



OCTOBER

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

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Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council



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# SEPTEMBER PHOTO GALLERY



Culture Night



Ferndale Street Soccer

Civic Reception - Fleadh Cheoil Volunteers



Healthy Wexford



PPN



Community Engagement



Autumn Training Launch



ePay Parking

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Advance Factory New Ross

In 2023, WCC advertised for expressions of interest to develop an advance factory on council owned lands in New Ross. A preferred investor who is willing to explore a partnership with WCC and has the capacity to deliver this project has now been identified. It is expected that Heads of Agreement will be signed in Q4 2024 if the project feasibility provides a favourable outcome.

## Georgia Southern University

The joint efforts of Georgia Southern University and WCC in the delivery of GSU's International Learning Campus in Wexford and the provision of student accommodation in the old Adoration Convent were the focus of a recent Nationwide programme on RTE. The half-hour broadcast will also have a public screening in Savannah and another in Statesboro (GSU Campus). [RTE Player](#)

# TOURISM



## Dermot's Taste of Ireland

A new 5 part television series featuring Wexford Ambassador, Dermot O Leary aired on ITV in September and will also be available on the streaming service ITVX.

The first episode of 'Dermot's Taste of Ireland' featured County Wexford and provided a significant showcase for all the county has to offer.

There was significant promotion of the show across the UK with Dermot interviewed on Good Morning Britain and coverage also featuring in a range of UK titles including the Travel Trade Gazette and Country & Townhouse. The series is supported by Tourism Ireland and is expected to be seen by millions of people across Britain.



In the Wexford episode, viewers saw Dermot, pick Wexford strawberries at Danescastle Fruit Farm, cook in Mary Barry's, visit Curraclloe Beach, make butter at Saltrock Dairy and practice hurling at Chadwicks Wexford Park with his Dad Sean and some of the Wexford hurling team.

## Wexford-Pembrokeshire Pilgrim Way features in The Guardian newspaper.

Following a visit to Wexford in April 2024 by Kevin Rushby, the Guardian newspapers Travel 'Explorer', published an article documenting Kevins journey along the Wexford-Pembrokeshire Pilgrim Way on Thursday 26th September, promoting this unique pilgrimage route and places such as Oulart Hill, Our Lady's Island and Carnsore Point to the Guardian's vast readership across the UK and further afield.

## Get Exporting Programme

Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector is one of the documented priorities of the White Paper on Enterprise, the LEO policy paper has specified a national target of 360 plus first-time exporting companies each year by 2030. At LEO national level, a dedicated central team for new exporters has been established, in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland, to assist companies that have not yet ventured into exporting, providing support to enhance their market entry capabilities. Following a shortlisting process, seven LEO Wexford companies have been selected to participate on the inaugural “Get Exporting” Programme which is due to commence on 28th October 2024. Participation in the Programme will assist businesses to formulate an actionable Export Plan, get early in-market exposure to buyers, channels and distributors in addition to a tailored ed support package from research and prospection through to support with negotiations and deal closure.

## Supporting Businesses to Go Digital

The recently published Local Enterprise office policy statement sets out the implementation plan to foster digitalisation in enterprise as prioritised in the White Paper and sets out an objective of 90% digital intensity in small business by 2030.



On October 2nd, 52 Entrepreneurs from Wexford joined 170 contemporaries from Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford at the Digital 25 South Event at The Foundry @ Google in Dublin. The initiative, organised by the Local Enterprise office, was designed to inspire businesses to embrace the power of technology and foster a proactive approach to redefining their operations in today’s digital age. After a welcome address by Vanessa Hartley, Head of Google Ireland, attendees engaged in a series of training seminars and workshops that highlighted various digital and AI tools and strategies. These sessions aimed to help businesses enhance productivity, expand their reach, and ultimately strengthen their operations. Annette Rowsome, Senior Enterprise Development Officer at LEO Wexford, discussed the digital supports available to SMEs, including free digital consultancy through the Digital for Business initiative. She also highlighted the Grow Digital voucher, which provides financial assistance of up to €5,000, covering 50% of eligible costs to help businesses implement digitalisation projects. Darragh O’Ciarba from Wexford based Business Groozepe participated in a panel discussion led by Cera Ward, Managing Director, Large Customer Sales, Google.

## Blás na h’Eireann Food Awards

From October 4th-6th, 17 of Wexford’s finest food and drinks producers travelled to Dingle to compete in the 2024 Blás na h’Eireann Irish Food Awards. Wexford has a strong tradition of doing exceptionally well at the food awards and won a number of awards this year.

## County Wexford Finalists @ 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 Sea Salt
- \*Wexford Home Preserves
- \*Zanna Cookhouse Ltd.
- \*Zaeire Artisan Chocolates



# GREAT TASTE FOOD AWARDS 2024

## Great Taste Food Awards 2024

Proving that Wexford has award-winning food producers comes as no problem to the Model County. Ranging from 1 to 3 stars, eight Wexford producers were awarded stars for their products at the recent Great Taste Food Awards in London.

- Irish Country Meats (3 winning products)
- O'Neills Dry Cure Bacon (3 winning products)
- Killowen (2 winning products)
- Scup Gelato (9 winning products)
- Mor Taste (8 winning products)
- Wexford Home Preserves (3 winning products)
- Isle of Crackers (3 winning products)



Undoubtedly Scup Gelato (9 stars) and Mor Taste (8 stars) stole the show in London, underpinning Wexford's growing reputation as a true foodie destination.

## National Women's Enterprise Day

17th October 2024 is the date for the Annual Local Enterprise Office's National Women's Enterprise Day.

The local Wexford Ambassador for NWED this year is Liz Nolan from Dampdoctor – a business specialising in solving and treating condensation, damp and mould in buildings. Liz spoke on South East Radio's Business Matters of her experience of being in business in County Wexford, of the supports she had benefitted from and how National Women's Enterprise Day is an important date annually on the calendar for women in all sorts of businesses.

Over 110 women, from businesses across all sectors, sizes and spheres are expected to gather on October 17th in the beautiful Ferrycarrig Hotel to reflect, engage and learn about maximising opportunities and growing and scaling a business.

Telling their personal business stories of growth, endeavour and success, (as well as the knock-backs and stumbling blocks) will be local entrepreneurs Deborah Cogley of Deborah Cogley Art, Ann O'Brien of Kent Stainless and Liz Nolan of Dampdoctor.

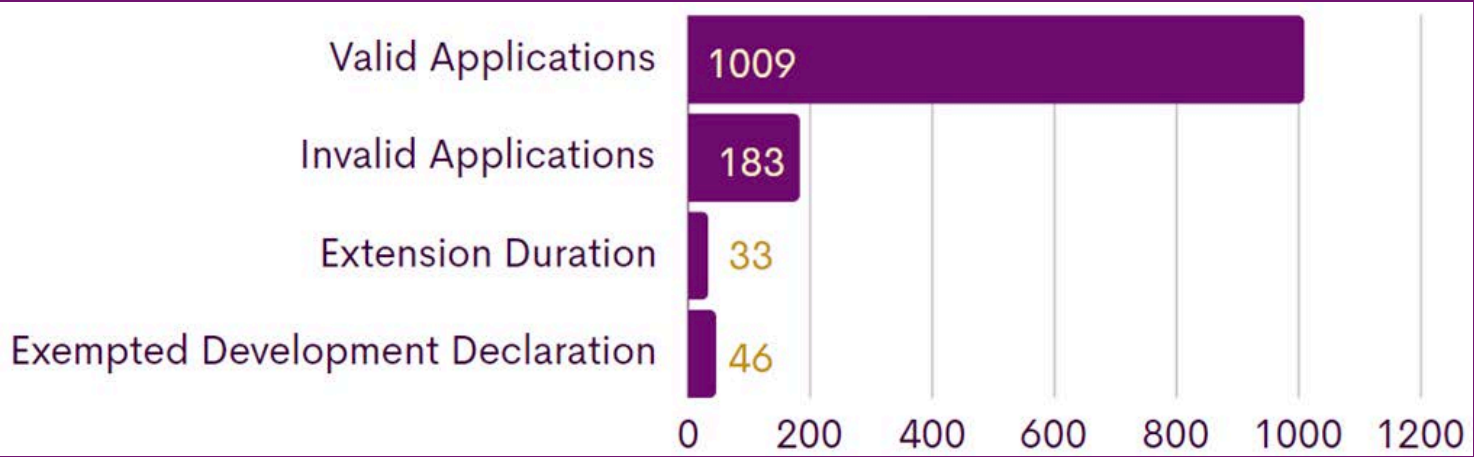
The keynote speaker for NWED Wexford 2024 is Martina Fitzgerald, who is due to speak about her career evolution from a political journalist with RTE to the CEO of Scale Ireland, representing startup and scaling tech entrepreneurs at National and EU level. Martina will also share insights on the necessary requirements for businesses to scale and grow and the common pitfalls to avoid in the process.

## National Ploughing Championships 2024

Representing Wexford at the Ploughing Championships in the Local Enterprise Village on 17th, 18th, 19th September was Sully and Juno, manufacturer of a range of Sensory Clothing. Significant crowds visited the LEO Village over the course of the three days resulting in significant PR opportunities and direct sales and many preorders for the business.

