The Archivist facilitated a small temporary display of four panels in Wexford Arts Centre on the afternoon of 16 August to welcome a delegation from Savannah including Congressman Earl L. ‘Buddy’ Carter.

The Archivist took part in two events for Heritage Week – ‘Towards a National Circus and Fairground archive’ was held in Wexford library to discuss the viability of establishing such an archive. The Archivist co-presented an illustrated talk, ‘A place to call home – the conservation of a collection of rural housing minute books pertaining to New Ross poor law union, 1886-99’

## Arts

**Westgate Artists’ Studios Open Call** - The Westgate Heritage Centre and adjacent Computer Centre has been refurbished and will become a centre for work and rehearsal for visual artists and musicians. It will be managed by Wexford Arts Centre. Refurbishment and accessibility works were completed over the summer with Seachtain na Gaeilge events taking place there for the Fleadh. In August an open call for subsidised visual artists studios was issued and closing date is 11 Sept 2024.

Three large studio spaces are available to rent from Tuesday the 1st of October in the former computer centre and can accommodate up to six or seven visual artists. The music rehearsal space will open from November 2024 and will provide subsidised rehearsal space for musicians and bands.

**Arts Ability Exhibition - County Hall - 28<sup>th</sup> August – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024** - This exhibition of works is by artists participating in Arts Ability, a partnership between WCC Arts Office, the HSE and Wexford Mental Health Association. The exhibition titled 'The Centre of Everything' celebrates the creative work of over 80 artists who participate in Arts Ability through visual art, creative writing and music / performance. Arts Ability celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. It operates in centres across the county including KTAC (Killagoley Training & Activation Centre) in Enniscorthy, CUMAS in New Ross, WRIDS (Wexford Residential and Intellectual Disability Service) in Enniscorthy as well as various HSE residential and day centres county wide including Gorey and Wexford town.

### **Murt McGarry Exhibition for Fleadh Cheoil - 4th to the 14th of August**

Coinciding with this year's Fleadh Cheoil the Arts Office, in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre, presented an exhibition of work from the late artist and illustrator, Murt McGarry.

### **'Breaking the Patterns' International Artists Residency 2024-25**

Wexford Arts Office is partnering on a new Creative Europe and Arts Council funded residency programme for visual artists, along with Waterford, Carlow and Kilkenny Arts offices. The programme is aimed at emerging visual artists and those who experiences barriers to participation in the arts. This involves two 3-month fully funded residencies for up to four emerging Wexford based artists in Seville and Lisbon including accommodation, studio, work placement and exhibition along with an artist bursary. The Seville residency artists Sarah Cogley and Carmel Daly finished their residency in July culminating in a group exhibition in Seville. The date for the Lisbon residency closed in early July with 18 applications and 2 artists were selected.

**Irish Writers Centre (IWC) National Mentoring Programme-** Wexford Arts office continues its partnership with the Irish Writers Centre mentoring programme. Two Wexford writers Adana Keane and Ryan Murphy were recently selected to take part.

### **Festivals Funded by the Small Arts Festival fund 2024**

**New Ross Guitar Festival 2024 - 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of July** - Events took place in St Michaels Theatre, St Marys Church New Ross and Killesk Church Duncannon. Musicians included Declan Sinnott and Evelyn Kallansee and world-leading classical guitarist Xuefei Yang.

**2 Many Dance Moves' Flow Youth Dance Festival 2024 - 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July** - The final day of the festival featured a live performance in St. Michael's Theatre.

**The GAP Arts Festival - August 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 – Gorey** - There were drop-in family friendly art workshops, film screenings, photography exhibition from the GAP Camera club and a play by Michael J. Harnett titled 'Madeira', lunchtime classical concert with Whistleblast Quartet and an evening performance by the Stonecutters.

**FuddleFest 2024 - 24th & 25th of August 2024** - Funded by the Small Arts Festival Fund 2024, Fuddlefest is a small music festival hosted by musician Hannah Miller on her family farm in Fuddletown, County Wexford. Presenting a mix of musical styles with art installations throughout the site.

**Wexford Youth Film - workshops ran for one week throughout June, July & August 2024** - This is an initiative focused on engaging young people in film making in Wexford. Funded by the Arts Department, it takes place in St Michaels Theatre, New Ross and is a free weekly class for young



people aged between 12-18. Wexford Youth Film are offered free summer filmmaking workshops focusing on Super8 Film led by Therese Dalton and documentary making with Michael Fortune.