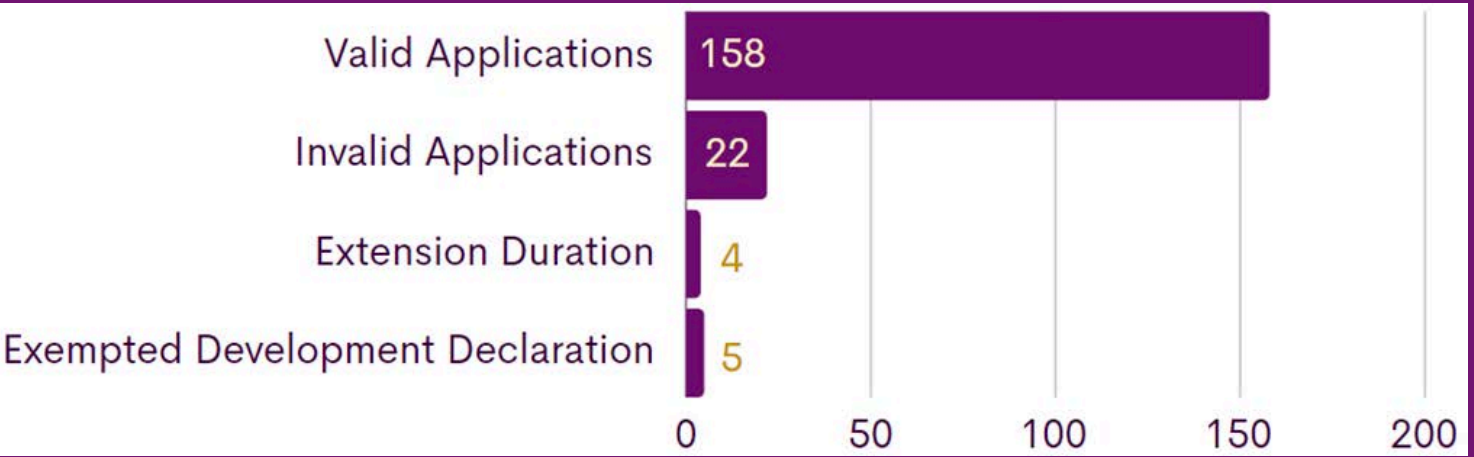
# PLANNING

## Planning Applications received year to date - 1st January to 27th September 2024



Total number of applications: 1271

## Planning applications received from 27th September 2024



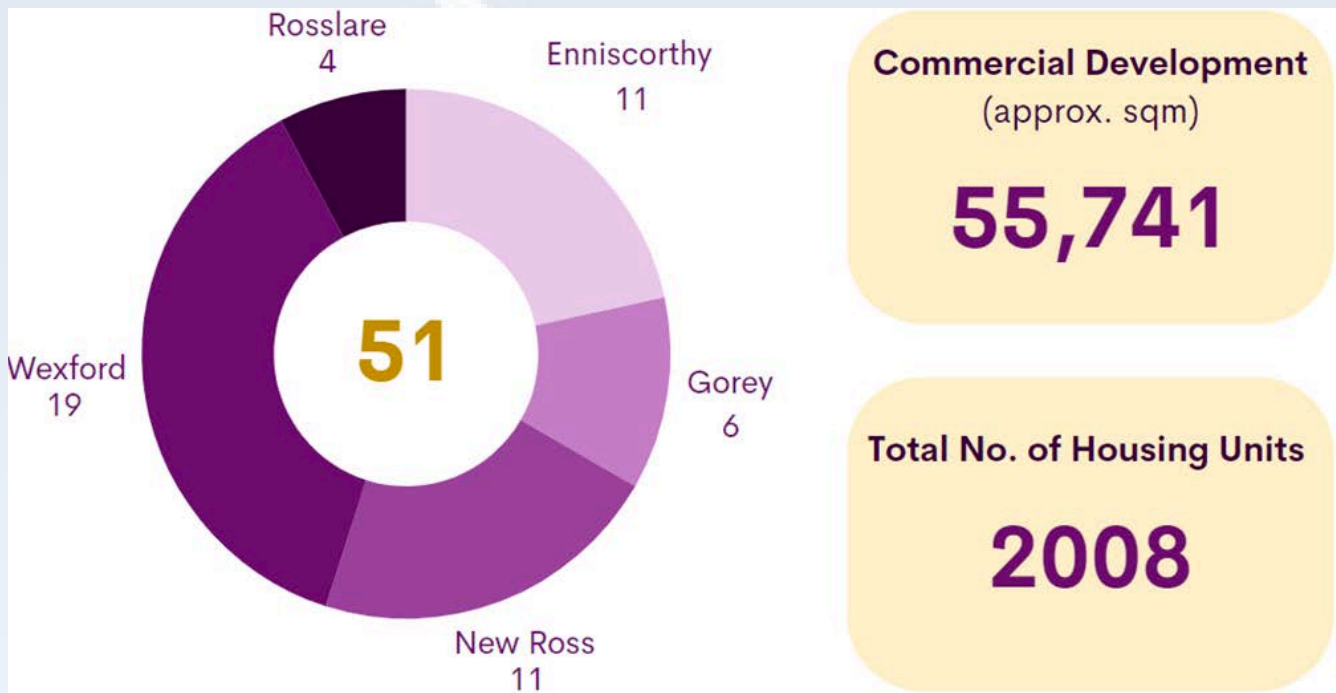
**Pre-Planning** - applications year to date up to the 27th of September 2024  
Average days to pre-planning meeting is 57

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	47	33	7
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	55	61	14
New Ross MD	56	61	1
Rosslare MD	55	56	2
Wexford BD	62	37	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>35</b>

## PLANNING cont'd

### Major Pre-Planning

Year to date up to 30th September 2024 - Number of meetings held by district:



### Forward Planning

#### The National Planning Framework

The Forward Planning Section, in consultation with other sections of the Council, prepared a detailed submission to ensure that County Wexford receives tailored support and targeted investment for the duration of the revised Framework. The key themes of the submission were.

- The requirement for alignment of the NPF and investment proposals in the National Development Plan
- Support for the Eastern Economic Corridor from Belfast to Rosslare Europort
- The need for policies that will ensure balanced regional development and parity and a shift from development centred on the Dublin and the mid-eastern region
- The requirement for policies to address the issues being experienced in the south-east region (which are acknowledged in the NPF)
- Support for critical key enablers for County Wexford and the south-east including the Wexford Campus of S.E.T.U., Tier 1 status for Rosslare Europort and the Oilgate-Rosslare N11-N25 upgrade
- Support for a southern axis to connect the Eastern Economic Corridor to the Atlantic Economic Corridor to enhance intra-regional connectivity in the Southern Region
- The requirement to recognise housing viability challenges, especially the challenges associated with apartment and brownfield development and the need for policy and financial supports and appropriate flexibility in zoning provisions
- Recognition of the Marine potential of County Wexford, in particular the potential for development linked with offshore renewable energy, associated development at Rosslare Europort and Kilmore Quay and the potential for synergies with S.E.T.U., Tradebridge, Georgia Southern University and the recently established Southeast Offshore Wind Partnership.



## PLANNING cont'd

### 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.

The Urban Design Strategy consultants, Loci, continue to progress their work on the Ballynagee Master Plan and will present their progress to the Members of the Borough District at their October meeting. Work has commenced on the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy which will form part of the plan and a productive first meeting of the Town Team has taken place.

### Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

A monitoring system has been established in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) and the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities. There are two strategic monitoring elements to this system:

1. Core Strategy Monitoring to be reported on annually, and
2. Plan Objectives Monitoring (including Strategic Environmental Assessment monitoring) to be reported on by the Chief Executive every two years.

The Forward Planning Section are currently preparing the Core Strategy Report for the second year of the Plan (i.e. 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024). The report will provide details on house completions and planning permissions granted for dwellings and commercial units.

Work is ongoing on the Chief Executive's Report on the achievement of the objectives of the Plan. The 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. 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 both reports will be submitted to the Members in Q4 2024.

### Planning CSO Returns - 2024 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as of 31st August 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 31 July 2024
227	92	159	72	550

### Building Control - From 24th August 2024 to 27th September 2024

Validated Commencement Notices	Building control Inspections	Validated Cert. of Compliance of Completion
51	59	28

### Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to 27th September 2024

Live Cases	Cases Opened (YTD)	Cases Closed (YTD)
411	222	171

## PLANNING cont'd

### Short-Term Letting - Year to date up to 27th September 2024

Live Cases  
11

Cases Opened (YTD)  
2

Cases Closed (YTD)  
2

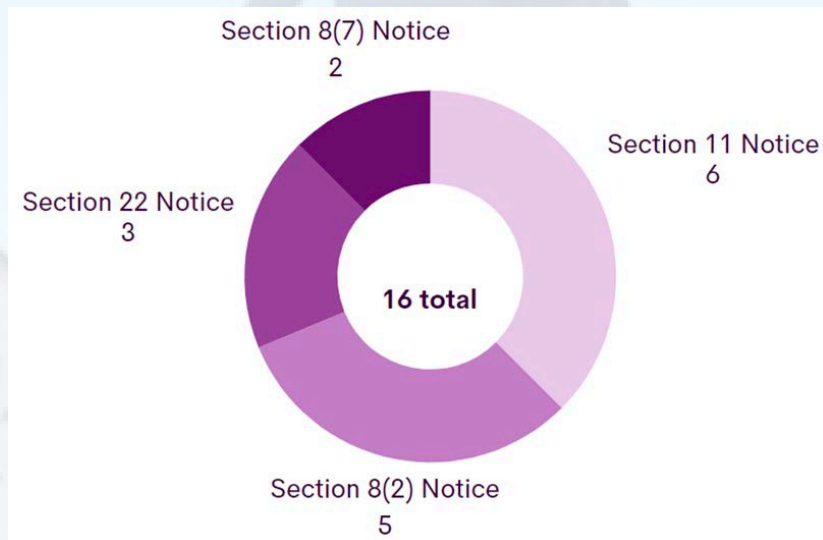
### Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and URDF

#### 106 properties currently on the Derelict Sites Register

#### Derelict Sites - 24th August 2024 to 27th September 2024

- 21 Site inspection/visits carried out
- 5 new files opened
- 2 files closed

#### Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 24th August 2024 to 27th September 2024:



#### Dangerous Structures - 24th August 2024 to 27th September 2024

1 section 3.1 Notices was issued.

#### Urban Development Regeneration Fund Call 3 (URDF) - Year to date up to 27th September 2024

- 173 sites approved on the acquisition programme
- 36 Cumulative number of sites on the approved programme closed to date
- 6 properties vested by Wexford County Council under the programme.

## PLANNING cont'd

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

76 valid DAC applications for the year to date up to 27th September 2024

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	14	2	2	10	0
Gorey	17	2	0	14	1
New Ross	8	2	3	3	0
Wexford	30	2	1	26	1
Rosslare	7	1	0	6	0
<b>2024 Totals</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2</b>

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

Referrals:

**142** LAC/PLAC/LRD & General Planning Applications

**9** Major Pre-Planning

### Access Items

The Access Office attended the launch of **VOICE** in the Riverside Park Hotel on September 18th. VOICE is a project undertaken by Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) and is the first Disability Persons Organisation (DPO) established in Co. Wexford. DPO's are an important step in promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

We hosted a stand at the recent **Age Friendly Expo** in St Joseph's Community Centre on September 19th. It was a great opportunity to meet members of the public in Wexford and hear about the challenges with access they face.

**Make Way Day 2024.** Members of the Access team were in Gorey to mark the event with a walkability audit of the main streets, led by An Cathaoirleach Pip Breen. They were joined by a number of local organisations who work with people with disabilities. The event highlighted the everyday obstacles that make it harder for people to use our public footpaths.



# REGENERATION UNIT

## Town Centre First

We have Town Centre First Teams active in seven towns in County Wexford with each town at different stages of the journey.

**Measure 1** - Taghmon, Bunclody and Castlebridge were successful in receiving €10,000 per town and teams have been established.

The teams have already met twice and are working with the Regen Unit and Dr Yvonne Byrne in creating a Health check with the remaining funding to be used for capacity building.

**Measure 2** - Courtown/Riverchapel was successful in its application for €30,000. Wexford County Council is adding an additional €30,000 and the process has formally commenced with the appointment of LOCI consultants to assist in the delivery of this Plan.

**Measure 3** - Feachtas Ealaian - T/A St Michaels Theatre & Kilmore Scope were successful Project Developments which received €49,500 each. Work has already commenced with these groups to develop these projects.

Enniscorthy and New Ross are already established and work will continue to promote Town Centre First values and principles with all teams

### Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 30.09.24

Applications Received	336
Site Visit Required	14
Applications Info Requested	100
Applications Approved	208
Awaiting Approval	10
Applications Rejected	2
Application on Hold	1
Withdrawn By Applicant	1

<b>Funding Issued</b>	<b>42</b>
Total Funding Paid to Date	€2,375,973.79

## WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<p><b>Kilanerin GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awaiting announcement from Department on approved projects under the MARWP 2024-2026.</li> </ul>
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<p><b>Blackstairs GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CaimTank</b> – Contractor mobilised on site last week. Works expected to be complete this week.</li> <li><b>Reservoir Bypass</b> -Drawdown complete for stage 1. Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by years end.</li> </ul>
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<p><b>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender documentation being compiled</li> </ul>
MARWP 2024-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All submitted projects totalling €3.26 million have progressed to Phase 2 assessment</li> <li>Awaiting announcement from the Department</li> </ul>
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<p><b>Individual Well Grants - September 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of <b>27</b> new well grant applications were registered</li> <li><b>25</b> Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling <b>€42,873.10</b></li> <li><b>52</b> inspections to date carried out.</li> </ul>
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<p><b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme.</li> <li>Project now with Uisce Eireann to progress to next stage.</li> <li>Workshop -5 held with UE on 3rd October.</li> </ul>
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 applications received to date on revised grant, 6 paid, 3 approved.</li> </ul>

## WATER SERVICES cont'd

DPI Resolution Project	
DPI Resolution_Programme 2019-2021	<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><li>• Kyle Close- Rural Water has addressed queries from local representatives in regard programme of Kyle Close pumping station installation and commissioning. Community garden has been green lighted for this site through district and contractor appointed to transform site into a community space. Discussions ongoing as timelines are not in sync.</li><li>• Rural Water programme for Kyle Close, Q1 Detailed Design and tendering. Q2 Works on site and pumping station commissioning.</li></ul>
DPI Resolution_Programme 2023	<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. Real Estate Consultancy Service tenders are under assessment. The design of the Project is progressing, including additional tasks in relation to the Service Area requirements and Active Travel provisions.

Traffic Model is being updated with revised 2024 traffic surveys. Consultation with Iarnród Éireann about the railway protection structure at River Slaney Bridge crossing has commenced. Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.

Project Team is preparing progress report to be submitted in next month to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

### 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 expected next month.

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



## NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

### Safety Schemes

N25 Tagoat - Feasibility and Options Report has approved by TII. Tenders have been invited from consultants for the design phase.

### 2024 Pavement Schemes

HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly Pavement Scheme – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost is €1,000,000). This scheme commenced on the 30th. September and will be completed by the 18th. 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 funding constraints in the current year.

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION cont'd

### 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 31st May specifically for restoration improvements throughout the county.

Road Works Programme	Municipal District	Status Update
<b>Restoration Improvement</b>	Enniscorthy	All 22 Complete
	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	20 Complete, 1 Incomplete
	Wexford	13 Complete, 1 Incomplete
	New Ross	All 19 Complete
	Rosslare	21 Complete, 1 incomplete
<b>Restoration Maintenance</b>	All Districts	Completed
<b>Bridge Rehabilitation</b> A grant of €603,000 was received to repair 14 bridges	New Ross	Dunbrody Bridge complete Abbey Bridge Phase 2 complete
	Rosslare	Ambrosetown complete Waddingtown complete
	Gorey	Annagh complete Ahare commenced Cooraun commenced
	Enniscorthy	Still Pond commence Boormount complete Templescoby not commenced Ballycadden commenced
	Wexford	Old Boley completed Knocknahone commenced



## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION cont'd

Road Works Programme cont'd	Municipal District	Status Update
<b>Climate Adaptation &amp; Resilience Works</b> A grant of €687,200 was received to complete 20 projects	Enniscorthy	Tomafarney complete Farmley complete Raheenahoon complete Hollyfort road commenced
	Gorey	Island Middle complete Scarnagh complete Kilmichael not commenced Fort Road not commenced
	New Ross	<u>Springpark complete</u> <u>Campile complete</u> <u>Camross/Old Town complete</u>
	Rosslare	Bridgetown complete Rosslare Strand commenced
	Wexford	Growtown Taghmon complete Horse River Wexford commenced Castlebridge commenced Newtown Wexford commenced

### Community Involvement Schemes

A grant of €502,650 was received to complete 8 road sections this year. Six of the eight are complete with the remaining roads awaiting contractors.

### Severe Weather - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. The contractor is appointed and scheduled to commence in October.

### 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. Works to commence in October.

Grange Beach Works coastal protection works have commenced under the supervision and assistance of the Environment Section.

### Local Improvement Schemes

The programme included 17 lanes with 10 complete and remaining awaiting preparatory works for contractors or direct labour.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

### **Newtown Road – Phase 1**

Final account negotiations currently underway with RPS PRE..

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

Phases Two and Three of the Newtown Road cycle scheme design will involve the continuation of the footpath upgrades from Applegreen to Bayview Drive at Wygram. Tender documents are being finalised for advertisement in Q4 2024.

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

Consultation with local landowners is continuing, including HSE and adjoining homeowners.

Part 8 documents are being prepared by the technical services consultants.

Proposals to extend this scheme to include works at Kennedy Park School will be in the scope of works for the Part 8 consultation process.

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

This Pathfinder Scheme is at the final stages of Phase 3 design and will proceed to the Part 8 process in Q4 2024.

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

Ramsgrange Community School will be proceeding to construction in October. The AT team is currently developing the preliminary design for Gorey Central School and will follow a Section 38 consultation process.

Crossabeg NS preliminary design has commenced which includes 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 the consultant and reviewed internally by WCC and the NTA, who are project sponsors, letting the project progress to Part 2b. The plan is 50% complete giving a final draft date of Q1 2025.

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

Baseline report (Part 1 of 6) has been completed and currently is under review by WCC and the NTA.

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

A topographical survey is complete, and this will inform the preliminary design and options for an active travel scheme.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE cont'd

### Public e-bike and e-Scooter Sharing Scheme

Fact	e-bike	e-scooter
No of trips in September	2,088	3,938
Km travelled in September	4,897	9,115
Unique users in September	664	968
Average trips per day in September	1.39	2.61
Average trip distance (km) in September	2.34	2.31
Average trip duration (mins) September	10.1	12.2
No of trips since commencement (5/23)	52,409	n/a
No of trips since commencement (8/24)	n/a	6,077

The above records are based on 50 No e-bikes and 50 No e-scooters based in Wexford Town.

### Hospital Junction

AA screening is being undertaken on the site to further inform design and statutory documents, which are being prepared to progress this project to Part 8.

### Gorey to Courtown Footpath

Footpath construction with associated civil works are progressing with 40% of the project complete.

## SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

### Implementation of the new 60km/h Default Speed Limits

The implementation of the new 60km/h default speed limits on all L-class (county) roads in the county will be effective from a date (to be advised by the Department of Transport) in November 2024.

The current speed limits of 100km/h on all N-class (national primary and secondary) roads, 80km/h on R-class (regional) roads and 50 or 60 km/h on urban roads will remain in place.

The installation of new poles and signs is underway in the necessary locations in preparation. The default speed limit sign will be used extensively.

## PUBLIC LIGHTING

### LED Upgrade (National Roads)

The LED lantern replacement on Scurlocksbush, Templescoby and Milehouse roundabouts will be completed by the end of October.

### LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

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

### Public Lighting Development Fund

Projects currently out for pricing in Kilmuckridge, Castlebridge and Ballindaggin.

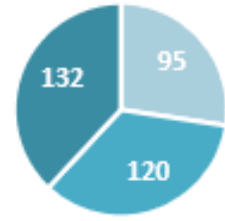
Smaller infill projects are also taking place in each District.

# HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

## Housing for All 2022-2026 - Summary

### Construction Status

<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>



■ Complete ■ On site ■ In Progress

### Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024

Whiterock Hill	22 Units	Q4
Ballyhine	8 houses	Handover
<b>Total 30</b>		



**Official Opening of the Womens Refugee Wexford**

### Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2025

Wexford Street, Gorey	30 Units
Tagoat, Rosslare	18 Units
Creagh, Gorey	22 Units
Ramsfort Park, Gorey	20 Houses
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

## Housing Capital - Capital Build Projects cont'd....

<b>Funded Projects for delivery 2025 – 2026</b>			
Monomolin, Gorey	5	Ballygillane, Rosslare	5
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Grogans Road, Wexford	4
Rosbercon, New Ross	50	Killeens, Wexford	60
Adamstown, New Ross	3	Francis Street, Wexford	2
<b>Total 132</b>			

<b>Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval</b>			
Clonard, Wexford	57	Creagh, Gorey	24
Group TAP Housing	5	Castlemoyle, New Ross	75
Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	The Lyre, Enniscorthy	55
Bride Street, Wexford	3	St Walerans, Gorey	100
Lacken TAP	1	Park, Wexford	12
Kilmore Quay, Rosslare	12	Belvedere, Wexford	8
		Bunclody, Enniscorthy	65
<b>Total 439</b>			

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

## PROJECTS AT PLANNING STAGES

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

The Part 8 process for the Market Square project was concluded on 9th September 2024, with the Council approving the scheme with amendments to address matters raised during the public consultation process.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project is ongoing and it is intended make a Part 8 submission for this in Q1 2025. A presentation will be made at the November EMD meeting.

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

The activity centre building is currently on hold. It is planned to re tender out the boathouse and associated works before the end of 2024.

### **John Street Grainstore, New Ross**

An application for Category 1 funding, under the RRDF, was submitted on 8th February, which was unsuccessful. 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 - updates**

- **Hook Lighthouse**
- The Tender assessment for the associated architectural and related design services is complete and appointment is imminent.
- **New Ross Tourism Project**
- Both teams are working towards the completion of a familiarisation and preliminary design plan in advance of an application for Part VIII development consent in Q2 2025.

### **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 November 2024.

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

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in 2025, subject to advance approval of a Marine Area Consent by the Marine Area Regulatory Authority.

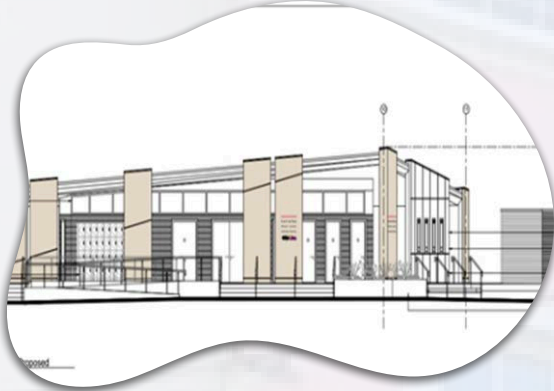
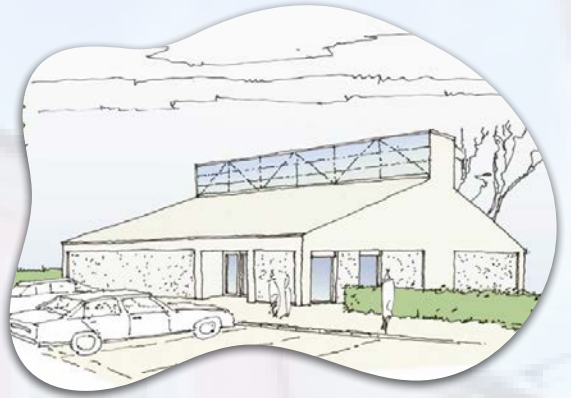
### **Enniscorthy Sports Hub**

Tenders have been received and assessment is ongoing. It is expected to make an appointment in November.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS cont'd**

### **Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, Wexford:**

Construction commenced onsite on 30th September 2024.



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

The main works contract has been awarded to Kilcaven Construction with construction commencing on site in early October 2024.

### **Adoration Convent Wexford**

It is intended to tender out these works out in October 2024, with works planned to commence in Q1 2025.

### **St Waleran's Link Road**

As no tenders were returned, options for the expedient appointment of consultants are currently being advanced. We hope to make appointment in the coming weeks.

### **Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 2**

Tenders have been received for design consultants to design, procure and supervise construction of the Phase 2 road and associated services at Enniscorthy Technology Park. Appointment is anticipated before end of 2024.