## Music Generation Wexford

**Music Generation's Ceiliuradh - Fleadh Cheoil 2024 - Wexford Credit Union Dome.** Ceiliúradh Lá and Ceiliúradh Oíche was an event in two parts led by Music Generation Wexford featuring Music Generation groups across the country along with performances from Nasc (a collaboration between Oriel Centre Dundalk Gaol, Níos Nua Youth Folk Orchestra and Music Generation Louth, Meath, Cavan/Monaghan), the National Harp Collective, Wexford's young people's dynamic singing group the Yellow Bellows and the captivating Clonroche Traveller Girls Group.

**Fleadh Cheoil Performances:** The Clonroche Traveller Girls performed live for the TG4 Fleadh24 Beo Programme. Yellow Bellows also had a live performance on TG4 for the Fleadh24 Beo programmes supporting the Ukranian music group The Neznamni Ensemble with their version of Oró, Sé Do Bheatha Bhaile.

**School of Rock Summer Camp - Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts** - Musician Educators Louise Malone, Emily Jane Furlong, Lorna Maher, and Pete McCamley facilitated this week of workshops designed for young people to experience playing in a band, learn new music and practice new skills with their instrument.

**Call out for Musician Educators** Music Generation Wexford were seeking application for musician educators in areas for small group performances, large group performances for vocal and instruments, ensembles lead for traditional Irish Ensembles/Rock and pop bands. The Deadline for applications was 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Young Voices Live Performance Week** Music Generation Wexford hosted young people for a week of workshops in association with Wexford Arts Centre. This was open to singers, songwriters, and young bands who wanted to learn and develop their performance skills, create original songs and play with new adaptations of songs.

**Windjammers Bandcamp in Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts:** This summer camp for young people consisted of learning new music, developing and growing skillsets on brass and wind instruments, and playing together as a group led by Musician Educators Louise Malone and Jenna Larson.

Music Generation Wexford were presented with a Certificate of Excellence from the HSE under the category for Innovation in Service Delivery for the programme with CAMHS.

## Screen Wexford

An Arts Office, Economic Department initiative to support the development of the film / screen industry in Wexford.

**Crew Networking Coffee Morning Opera House:** This took place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August in Wexford Opera House and was attend by over 20 local filmmakers.

**Screen Wexford Culture Night Open Call:** Screen Wexford is holding an open call for local short films to be screened as part of 'Wexford Short Films for Culture Night'. The screening will take place at 8pm in St Michaels Theatre New Ross on Culture Night, Friday 20th September. The deadline for applications is 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Shadowing & film Fund Open Call:** This open call gives small grants of €500 funding towards transport and accommodation for work experience shadowing on a film or television set for local filmmakers.

**New Voices Short film awardees 2024:** the first film by Shane O'Connor started shooting in August 2024.

**Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE) -** This 3-year Arts Council funded initiative in partnership with Wexford Arts Office and Enniscorthy MD, seeks to embed creativity into Enniscorthy.

**Artist Residencies with Cow House Studios August 2024 -** In July CPE announced the recipients of a new artists residency in partnership with Cow House Studios in Rathnure, North Wexford. Four Wexford artists will receive free accommodation, studio space, and supports in Cow House Studios over one week each during the month of August 2024. The artists are actor Sarah Walsh, and visual artists Gillian O'Shea, Paul Cashin and Fiona O'Connor.

**Outrage Music Festival - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of August - Presentation Arts Centre in Enniscorthy -** Over 200 people attended this two-day rock festival for young people in association with Creative Places Enniscorthy.

**ISACS International Conference Waterford and Wexford 31<sup>st</sup> July- 4<sup>th</sup> August -** The Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network (ISACS) based in Wexford, hosted a major international conference exploring the role of outdoor arts in shaping our society. It took place in partnership with 'Circustrada International' and the Spraoi Festival in Waterford. The Wexford events took place at Hook Lighthouse and Duncannon Community Centre on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of August with 40 international delegates.

**Peripheries PAIR Exhibition - Gorey School of Art -** Supported by the Arts Office this project gave local and national artists from Ireland a chance to collaborate with international curators and artists. Wexford based artists Ciara Roche, Patrick Redmond and Tamara Gangus were selected for the programme. A group exhibition took place in Gorey School of Arts' Peripheries Space to showcase the work created during the project on 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Commemorations Bursary 2024 -** WCC invited applications in May for an Artists Bursary focused on the themes of commemoration and funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. This artist bursary offers the opportunity to support and invest in new work developed by one professional artist in any art form based in County Wexford. The opportunity closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. Eight applications were received, and musician Allen Lambert was selected by the panel.