### **Enniscorthy Technology Park – IDA Advance Factory Building**

We are currently out to tender for an architect-led design team to prepare a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park.

## **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. Some further works will be required prior to opening this stretch of greenway in Q1 2025.

### **Trinity Wharf**

Procurement of site investigation works is ongoing with SI works expected to commence in Q4 2024, after which Irish Rail will build a level crossing for site access ahead of the main construction contracts.

### **Mechanics Institute, Wexford**

We are now commencing to scope up the required works to prepare the building for community use. It is planned to have the building ready for occupancy by Q4 2025.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS cont'd

### Murphy Floods Redevelopment

Works will be complete on site by mid—October. We are currently developing plans for an interim car park an public realm, to be complete before end of 2024.

## FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEMES

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

The planning application is to be submitted in Q4 2025.

### Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The LIDAR survey along Wexford Quay has not been carried out due to weather conditions at the appropriate tide levels. The contractor who was originally appointed to undertake the survey has agreed to remove themselves from the contract and a new contractor has been appointed. The survey is programmed to be carried out by the end of October. This inability to fly has caused a delay event in the programme as the critical path item coastal modelling cannot be completed without this survey

Surveys are being carried out on the river channels including:

- CCTV of culverts
- Structural surveys of the culverts, bridges and retaining walls

Contractors have been appointed to continue the monitoring of wintering birds in the study area.





# 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.



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. **The next Expression of Interest will open on 9th October 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 (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	7 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q1 2025	29
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	20 x 2-bed apt 20 x 3-bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 8 X 2 bed & 8 X 3 bed Delivered	40
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2025	2
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024	14
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2025	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2025	14
	22	Total Turnkey Units	111

## Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 & 4	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 & 4 X 3 bed Delivered	12
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	2 x 2-bed	Q1 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2025	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	3 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed	2 delivered Q3 2024 Phased basis from Q4	4
Grattan Court Gorey	2 X 2 bed	Q2 2025	2
		<b>Total Part V</b>	<b>28</b>

Project Address (AHB)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q2 2026	86
Ramstown, Gorey - Phase 3	21 x 2-bed 9 x 3 bed	Q4 2024	30
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 X 1-bed apt	Q4 2024	6
The Close, Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey	2 X 1 bed apt 4 X 2 bed apt 17 X 3 bed	Q1 2025	23
		<b>Total ABH</b>	<b>145</b>

**Overall Total**

**284**

## Rosslare Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Carrig-on-Bannow (TURNKEY)	5 X 1 bed 5 X 2 bed	Q3 2025 Q1 2026	10
Carrig-on-Bannow (PART V)	2 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	2
Forth View, Murrintown (Phase 1) AHB	9 X 2-bed 14 X 3-bed	Q4 2024	23
Forth View, Murrintown (Phase 2) AHB	7 X 2-bed 10 X 3-bed	Q4 2024	17
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>52</b>

## Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8 x 1-bed	Delivered	8
Castlelands, Ferns, Enniscorthy	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Q4 2024	20
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 X 2-bed	Q1 2025	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 X 2-bed 9 X 3-bed 2 X 4-bed	Q2 2025	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	11 X 3 bed 1 X 4 bed	Phased from Q3 2024	12
		<b>Total Turnkey</b>	<b>59</b>

# Development Plan

## Enniscorthy Municipal District cont'd

Project Address (PART V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	6 x 2-bed	2 delivered Q3 2024 4 due by Q2 2025	6
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8 x 1-bed apt	Delivered	8
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 X 3-bed	Q1 2025	5
Milehouse, Phase 1, Enniscorthy (AHB)	3 x 2 bed apt 7 x 2 bed hse 27 x 3 bed	Phased from Q2 2025	37
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>115</b>

## New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (TURNKEY)	8 X 2 bed 8 X 3 bed 12 X 2 bed apt 4 X 1 bed apt	Q1 2025	32
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) (AHB)	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q4 2025	48
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (PART V)	4 X 2 bed 4 X 1 bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q1 2025	8
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>88</b>

Wexford County

# Development Plan

## Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd <b>(PART V)</b>	2 x 3-bed	Q4 2024	2
Ard Uisce, Wexford <b>(PART V)</b>	10 X 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q4 2025	10
Beechfield, Clonard <b>(AHB)</b>	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q3 2025	50
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire) <b>(AHB)</b>	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Q4 2024	24
Whiterock Hill, Wexford <b>(AHB)</b>	6 X 2 bed 34 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	40
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>126</b>

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 427 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	38
Gorey	187
New Ross	72
Rosslare	60
Wexford	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from **1st to 27th September 2024**:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (Sept)	166	123	173	131	91	684
Repair Requests YTD	1183	746	1101	1275	747	5052
Accommodation Units Repaired (Sept)	120	94	123	108	68	513
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	805	513	737	863	481	3399
CLOSED Repair Requests (Sept)	97	60	107	100	71	435
CLOSED Repairs Requests YTD	609	341	629	664	418	2661

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

## Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2024 is the fourth 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.

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	No. of Properties	Delivered
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	150 (Estimate)
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>333 (Estimate)</b>

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE cont'd

Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 146 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: 107 of which have been completed.

### Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Doors Only Tender - Countrywide	Completed
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### Affordable Housing Programme

Speaking at the sod turning event, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach of Wexford Council, stated, 'The beginning of construction of this pilot affordable housing project in the county, led by Wexford County Council, sees the construction of 20 A Rated, Energy Efficient homes to be available to private purchasers, to build their own new community here in Gorey'.

The scheme is due to be advertised for applications early in the new year, with the delivery of the units scheduled for 2025. For further information, please contact [affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie)



The First Home scheme is part of the Government's Housing For All strategy and is primarily designed to help first-time buyers bridge the gap between what they're allowed borrow under the Central Bank's mortgage lending rules and what they need to borrow in order to buy a home. Since its inception, the scheme has seen over 5500 applications approved nationally. In relation to uptake of the scheme in County Wexford, the table below sets out the number of approvals and facilities drawn since going live in July 2022 to date.

	Approvals (Eligibility Certs issued)	Facilities Issued (Funds Drawn)
Wexford Local Authority Area	145	70

## 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	No. of Properties Advertised	Properties Available for Allocation	No. of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	36	22	1286
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	73	23	2489
New Ross	18	18	707
Rosslare	41	19	1431
Wexford	46	20	2076
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>7989</b>

## HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

From the 1st January to 30th September, 2024 Wexford County Council allocated 218 properties. A further 80 nominations were made to Approved Housing Bodies.

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	11	2	29	35	1	78
New Ross	20	0	5	2	0	27
Enniscorthy	16	4	40	11	0	71
Wexford	20	6	38	9	0	73
Rosslare	14	0	12	23	0	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>298</b>



## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

Following a period of public consultation from 10th July to 20th September two further submissions were received. These were from Cena and Wexford Local Development. The submissions were considered but no changes were made to the Programme as the recommendations were already factored into the Programme or will be considered outside the programme (operational issues). This is in addition to the five submission which were previously received and listed in the initial draft of the Programme.

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025 – 2029, the draft Programme must be submitted to Council members for no later than 1st October, which is 3 months before the date the Minister has specified as the date for adoption of the programme. This was sent to Members and stakeholders on 27th September.

The Programme must be adopted no later than 31/12/2024. In this regard, the Programme will be listed for a council meeting before then.

## WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESIDENTS DAY, 2024

A Wexford County Council's Resident's Award Day will take place on 30th October in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. There will be prize giving, information stands and speakers and children's entertainment. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome and details are available on the Wexford County Council website.

Wednesday, 30th October 2024  
10am-12.30pm

Prize Giving  
Children's Entertainment  
Information Stands and Speakers  
Refreshments Provided

Venue:  
Riverside Park Hotel  
The Promenade  
Enniscorthy  
Y21T2F4

## COMMUNITY

### FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN

A Civic Reception, hosted by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pip Breen was held to honour the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Volunteers in September. Over 400 volunteers who had participated during the Fleadh were welcomed to County Hall to celebrate the valuable contribution made by them to the success of the week. People travelled from across the county and Ireland to attend. Volunteers each received a commemorative photograph and a certificate of participation to reflect the appreciation of the Fleadh Team for their enormous efforts. The smiling faces and positive attitudes of the volunteers was widely commented on by the visitors to the Fleadh and they were a welcome sight in their bright yellow t-shirts throughout the week.



### LCDC – LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The LCDC met in September to hold their first meeting post election 2024. Cllr. Aidan Browne extended a warm welcome to all new committee members, and expressed his thanks to all departing members, for their contribution over the last number of years.

First order of business was to elect a new vice-Chairperson, and Cllr. Michael Sheehan was elected into the role by the members. A jam-packed agenda followed, with nomination and election of members for both the SICAP sub-committee and the Healthy County sub-committee. The LCDC Annual report was also adopted by the committee

The SICAP mid-year review was adopted by the LCDC, upon recommendation from the SICAP sub-committee and a presentation of the programme from Ms. Clare Ryan, Wexford Local Development.

There were a number of invited guests that provided updates on programmes and projects; Mr. Tom Bermingham presented a piece on the LEADER 2023-2027 programme, Ms. Paula Soroghan from Independent Living Movement Ireland updated the committee on the VOICE project, and a presentation on Food Poverty in Co. Wexford was given by Ms. Ann Marie Laffan, Slaintecare Co-ordinator and personnel from South West Wexford FRC.



## COMMUNITY cont'd

### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date	€993,656.86 (incl. WCC Admin)
Works complete (19 projects)	70%
Works in progress (4. projects)	15%
To be started (4. projects – extension to 2025)	15%
Total fund claimed to Q3 2024 from Dept.	64%

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

- Q3 Departmental Claim 02 complete – 48% of fund; €724,455.19
- Extension requests to Department, for CRF23 projects 'in-progress' or 'not-started', complete.

### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,703,377.0 (incl. WCC Admin.€85K)
Total of fund allocated to date Window 1	€798,291.00
Shortlisted Window 2 – September 2024	€241,996.00
Available Window 3 – January 2025	€577,921.15

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

- **County Wexford Window 1 approved projects across 5 Municipal Districts (page 10)**
- WCC Community Development worked with 3 community groups to bring shortlisted projects from Window 1, which needed further work/information, to bring them to eligibility status under Department's Window 2 (September 2024). Awaiting final approval and announcement by the Department, due October 2024.
- Projected final WCC Window 3 to be rolled out Nov/Dec 2024, for shortlisting and proposal to Department in January 2025, for new activity in 2025.

**Ferndale Street Soccer Programme**

A Street Soccer Programme commenced on the newly installed astro pitches at Ferndale in September. This partnership programme between SCHP, Wexford FC and FDYS has proven hugely successful with local children and teenagers. Wexford FC’s Football and Social Responsibility Officer Mark Ross and his coaching team have become familiar faces to many of the kids who now frequent the Ferndale astro pitches. Local councillors recently paid a visit to Ferndale along with Mayor George Lawlor, Ann Marie Laffan from Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Debbie Roche of FDYS to distribute footballs, t-shirts, drinks and snacks to the participants. Wexford Community Gardaí are regular visitors, with this project helping to build relationships between local young people and the Gardaí.



**Southend Retrofitting Pilot Project**

Amanda Stewart, CEO of High-Performance Building Alliance (HPBA) represented HPBA and Wexford County Council at the UN in Geneva on 16th September and shared information on the Southend Retrofitting project during her presentation. This project, funded and facilitated by SHCP enabled householders in the Maudlintown area of Wexford Town with the support of Southend FRC and Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Communities to access 100% funded SEAI grants to retrofit their homes. Almost 100 householders have availed of this service to date with works already underway in many homes. SETU are undertaking research on the impacts on the health and wellbeing of the homeowners following retrofitting.

**Enniscorthy Inter Agency Team meeting** - met in September and the meeting had updates from the members and working groups and a presentation from Dr. Dean Phelan, CONUNDRUM project.

**Gimont Tea on the Green - Gimont Ave and Cluain Dara in Enniscorthy**

The event was a result of collaboration between the recently formed Gimont Residents Association, Enniscorthy East Community Development, Wexford County Council’s Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and Fire Services, Creative Places Enniscorthy, County Wexford PPN, Wexford Local Development, Enniscorthy Tidy Towns, An Garda Síochána, Enniscorthy Community Alliance, FDYS, HSE and many more artists. Many of the residents came out and took part in activities, met the agencies and built relationships.



## WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME cont'd

### Templeshannon 'Over the Hill' community newsletter

Delivery of the Templeshannon Community newsletter has commenced with local volunteers delivering the newsletters into 1000 households in the Templeshannon and surrounding areas. This initiative is the work of Seamus Whitney and Enniscorthy East Community Development Group. Funding for the newsletter comes from Wexford County Council and the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.



### ASI Dementia Awareness Training

SHCP arranged Dementia Awareness training for colleagues in Sports Active Wexford, Age Friendly and Healthy Wexford. The training, delivered by the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland (ASI) will be adapted for sports clubs, tutors and others involved in sport to give them the skills and knowledge to assist people living with dementia. Funding for this training was given by Healthy Wexford.

## AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD

### Little Kneaders Make Your Own Therapy Dough - Bunclody Library

During the Therapy Dough Workshop, each participant made two therapy dough's using 100% natural hand blended oils from Cork designed to awaken the mind and provide moments of calm. Therapy dough is proven to improve muscle memory in the hands, strengthen the muscles in the fingers and hand, reduce anxiety and reduce heart rates by refocusing the mind to the hands. Breath-work and direction of daily rituals to provide mindful moments was incorporated into the workshop.

### Age Well Expo

Age Friendly Wexford, Wexford PPN and Age Friendly Healthy Home Wexford held an Age Well expo centred around services, supports and activities available to older people in St Joseph's Community Centre Wexford Town. This free event, showcased the services, supports and activities available to older people to lead fulfilling, healthy and active lives. On the day there was over 30 exhibition stands. There were stands on a range of services provided by Wexford County Council. Information was provided on how to reduce energy costs, housing grants, community engagement initiatives, recreational activities tailored for older adults and much more.



Informative talks on topics ranged from Fraud Safety, Crime Prevention, Fire Safety, Healthy Homes and Keeping your Brain Active were also delivered on the day. The feedback from the day was very positive.

### Tirlan Farmlife Store Achieving Age Friendly Business Status:

On 26th September, Tirlan Farmlife hosted the relaunch of their store in Inch as they had achieved Age Friendly Business Recognition. There were several changes initiated to the store to achieve this namely, making the ramp at the entrance to the shop less steep following feedback from Wheelchair users, making the aisle wider, having chairs for people to sit on and reading glasses available along with appointing an Age Friendly Champion. Tirlan are working to achieve achieve Age Friendly Business status for other Wexford stores.

# HEALTHY WEXFORD

## Healthy Ireland Fund Round Four

Much planning has been completed in September and some of the quarter four activity is already underway including 'Lets Get Moving Age Friendly Social Dancing', a Healthy Choices Programme in Gorey, and Resilience Training for Community Volunteers in Enniscorthy.

## Other Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

Healthy Wexford is supporting Community Groups to host '**Meet Your Neighbour**' events this Autumn. These hyper-local events are designed to create local engagement and awareness of activities in the area. Community groups interested in hosting contact our Healthy County Coordinator.

On 4th September, World Sexual Health Day, we highlighted the importance of sexual health as an important part of our overall health and wellbeing, sharing details of our Period Dignity leaflets, highlighting **FREE Period Product locations** across Co. Wexford, for those that need them.



September saw Healthy Wexford highlight and support promotion of **World Suicide Prevention Day** both internally and externally. The 'Let's Talk About Suicide' Online Resource and available webinars were promoted, as was an upcoming safeTALK suicide alertness training course – an event that will now take place on 26th November at Wexford County Council.

The **Country Connects Captures Photo Exhibition** was part of the launch event of Wexford Walking Trails Walking Festival at the end of September. The Country Connects Captures initiative aimed to bring a creative aspect to the Country Connects monthly social walks and was supported by Creative Ireland Wexford.

Country Connects is a collaboration of Wexford Walking Trails, WCC, Wexford IFA & Healthy Wexford. Through social media Healthy Wexford continues to share relevant information. October key dates and activities are **Positive Ageing Week, National Breastfeeding Week, Fire Safety Week and Mental Health Day/Month**.

Supporting **Mental Health Month** a display of Mental Health & Wellbeing supports from a range of partners is on display in WCC. Staff and the public are encouraged to take the resources they need.

## Wexford PPN – Public Participation Network

### National Engagement

Our Co-Ordinator, as part of the National PPN Co-Ordinators group, attended a meeting at Leinster House, facilitated by Senator Micheál Carrigy. A pre-budget submission was made seeking increased funding in Budget 2025 to enable PPNs to continue their work in advocating for and representing communities across Ireland.

Wexford PPN was represented at the National PPN Stand at the Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois. The stand was part of the DRCD's exhibit Our Rural Future – Supporting People and Communities. It was a great opportunity to promote the work of Wexford PPN and network with some of the other PPNs and attendees at the show.

### Community Engagement

Wexford PPN continued to engage with community groups and attended Onosthsavam Enniscorthy 2024 in Marshalstown Community Centre. The event is a cultural extravaganza celebrating the harvest festival in the state of Kerala, South India. Dancing, singing, games and food which showcased the diverse traditions, art and cultural expressions from the Kerala Community were enjoyed.



## Funding

### Sport Ireland for 2024-25 Funding Allocations

Funding Measure	Current	Capital	Total
2022 Community Sports Hub Phase 3	€35,000.00	€12,500.00	€47,500.00
Her Moves	€10,000.00	-	€10,000.00
SIDP	-	€15,000.00	€15,100.00
Volunteer Supports	€15,000.00	-	€15,000.00
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	€8,500.00	-	€8,500.00
Training & Education	€15,000.00	-	€15,000.00
		<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>€111,100.00</b>
Women in Sport 2024 - Additional Funding			€5,170.00

September Events	Description	Duration	Location
Water-based Exercise	Water-based Exercise for Farmers	8wks	Waterfront Pool Enniscorthy
Sheds for Life	Health & Wellbeing initiative	10wks	Ramsgrange Men's Shed
Playground Leader Tutor Training	Providing tutors with the knowledge and skills to carry out the Playground Leader Workshop in primary schools.		Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy
Outdoor Yoga	Yoga	3wks	New Ross Library - funded by Healthy Wexford
Walking programme	Programme for individuals living with a chronic condition	4wks	McCauley's Bellefield GAA, Enniscorthy
Autism in Sport	Workshop	1 day	Online
CarePALs	Workshop delivered by Age and Opportunity. CarePALs workshop allows carers in residential settings to deliver safe exercise classes to their residents.	2 days	Enniscorthy Health Centre
LGBTQI Yoga	Yoga	8wks	Gorey
Teenage Girl Adventure Programme	Teenage girls from Cedar Lodge & Slaney Manor attended a culture exchange workshop & surfing		Curraclloe Beach



# ENVIRONMENT

## Septic Tank Inspections:

<b>NIP Grants 2024</b>	39 applications Received	26 Grants Paid/Sent for payment	13 outstanding for review/documents due
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## Planning

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	68	6	1	4	1	0	1		32

## Waste Management

**Food Waste** - Follow up enforcement for the roll out of the Brown Bins is being carried out at present.

## Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites August 2024	Recycling out (End August) 2023 (t)	Recycling out (End August) 2024 (t)
Glass Bottles		2487	2518
Aluminium Cans		67	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>2561</b>

## Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities

Waste Category	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2024 (t)
Total Recycling out	419	429	444	465	537	614	339	365
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2182	2375	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Aug	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	73	73	117	115	155	162	80	85

## Rapid Response Crew

Activity	To end August 2023	August 2024	To end August 2024	% +/-
<b>Total Illegal Dumping/Clean Ups</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>+33.6%</b>
Gorey		31		
Enniscorthy		48		
Wexford		32		
New Ross		28		
Rosslare		24		
<b>Total Bring Site Inspections</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>6,162</b>	<b>-10%</b>

## Litter/Waste Management

Total fixed penalty notices issues	TOTAL for 2023	TOTAL FOR AUGUST 2024
No of incidents reported	<b>2284</b>	<b>1542</b>
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	<b>212</b>	<b>116 (96 litter/20 waste)</b>
Fines Paid in Full	<b>64</b>	<b>51</b>
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out	<b>56</b>	<b>43</b>
Successful Prosecutions (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>
Legal Proceedings in Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	<b>41</b>	<b>25</b>
Amount Collected in Fines -total	<b>€13,023</b>	<b>Litter €7501, waste €575 Total €8076</b>
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded for litter and waste cases) - overall	<b>€6,210</b>	<b>€3,9930</b>

**Litter/Waste Management**

Month	No. of cases heard	Outcome	LITTER	WASTE	WATER	AIR	NOISE
June	8	Total Fine	1028	260	0	0	0
		Total Costs			0	0	0
July	1	Total Fine	0	0	0	0	0
		Total Costs	0	€1127.48	0	0	0
August	Courts Closed						

YEAR	Dumping Incidents Reported	% Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/Decrease
2023	2461	up 11%	1054	Up 3%
Jan-Aug 2024	1692		746	

**Climate Action**

**Climate Action Plan**

Progress continued on the implementation of the actions in the Climate Action Plan with key staff updating on the progress across 240 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The new Energy Officer started in September.

The Climate Action Team continued to input to the review of policies and procedures to ensure Climate Proofing is considered and mainstreamed across all functions and Services.

- Climate Action will be a recurring topic at Executive team meetings
- A demonstration on how the Climate Action Plan was formulated was provided to the Corporate Plan Working Group
- Review of Events Management Guide to include Climate Proofing
- Proposals from the Climate Action team which will encourage a reduction in Fossil Fuel travelled in accordance with Action GL 5 of the Plan was sent to the GP for consideration and inclusion in the review of Travel Policy
- Additional element has been added to the Procurement Section of the Project Endorsement Proposal (PEP) to outline the Green Public Procurement (GPP) elements included in the project.

**Training/Events**

Events and training workshops are scheduled over the next 2 months. These include 4 workshops on Activating Decarbonisation Zones across the themes of Built Environment, Community Activation, Natural Environment and the Bioeconomy. The ESTG Annual Conference takes place on 15th October.

**Sustainable Energy Communities**

The Energy Master Plan (EMP) for Fethard-on-Sea Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) has been completed and will be launched in October.

## ENVIRONMENT cont'd

### Community Climate Action Programme

€669,000 has been allocated to 16 community groups across Co Wexford to deliver local climate action projects. All 16 groups have signed their contract offers and pre-commencement site inspections were carried out. Projects are now moving into the delivery phase with works commencing shortly.