## **Creative Ireland**

**What's In My Bag -** Working with women from refugee communities in Wexford, *What's In My Bag* explored the changing perceptions of journey, ownership and possessions when refugees flee their homes and countries. Taking the symbol of the bag to examine these themes, the communities considered what they left behind, what they brought and what they found along the way. The group embroidered patterns and pictures upon the bags, using needlework traditions from their countries of origin.

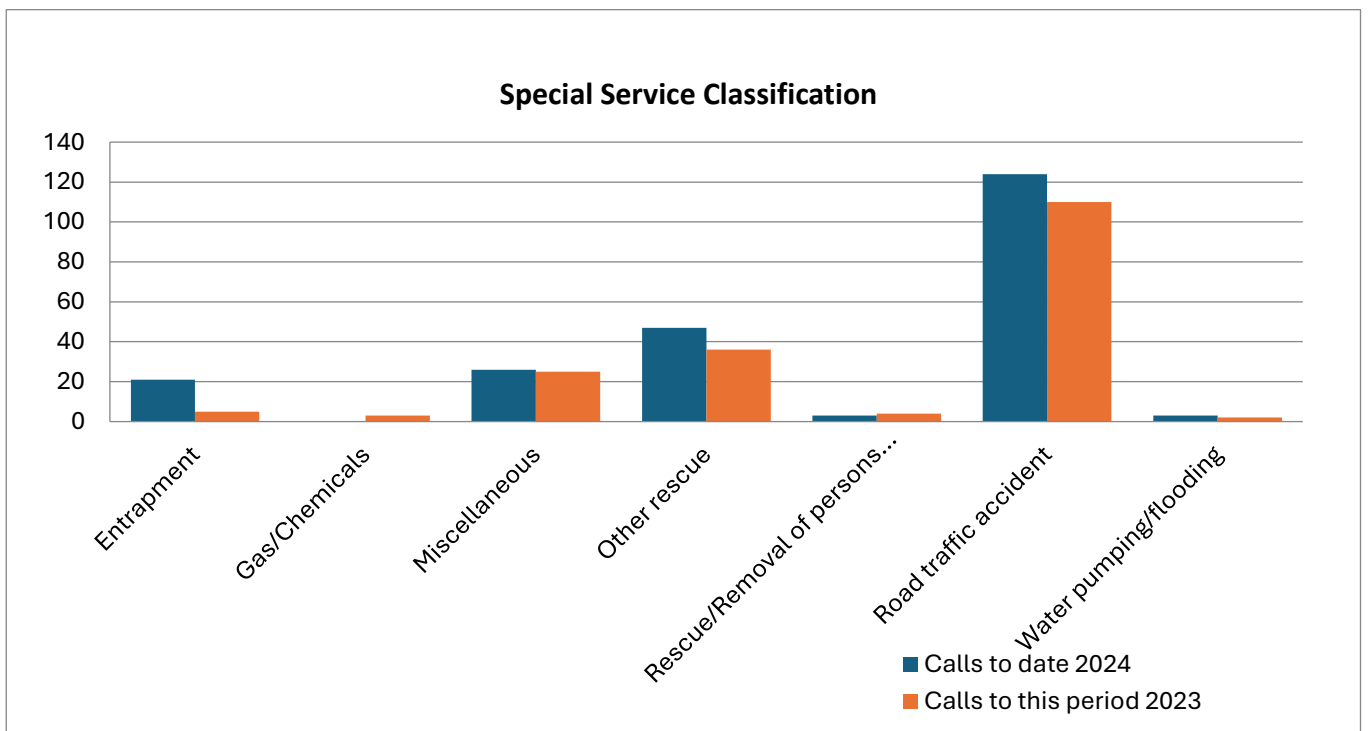
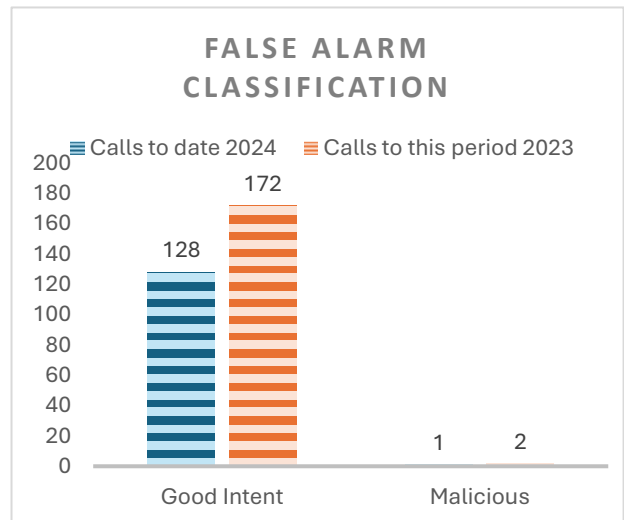
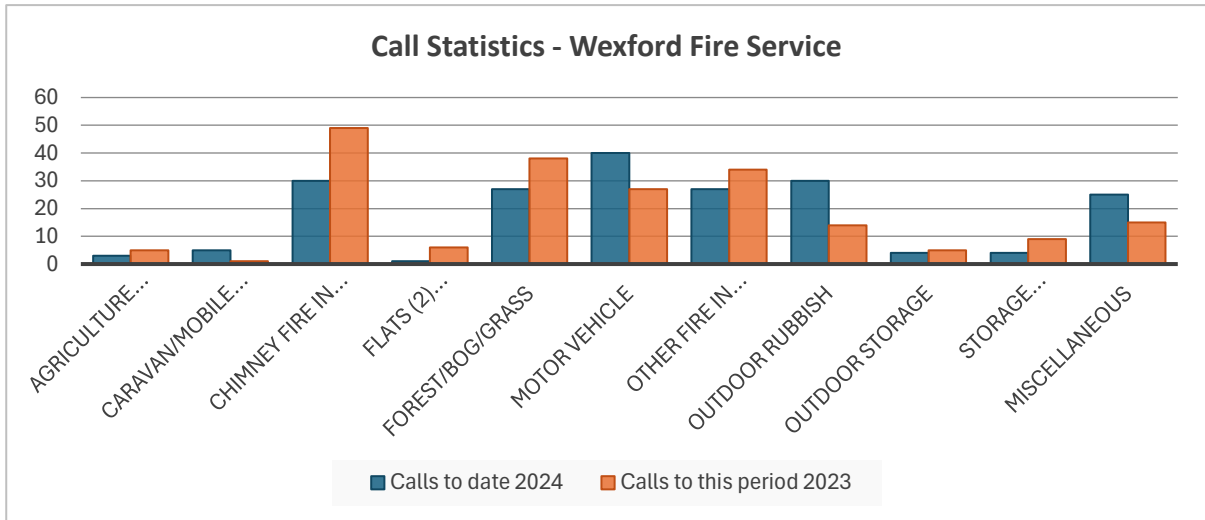
**Who Am I Now -** This project was a new music and dance composition that supported the exchange of cultural knowledge, and highlights pathways towards a new and more inclusive expression of modern Irish identity. It is a creative partnership between residents of Direct Provision Centres in south County Wexford and The National Opera House education and outreach programme. Accompanied by a musical score composed and performed by traditional Irish music band Tuluá, the performance was showcased by our new communities as part of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in August 2024.

**The Rí Rá Sessions** - is Creative Ireland Wexford's Live Music in Nursing Homes project which concluded on 5<sup>th</sup> August. A Traditional Irish Music and Dance programme for HSE-managed nursing homes across the county, The Rí Rá Sessions act as outreach for the concerts and sessions strand of Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann.

The Wexford-based band The Wild Turkeys played for residents from three homes (Gorey District Hospital, St. John's Hospital Enniscorthy, and New Haughton Hospital New Ross), while movement expert Vivian Brodie-Hayes and Sean Nos Dancer Irene Cunningham performed and encouraged any residents to move to their ability.

**Lyrical Rain** - offered a fun, festival feeling for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Using biodegradable, water-resistant 'invisible' paint, words from popular traditional Irish songs were sprayed onto the pavements of Wexford. They appeared under people's feet whenever it rained. Tours of the lyrics were facilitated by Wexford Town Library.

## FIRE SERVICES



## CIVIL DEFENCE

### Civic Duties:

**Fleadh Cheoil** – Medical response, control room comms, welfare (feeding of volunteers daily), safety boat cover

**Wexford Medieval Walled town event** first aid response



**Weekly Training** - On hold for most of August due to medical response to Fleadh Cheoil marching practice for National Services Day Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Patient Transports** - Transport continues because of involvement during Covid, also persons having no other means of attending appointments.