Projects that include energy efficiency measures have had their baseline energy consumption assessed, with a view to applying for a once-off “energy credit” payment upon completion of their works. The South East Energy Agency are assisting in this process.

### General

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

Jan to Dec	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan -Aug 2024
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	4235	3019
Closed	4733	4963	5070	3561	3687	2192
Closure rate	99%	99%	99%	91%	87%	73%

**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 – Aug 2024
Dogs collected	429	546	575	365
Dogs reclaimed	133	117	128	89
Dogs re-homed/transferred	267	370	404	274
Dogs put to sleep	29	51	38	23
Dog Fines	18	21	14	4

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

### XL Bully Regulation under SI 491/2024

New ownership rules have been introduced to protect public safety following several attacks by XL Bully type dogs.

From 1st October 2024, it is illegal to import, breed, rehome or resell an XL Bully dog and from 1st February 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully unless you have a Certificate of Exemption or proof of application.

XL Bully owners have between October 1st 2024 and January 31st 2025 to apply for a Certificate of Exemption. An additional limited exception to this regulation is in place for animal charities and shelters who have XL Bullies in-situ on October 1st 2024. In order to apply for a lifetime certificate for an XL Bully, a completed application form, including supporting documentation must be submitted to the Environment & Climate Action section of Wexford County Council before January 31st 2025 (supporting documentation includes proof of owners identity and address; a copy of the dog licence; a cert of microchipping and confirmation of neutering).

Further information and relevant forms can be found on [www.wexfordcoco.ie](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie)

## 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 were sought from all secondary schools for participation in the festival for 2024 /2025 academic year. The programme is being run with 7 schools.

**Leave No Trace Workshops:** 10 primary schools will be funded for the academic year 2024 /2025. 10 primary schools have been offered this free workshop.

**Picker Pals Programme:** 10 primary schools will be funded for the academic year 2024/2025.

**Composting in Schools Programme:** Expressions of interest were circulated to secondary schools who were not part of the programme last year. (9 schools participated and completed the programme in 2023/2024 academic year). 4 secondary schools will participate this year. The programme will offer schools the opportunity to explore and improve waste management in and will look at waste separation systems and explore ways to improve waste management via waste prevention, reduction, reuse recycling and composting. The school will receive 2 visits, will create an action plan and all teachers will be given training and given access to BaseCamp so that they can avail of the resources developed so far for the programme including booklets, guides, instructional fact sheets, videos as well as learning resources that teachers can bring into the classroom. In addition, schools receive a **€300** voucher for bins, tools and supplies to help carry out their action plans.

**Green Schools:** Green schools teacher seminar took place on-line on October 1st. All themes of the green schools programme will be covered. Communication with renewal schools will commence in September.

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

No. of Community Clean Ups	01/08/24 – 31/08/24	01/01/24 – 31/08/24
	61	746

**Keep Wexford Beautiful:** Judging is now complete, and awards will be presented at the annual Environment Awards which will take place on Monday 11th November.

**Trees for Wexford Campaign:** The 'Trees for Wexford Scheme' opened for applications in September. Groups could apply for trees or native hedging saplings. The scheme was open to voluntary groups.

**Circular Living Month:** Circular Living Month takes place in October and a number of events are planned. A Halloween children's costume swap event in partnership with Sustainable Enniscorthy will take place on Monday 14th October. A talk and demonstration entitled ' A Cleaner Greener House & Garden will take place on Thursday 24th October in Wexford, Enniscorthy and Gorey.

**Local Waste Prevention Grant:** This grant is funded by the Environment Section of WCC as part of their Waste Prevention Programme for the County. 7 applications were received, and 6 groups were funded the maximum grant of €500. The 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.

# LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS



## Community & Culture

### National Open Day at Your Local Library 28th September

Library staff showed how library membership allows access to borrow from 12 million items! Members can get eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers free and straight to their device, and try free online learning and language classes.

### Culture Night 2024

Wexford Library service celebrated Culture Night holding events throughout the county including art appreciation, crafts, traditional and choral music, drama and poetry.

### Partnerships

Wexford Local Development Elevate Programme commenced in Enniscorthy Library. This programme focuses on creative writing with the Elevate book club participants and is sponsored by Wexford Local Development.

### Wexford Women's Refuge

Books are available on long-term loan to families taking sanctuary in the Refuge. A dedicated reading room is available in the Refuge. Wexford Library plans to develop the relationship with the Refuge to include literature support for healthcare professionals working with the families in the form of academic material from our Educational Resource collection.

### An Evening with His Excellency Trevor Mallard

Gorey Library welcomed the Ambassador of New Zealand to Ireland. His Excellency gave a short presentation and was given a tour of the library which highlighted cultural links between Ireland and New Zealand.

### A Voice of Unity, a Peaceful Heartbeat - International Peace Day.

Wexford Branch held this event to celebrate International Peace Day. Speakers from various countries recited poetry and spoken word.

### New Ross Piano Festival sessions

Five young pianists, chosen by the Dublin International Piano Competition judges, gave short recitals in New Ross Library during the festival.

## Learning & Information

### Heritage - Wexford & Gorey Branch's

Society and State – Ireland Through Its Records – The National Archives of Ireland with John Gibney  
Sport 1924 Tailteann Games: 100 Years Since the Irish Olympics with Paul Rouse  
The History of Courtown with the North Wexford Historical Society

### Age Friendly

**Ageing Well in Wexford - Expo.** St. Joseph's Community Centre, Wexford. Library staff showcased the range of services, technology and events available to the community.

**Digital Literacy classes** with the WWETB have restarted in New Ross Library.

Wexford Branch welcomed back **Age Action Digital Learning**. 5-week course with one-to-one digital learning.

**Sports Active Activator Poles Taster** session - Wexford Library.

## Environment & Climate Action

**LEAF, the literacy and food education programme**, is a partnership between GIY (Grow it Yourself), Wexford Libraries and Libraries Ireland. The programme looks to establish community growing initiatives in every locality, transforming libraries into central hubs for food growing.

The public are invited to take part by registering with the LEAF programme at [www.libraryleaf.ie](http://www.libraryleaf.ie) and calling in to their local library to collect free seed packets of peas, beans and spinach. LEAF is funded under the Community Climate Action Programme.

### **Sustainable Development Goals Week, September 20th to 29th September**

These goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Libraries around the county hosted events on themes of recycling and sustainability and growing.

**Community Energy Hub Website Launch** was held in Wexford Library to promote the Community Energy Hub Website.

## Health and Wellbeing

### **Irish Heart Foundation, High-Risk Prevention of Heart Disease and Stroke - Enniscorthy Branch**

This group session was aimed at providing participants with information on how to reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.

### **Nutrition and Ageing: how to Prevent Muscle Loss - Enniscorthy Library**

Registered Dietitian Liz O'Leary discussed the areas of nutrition & ageing & how to preserve muscle as we age.

### **Supporting People with Communication Disorders with Primary Care Service**

Two training sessions were offered to local businesses in the Enniscorthy town area to help them support people with communication disorders.

**Wexford Mental Health Association** co-hosted an Informal Information Day in Wexford Library

### **Foraging and Food for Health and Wellbeing - Wexford Branch**

Gráinne Kenneally Quirke spoke about health benefits of foraging and producing your own food.

## READING & LITERACY: RIGHT TO READ AT YOUR LIBRARY

### Summer Stars Reading Adventure Celebrations

To celebrate the end of this year's reading adventure, the following events took place in libraries during September: **Luke's Deadly Dinosaurs**, **Shine Bright Theatre Puppet Show** and **Moo Music Workshop with Mairead** for the younger readers.



### Reachability – ALL funded literacy club.

Kilcannon Reachability hub continued their weekly literacy club in Enniscorthy library for the autumn.

Dyslexia Information Workshop for Parents - New Ross Library held an information evening and discussion on how to support dyslexic learners as part of our series of events in their Back-to-School Series

## ARCHIVES

### Collections management - September

There were 36 research remote enquiries & 7 researcher visits. Research topics included family history through the estate rentals for William Orme Foster's Camolin estate (1894); through the burial registers for Crosstown cemetery (1940-2000); research on references to TD Sinnott's retirement in 1953 and on the Lorna Rosbottom genealogical archive.

### Acquisition

A historic collection belonging to the New Ross Workingmen's Club in Mary Street was deposited in the Archive. Included in the collection is a photo of the founding members of the club (Slater, 1899), minute books (the earliest dating from 1906), the original rent agreement on the Mary Street premises (16 Dec 1902) and a banner for the club. The club, which was founded in 1899 in the Tholsel, New Ross celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. A formal handover of the collection to the Archive will take place in the Tholsel in late October.

### Outreach

Public access to the large photographic collection from amateur photographer, Gustavus Handcock from Colebrook House, Wellingtonbridge was progressed during September with an introductory page to the collection and three images uploaded to the Archive's website. The full collection of just over 200 digitised photographs will be uploaded to the site by early October. Covering the period 1885-1905, the photos captured family life, farming practices, the seasonal cycle of rural life, social events and historic monuments across the landscape of south-west County Wexford. The digital catalogue was researched and curated by Monica Wallace (with assistance from Creative Ireland).

## ARTS

### Westgate Artists' Studios Open Call

Westgate Heritage Centre and the adjacent prefab are now under the remit of the Arts Office and have been converted into visual artists workspaces and music rehearsal spaces. These spaces will open October 2024, and their day to day running will be managed by Wexford Arts Centre. Following an open call in August, four visual artists were selected to lease studio spaces in the prefab, with occupancy starting October 1st, 2024. The music rehearsal space will take bookings from November 2024. The Heritage Centre space will be used for pop up exhibitions with Wex Arts Opera festival exhibition opening on Sat 12 October. The Arts Office will continue to work with Wex Walks and the Lions Club to facilitate the existing heritage tours by the public to Westgate. The Arts Office will also launch a new artists workspace scheme this autumn to support artists from all over County Wexford to access workspaces.



### Culture Night County Wexford 2024

Culture Night Wexford took place in September and was the largest to date with 68 free events taking place countywide across the 5 municipal districts. Run by the Local Authority Arts Offices in partnership with the Arts Council and Municipal Districts, Culture Night highlights the quality and diversity of Ireland's arts and cultural offering, while also introducing audiences to new arts venues and emerging creative talent- all for free. There were 27 events in Wexford town, 10 in Enniscorthy, 19 in Gorey-Kilmuckridge, 10 in New Ross. Rosslare hosted their very first event Filling the Well at Rosslare Strand National School. A major light projection celebrating Arts and Culture with live spoken word and music took place outside Wexford Arts centre for Culture night – funded through the Department's Culture Night late grant.

### Community Dates for National Opera House Open Call

WCC in partnership with the National Opera House, is offering ten subsidised community dates in the Opera House for 2025 and 2026. The Arts office recently held an open call for expressions of interest. Final selection will be by lottery. All applications will be notified by Monday 14th October 2024.

### Arts Ability Exhibition - County Hall August – Sept 2024

An exhibition of works by artists participating in Arts Ability, a partnership between WCC Arts office, the HSE and Wexford Mental Health Association ran in County Hall. 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 Office Festivals Schemes September 2024

#### Write By the Sea Festival

Supported by the Arts Office Festival Fund, the festival took place in the village of Kilmore Quay with celebrated poet Patrick Cotter. Write by the Sea produces a literary programme that includes a mix of talks from renowned writers, readings, interviews and workshops.

#### New Ross Piano Festival

Supported by the Arts Office, this was the 18th festival at St Marys Church and featured some of the world's finest pianists such as Paul Lweis and Yukine Kuroki.

Supported by the Failte Ireland Festival fund through the Arts Office: The **30th Blackstairs Blues Festival** ran in various venues across Enniscorthy. It featured artists such as KJ McEvoy and Sean Taylor.

The **Kilanerin Food & Heritage Festival** took place Kilanerin Village and was headlined by celebrity chef Kevin Dundon. There were cookery demonstrations, talks, local heritage tours, demos and walks.



### SCREEN WEXFORD

#### Shadowing Fund and Finishing Fund Open Call

Two new funds were launched in September to help emerging film makers in Wexford.

**The Shadowing Fund:** supports emerging filmmakers based in the County to gain experience in the film industry by shadowing on a film set in areas of Director, Producer, DOP, Art Dept, Gaffer, Editor, Scriptwriter, Script Editor. The Fund helps support their travel and accommodation costs.

**Finishing Fund** Supports an already-filmed short drama, documentary, or animation film in post-production costs. The award of up to €500 will be provided to emerging filmmakers based in the Wexford region. There will be 4 Finishing Funds per annum.

**Crew Morning** was held at The Hatch Lab in Gorey. The networking event was open to anyone interested in and/or currently working in video, gaming, social media, film and TV or any screen-related industries. This included writers, directors, producers, creators and crew from all departments. It was an opportunity for local filmmakers and talent in the Southeast to meet and network while hearing from Screen Wexford on upcoming training, opportunities, and initiatives.

#### Culture Night Short Film Screening

Screen Wexford showed 16 local short films for Culture Night in St Michaels Theatre in New Ross.



### CREATIVE PLACES ENNISCORTHY (CPE)

CPE is a 3-year Arts Council funded initiative in partnership with Wexford Arts Office and Enniscorthy MD, seeking to embed creativity into Enniscorthy.

#### Sounds of Our Town

CPE, in partnership with Orchard Recording Studios, announced a call out for participants for a series of free collaborative recording sessions in November. This is open to musicians of all levels and music backgrounds.

#### Growing My Art Practice – A Practical and Meaningful Guide Event

Emer Ferran, a project manager with VAI (Visual Arts Ireland) for local artists will talk about professional practice and arts and the growth of creative enterprises. It will take place on the 16th of October at Green Tech HQ Enniscorthy.

**County Wexford Youth Theatre (CWYT)**, supported by WCC Arts Office, held an open day in their studios to recruit new members and give students a sense of what they have been doing and their future plans. CWYT currently engages with 50 students between the ages of 12–19 over 2 evenings per week on an annual basis. For Culture Night 10 young people staged a short play 'Seven Jewish Children' in the Wexford Arts Centre.

Youth Theatre provides access to young people interested in acting, writing, sound, lighting, directing, and creating new work on stage and on film. Most of CWYT's stage and film work has been devised by the group, based on issues and stories that they have created and that mean something to them.

## Focus group for Irish Speaking Artists

Wexford's Creative and Cultural Strategy states that it will 'provide support for projects that promote the love and use of the Irish language in our community'. Groundwork with communities of Irish speakers is being developed. A bi-lingual session brought together 14 Irish speaking artists and creatives living and working in County Wexford. They explored opportunities to develop collaborative projects that promote creative ways for people to speak, think and feel in Irish.

Cill Dara le Gaeilge presented to the group on its efforts to develop the language in a county that, like Wexford, does not have a Gaelteacht area. Growing this network will support Creative Ireland Wexford's 2025 programme, when specific funding for Irish language projects will be made available.

## Global Youth Quest

The programme is an adventure for teenage girls living in Direct Provision Centres. Over six sessions, the girls explored trails, woods, beaches and walkways of Wexford through hiking, navigation and artistic interventions. Each hike featured a chosen artist who encouraged the girls to connect further with their surroundings by introducing them to different nature-based creative activity.

The sessions developed a sense of ownership and belonging to County Wexford by creating emotional bonds to the landscape. Working as a team will help the girls overcome feelings of isolation and provide a much needed peer support network.

## Shared Island – New Associations

This project investigates how creative communities in Wexford and Belfast can collaborate through innovative technologies to address climate action, sustainability and major health inequalities as outlined in our strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Building on the connection we established between The MAC, Belfast and Wexford Arts Centre during Cruinniú 2024, two additional collaborators have joined the cross-border partnership - Gorey School of Art and Ulster University (Faculty of Life and Health Sciences and the Belfast School of Art). A series of in-person and online meetings for this project kicked off on September 27th.

## Spoken Word with Stephen James Smith – Wexford Town

Exploring the connection young people from Selskar College and Presentation School Wexford have with climate change, this spoken word project began in September. It offers an opportunity for pupils to express their thoughts and feelings and uncover their unique voices. Led by spoken word artist Stephen James Smith, the young people will examine Smith's work and write their own spoken words pieces which will be developed for a performance called My Wexford.

My Wexford will be performed at the Wexford Arts Centre on 15th November, and the creative journey will be documented and disseminated across social media platforms such as Tik Tok.

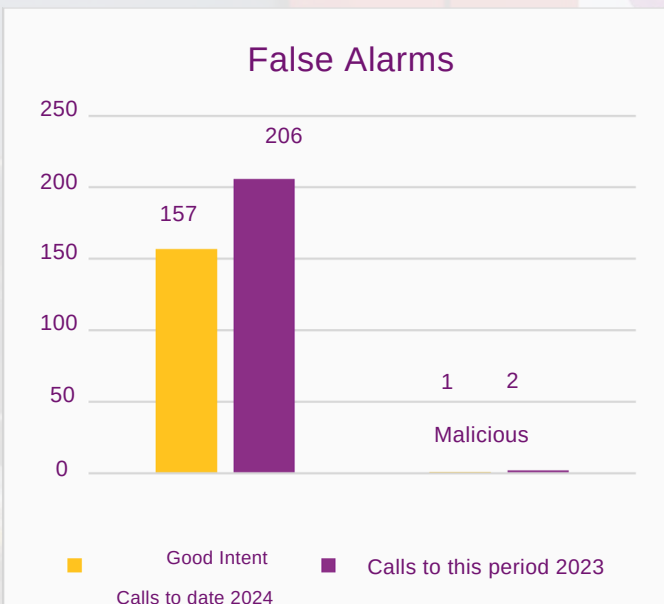
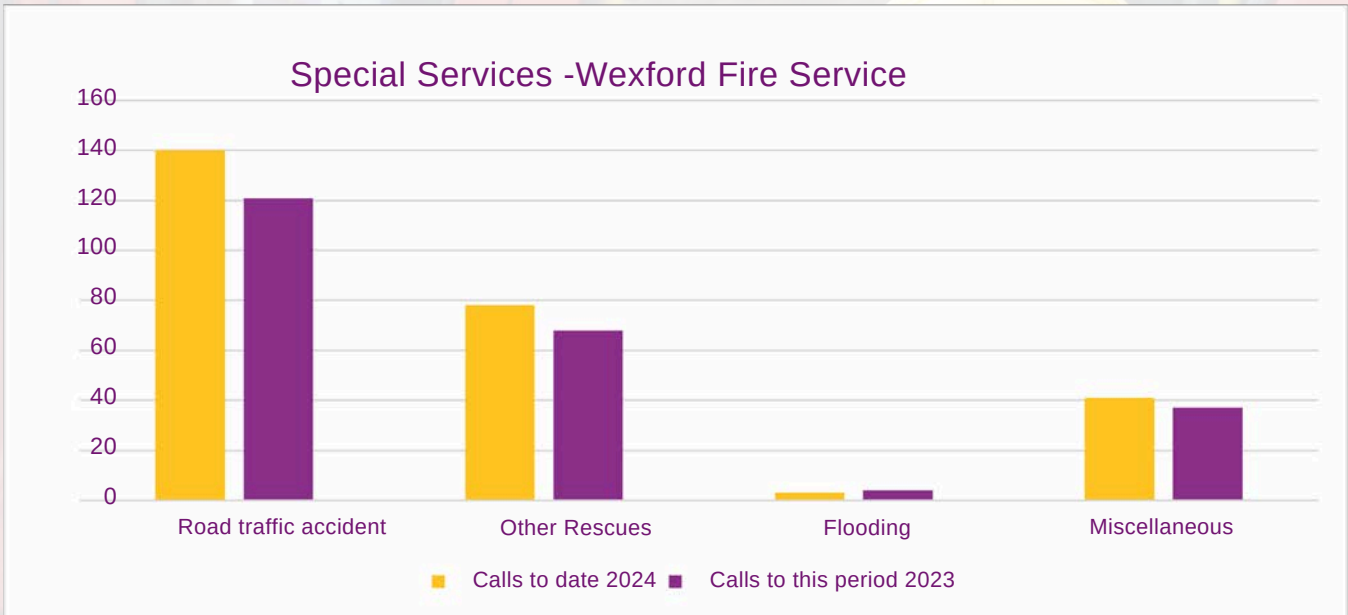
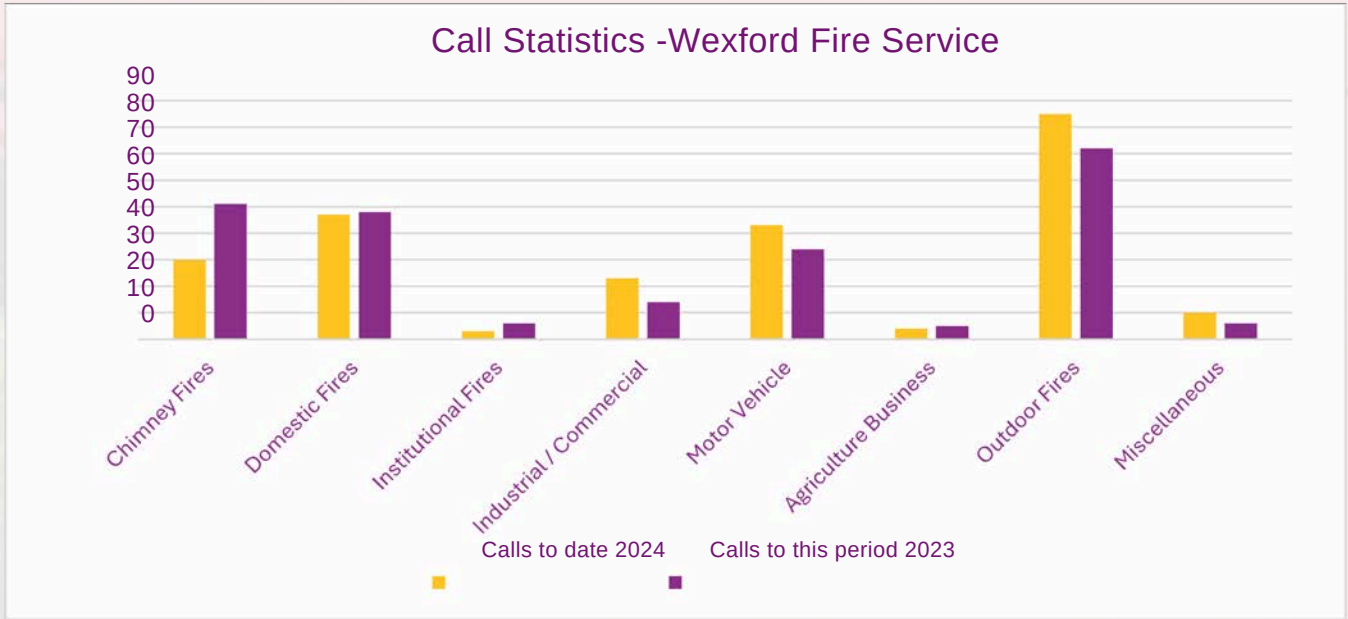
## Country Connects

Since April 2024, the Country Connects Gets Creative project has developed creative thinking through photography for the Wexford Walking Trails group. Joined by a professional photographer while they walk, participants were encouraged to see the landscapes through an alternative lens, while being guided through techniques and processes for capturing nature photos on a camera phone. This placemaking project develops observational skills, and a deeper appreciation and understanding of the biodiversity that makes the walking trails in Wexford so special and unique. A selection of the photographs were curated for an exhibition which was held in Barntown.