**Ukrainian Refugee Supports** - We remain available for transport duties. August 28<sup>th</sup>- Family transported from Inch to new residence in Wexford town

### Fleadh Cheoil:

- Volunteers- including Order of Malta, Red Cross and Assisting Civil Defence Counties = 111 approx. volunteer hours= 5100 approx.
- Feedback and debriefing ongoing for the scheduled Debrief on September 10<sup>th</sup>
- Medical response report completed- will be discussed at debrief



## COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Dept. continued to promote various events, services across our social media platforms during July & Aug including video content. The top performing post being the WCC crews carrying out an overnight cleanup in Wexford Town during the Fleadh.

As part of the Corporate Plan Public Consultation, we organised a voxpop on the Main St, to capture the views of the general public. This is available on our social media channels and it is hoped will encourage others to complete the online survey.

Press Releases issued:

05 July	Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow takes to Wexford to tackle gum disposal
10 July	€669,000 allocated to 16 communities in County Wexford for climate action projects
16 July	Investment in Cultural Inclusion
18 July	Do Not Swim Notice Booley Bay Beach
19 July	Literacy and Food Education (LEAF) invites you to collect free seed packs at your local library to grow your own food.
22 July	A Little Library Book Bag for all children starting school from your local library
22 July	Innovative Ways of Coping with Grief Come to Waterford and Wexford
19 Aug	Wexford County Council extends invitation to residents to join newly established Town Centre First Teams.
23 Aug	Wexford's Sensory-Friendly Clothing Brand, Sully & Juno, to Showcase at National Ploughing Championships
30 Aug	Small Business Digital Strategy Event in Dublin for South East SME's Empowering Entrepreneurs with AI and Marketing Insights
30 Aug	Sports Programme in Pairc na gCon helps children get active

## FINANCE

### Q2 Finance Report – to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024:

The Q2 Finance Report has been circulated to members. There is a modest surplus reported for Q2 of €41,010, 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 emergency spend relating to the Ukrainian crisis. There is also €5.3m, expenditure and income, in respect of the ICOB (Increase Cost of Business) grant recorded under Division D, which was an unbudgeted item.

### Budget 2025:

Preliminary work has commenced on the preparation of the 2025 budget.

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 11/2024.

A draft schedule of meetings has been included on the agenda of the September meeting for consideration by the Members.

### **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, 2024. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2025 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 2025.

### **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 2023 on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### **Local Authority Purchase & Renovation Loan (LAPR):**

S.I. 353 of 2024 Housing Purchase and Renovation Loans Regulations 2024 underpins the Local Authority Purchase & Renovation Loan (LAPR) and went live for applications on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024.

The extended LAPR has been kept as close to the current Local Authority Home Loan as possible, in relation to financial assessment, house price caps and income limits. However additional assessment will be required in terms of project viability.

Eligibility for the loan is subject to applicant meeting the existing local authority mortgage eligibility criteria and the project meeting the scheme lending criteria.

### **Brief Overview of Property & Applicant Eligibility:**

Only homes eligible for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG), also known as the Croí Cónaithe grant, will be eligible for the LAPR. A key feature of the LAPR is that a cheaper bridging loan is available. This is equal to the amount of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant and repayable once the grant is paid out.

Applicants must pass the standard creditworthiness assessment under the LAHL, which has requirements around income sustainability, employment and creditworthiness, as well as other personal eligibility requirements.

- Income limits for borrowers remain still remain (€70,000 single, €85,000 joint)
- Property must be their intended Principal Private Residence (i.e. cannot be used for rental properties)
- Applicants must be unable to source sufficient financing from commercial lenders to be eligible.
- Applicants must be first time buyers or Fresh Start applicants.

**LAPR** is only available for renovation projects which bring the homes into compliance with the appropriate Building Regulations. Renovation works which do not meet this requirement cannot be funded using the LAPR.

Applicants will be required to provide detailed Viability Assessments of their renovation projects.

The LAPR will be split into two parts, a fixed rate mortgage and a variable rate bridging loan, each of which will have different interest rates and repayment terms.

The LAHL standard fixed rate mortgage is currently

- 4.00% fixed for up to 25 years
- 4.05% fixed for loans over 25 years and up to 30 years

For the variable rate bridging loan the LAPR offers this at:

- 3.5% interest only variable rate for 2 years.

The bridging loan is repayable once the grant is paid out.





Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council

The highlight of the month of August, without a doubt, has to be hosting the 2024 Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> August over 600,000 visitors came to Wexford to participate and enjoy the largest traditional Irish cultural event in the world. The people of the town, including over 1,000 volunteers, council staff, businesses and the counties hospitality sector had a warm Wexford welcome for all. The Fleadh was considered by many as the best fleadh ever and we look forward to hosting the event again in 2025.



**Eddie Taaffe**  
**Chief Executive**  
**September 2024**