## Social Dancing Classes

Beginning on 30th September, a series of social dancing classes brought older people in our community together to improve wellbeing and social interaction through movement. Dances included the jive, the quickstep and waltzes in a friendly and welcoming environment. Organised by Age Friendly Wexford and supported by Creative Ireland these sessions are an important part of Creative Ireland Wexford's wellbeing programme. Through creative activity and creative thinking, they stimulate holistic health benefits for individuals and animate the many local community hall venues that may otherwise be empty.

# WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES

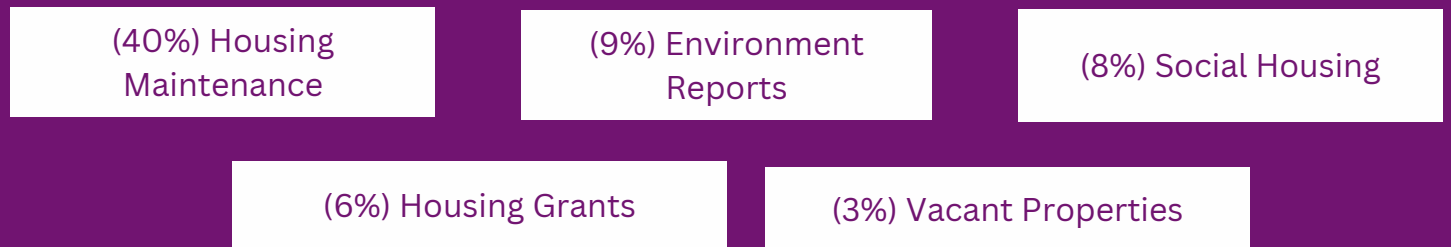


## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Customer Service Unit Statistics – September 2024

Task	September 2024
Phone Calls	3,446
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,128

### Top 5 CSU phone queries



### FOI OFFICE REQUESTS September 2024

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	8
Customer Complaint	27
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>



## THE LOCAL INTEGRATION TEAM

Over the past several months, the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) has been actively engaged in various projects aimed at fostering community inclusion across Wexford. In addition to our ongoing work hosting clinics in accommodation centres throughout the county, we have partnered with multiple organisations on a range of initiatives.

### Number of clinics

In September the team, held 15 on site clinics in accommodation centres throughout Co. Wexford.

### Interagency Work

The team is continuing to work in partnership with the GAA & FAI, introducing children from the Direct Provision centres to sports.

### Meetings of the Integration Forum

Meeting took place on the 30.10.24 where Rósaí Nic Chárthaigh, The LAIT Coordinator from Kerry Council presented on the migrant survey's they have undertaken in Kerry.

### National changes

In recent months, there have been significant changes in the International Protection System for Ukrainians as Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP). These changes have included system consolidations and adjustments to the payments received by those in protection. The transitions have understandably caused distress, and our team has been actively supporting individuals through this process.

## UKRAINIAN RESPONSE TEAM

### Accommodation

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

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	251	785
Irish Red Cross	34	110

### Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

3 properties are open and operational & 3 properties have progressed to contract stage.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Top Performing Posts

Tress for Wexford Campaign



20.4K views

Weather Alert



1.9K Impressions

Weather Alert

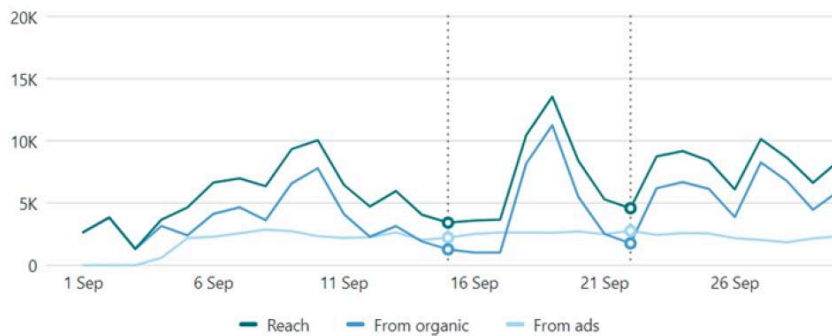


1.8K views

## Monthly Stats



Reach 87.8K ↓ 50.3%    3-second views 21.7K ↓ 66.5%    1-minute views 1.8K ↓ 59.1%    Content interactions 1.5K ↓ 83.2%    Minutes viewed 5d 19h ↓ 71.1%



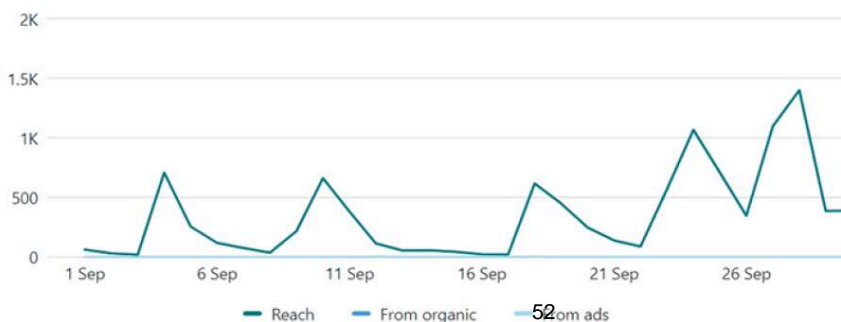
### Reach breakdown

1 Sep - 30 Sep  
Total 87,787 ↓ 50.3%  
From organic 64,627 ↓ 59.7%  
From ads 26,687 ↓ 26.1%

## Monthly Stats



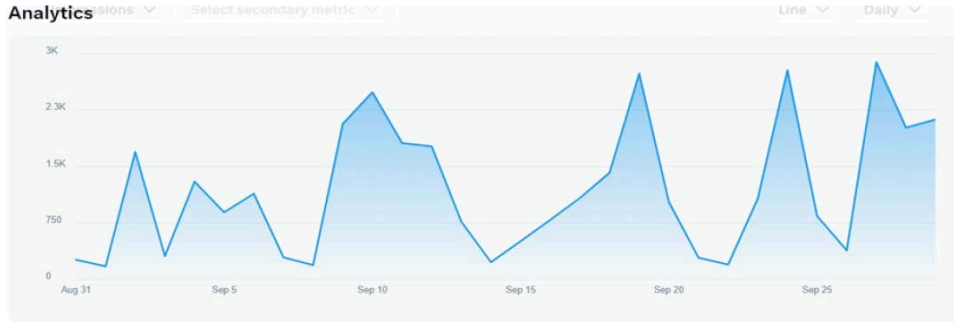
Reach 3.2K ↓ 69.8%    Content interactions 299 ↓ 52.2%



### Reach breakdown

1 Sep - 30 Sep  
Total 3,182 ↓ 69.8%  
From organic 3,182 ↓ 67.1%  
From ads 2 ↓ 99.9%

Monthly Stats



Impressions  $\odot$   
**35.4K**  $\downarrow$  -58%

Engagement rate  $\odot$   
**4.1%**  $\downarrow$  -8.5%

Profile visits  $\odot$   
**74**  $\downarrow$  -75%

New follows  $\odot$   
**42**  $\downarrow$  -36%

Replies  $\odot$   
**7**  $\downarrow$  -77%

Likes  $\odot$   
**65**  $\downarrow$  -84%

Reposts  $\odot$   
**44**  $\downarrow$  -63%

Bookmarks  $\odot$   
**6**  $\downarrow$  -40%

Press Releases  
September 2024



- 03-Sep  
Local Enterprise Office Wexford Announces New Autumn Training and Events Programme to Empower Small Businesses
- 04-Sep  
Contract Signed for the Construction of 20 Affordable Dwellings in Ramsfort Park, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- 04-Sep  
County Wexford Students Encouraged to sign up for Ireland's Prestigious Student Enterprise Programme
- 16-Sep  
Civic Reception held for Fleadh Cheoil Volunteers
- 23-Sep  
Minister James Browne performs official opening of new social housing scheme and sod turned on Wexford County Council pilot affordable housing development
- 30-Sep  
eParking Cashless Payment Solution An additional new way to pay for Parking in Wexford

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexford-county-council-press-releases-2024>

Press Queries  
September 2024

6 Press Queries received:

- Solid Fuel Regulations
- Retention Planning Permission
- E Scooters
- Slurry Farm Inspections
- Bike racks, Lower John St.
- Newtown Rd Project

4 responses issued.

- Status Orange Weather Warning
- Status Yellow Weather Warning
- Make Way Day
- Age Friendly - Social Dancing
- E - scooters
- Official Opening, social housing
- LocGov.ie website promotion
- L.A Resident's Day
- Trees for Wexford Campaign
- Good Grief Programme - Creative Ireland
- Community Energy Hub
- AILG 25
- National Opera House -Open Call
- The centre of Everything - Exhibition
- FDNY 9/11 Memorial Charity Cycle
- Slow the Flow
- Affordable Housing Contract signing
- CE Scheme Vacancies
- National Women's Enterprise Dav

Monthly Social Media Content





## FINANCE

### Budget 2025

Work has commenced on the preparation of Budget 2025. Circular Fin 09/2024 has been received confirming Wexford County Council's provisional LPT Allocation (pre LAF adjustment) for 2025 at €15,126,453. This is the same baseline allocation as 2024 and therefore provides no additional income in baseline funding to the Council.

### 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 requires a formal application which is included in the October meeting to secure Council approval and Ministerial sanction for an extension of the facility into 2025.

### Audit

- Audit of Accounts 2023 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2023 Accounts is ongoing. Once complete, the Local Government Auditor will prepare the Statutory Audit Report to be submitted for consideration of the Council as soon as possible thereafter.
- Audit Committee – Proposals for the filling of the 3 external committee members is included in the October Council meeting for Members approval. The proposed date for the inaugural meeting of the new Audit Committee is Friday 25th October. The Audit Committee will also meet with the Local Government Auditor before the end of the year to discuss the outcome of the 2023 Audit. Following this the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the Council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council



## 125 years of Local Government in Ireland

Wexford County Council were delighted to welcome members of the AILG who travelled from all over Ireland to mark their 125th yr anniversary. A tree was planted to commemorate the Wexford link, a Thos Esmond from Gorey, who was convenor of their 1st meeting 125 years ago.

**Eddie Taaffe**  
Chief Executive