



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council



2025

MARCH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT



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PHOTO ALBUMN MARCH 2025



CIVIL DEFENSE - Credit Union Night Run



Training Day



Training Day



Author Liz Nugent interview and reading for Ireland Reads at Wexford Library



Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland presented with a gift from Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach. The event was also attended by Wexford Mayor Cllr. Biddy Walsh and George Lawlor T.D.



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must build a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below. (1181 below includes leasing also)

Housing For All 2022-2026							
1181 Target	- (804 Units Delivered	+	661 Units Projected	=	1465 Delivery Pipeline) = 284 Shortfall /Over

It is the Council's intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists and Department funding is available. The tables below 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 current Expression of Interest closed on the 20th February, 2025. 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 Remaining 24 units delivered February 2025	40
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q4 2025	2
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14 x 2-bed	Delivered Q4 2024	14
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q3 2025	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2025	14
		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 & 2 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	Q3 2025	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	3 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed	2 delivered Q3 2024 Phased basis from Q1 2025	4
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q2 2025	2
Pearsons Brook	2 x 3 bed	Q1 2025	2
Upton Meadows, Kilmuckridge	2 x 3 bed 1 x 2 bed	Q1 2025	3
		Total Part V	33

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	30 Delivered Q4 2024	30
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 x 1-bed apt	Q1 2025	6
The Close, Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey	2 x 1 bed apt 4 x 2 bed apt 17 x 3 bed	17 houses delivered Q4 6 Apts. Q1 2025	23
		Total ABH	145
Overall Total			289

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	Delivered Q4 2024	23
Forth View, Murrintown (Phase 2) AHB	7 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	Delivered Q4 2024	17
Overall Total			52

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	Delivered 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	Phased from Q3 2025	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	11 x 3 bed 1 x 4 bed	2 X 3 bed and 1 X 4 bed delivered Q4 2024. Remaining units to deliver on a phased basis from Q1 2025	12
		Total Turnkey	59
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

Enniscorthy Municipal District cond't

Project Address (PART V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	4 X 2 bed 1 X 3 bed	Q1 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	2 X 2 bed 2 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	4
		Total Part V	28
Pairc na Bearnna, Enniscorthy (AHB)	5 X 3 bed	Delivered Q2 2024	5
Milehouse, Phase 1, Enniscorthy (AHB)	3 x 2 bed apt 7 x 2 bed hse 27 x 3 bed	17 delivered Q4 2024 – Remaining units to deliver Q2 2025	37
		Total AHB	42
Overall Total			129

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	18 units delivered Q1 2025 – Remaining 14 units to deliver March 2025	32
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) (AHB)	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q1 2026	48
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (PART V)	4 x 2 bed 4 x 1 bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q1 2025	8
Overall Total			88

Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd (PART V)	2 x 3-bed	Q1 2025	2
Ard Uisce, Wexford (PART V)	10 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q4 2025 2 delivered Q4 2024	10
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q4 2025	50
Pairc na Greine, Coolcotts (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire) (AHB)	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Delivered Q4 2024	24
Whiterock Hill, Wexford (AHB)	6 x 2 bed 34 x 3 bed	Delivering on a phased basis from Q2 2025 in 3 phases.	40
Overall Total			126

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to **478** units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	63
Gorey	187
Wexford	70

District	No of Units
New Ross	79
Rosslare	79
Total	478

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2025 is the fifth 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	118*
Total	289	301

Status Update February 2025	
Units completed to date	71**
Works in progress	10
Contract awarded February	13
In tender process	11
To commence tender process to commence March	15
2025 Allocation	120 No.

Notes

* 26 units completed and claimed in 2024 – not funded – to be paid from 2025 allocation

** includes 51 units completed in Q4 2024

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

Anti-Social Behaviour Cases

The below figures are from mid to end of February 2025.

District	No. of Cases
Wexford	6
Rosslare	2
New Ross	13
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	6
Enniscorthy	8

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Radharc na Beannoige Affordable Housing Scheme – application portal

Applications for the pilot Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme at 'Radharc na Beannoige', Ramsfort, Gorey closed on Wednesday 05th March 2025. Members of the evaluation team will carry out an assessment of eligibility on valid applications. Construction is well advanced with the scheme expected to be delivered by year end.



Affordable Housing Application Clinic – February 2025

To assist interested applicants through the application process, members of the Affordable Homes Team hosted an 'Application Clinic' 08th February 2025 in Gorey Library. The event, which was open to all members of the public, was an opportunity for applicants to see all aspects of the application programme including identifying key supporting documents and demonstration of the online application portal.



CHOICE BASED LETTING

29 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2025 to 28/02/25. As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 41 properties were available for allocation.

Municipal District	Properties Available for Allocation	No. of Properties Advertised
Enniscorthy	7	7
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	2	2
New Ross	15	8
Rosslare	4	4
Wexford	13	8
TOTAL	41	29

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

From the 1st January to 28th February, 2025 Wexford County Council allocated 56 properties. There were also a further 21 Approved Housing Body tenancies

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	5	1	0	1	0	7
New Ross	2	0	12	0	0	14
Enniscorthy	3	0	5	1	0	9
Wexford	12	0	14	4	0	30
Rosslare	2	0	0	15	0	17
TOTAL	24	1	31	21	0	77

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOURISM



Wexford Key Tourism Facts.

Fáilte Ireland have released their Key Tourism Facts in relation to domestic tourists to Wexford in 2023 which include the following:

- 919,000 domestic tourists visited Wexford in 2023.
- €210m generated in revenue.
- €228 Average spend per capita.
- 48% of tourists were between the ages of 18-44.
- 36% of tourists were 55+.
- 46% of those that visited were couples.
- 28% of those that visited were families with children under 13 years old.
- 74% of visitors had been to Wexford before while 22% noted that this was their first time to visit County Wexford as a destination.
- 17% used public transport to travel to/from County Wexford.

Some of the activities that domestic holiday makers engaged in included the following:

- Walking
- Touring the county by car,
- Visiting historic houses, castles, heritage/ interpretative centres etc.,
- Exploring the outdoors including parks, gardens etc.
- Shopping and attending markets.
- Other activities, including hiking, swimming & water sports, cycling, golf, fishing/angling.

Source: Overseas – Fáilte Ireland estimates based on Survey of Overseas Travellers, Domestic – CSO Household Survey, Northern Ireland – NISRA.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

2025 Enterprise Ireland Funding Allocation

The funding allocation for the Local Enterprise Office in 2025 has been announced and represents a total fund of €1.76 million to support the development of small and medium enterprises in County Wexford. The amount allocated represents an increase of €183,500 on 2024 and takes into account anticipated increase in grant applications under the Energy Efficiency Grant and the Grow Digital Voucher which were officially launched in late 2024.

The funding will support Wexford based businesses build capability through training and mentoring as well as assisting businesses achieve operational efficiency through lean manufacturing, sustainability and digitalisation supports. This compliments the financial supports offered to manufacturing and internationally traded businesses for startup and business expansion.

A particular focus for 2025 is on supporting management development through a variety of initiatives, the continued rollout of efficiency supports, and delivery of supports to the cohort of businesses with over 10 employees in order to foster strategic growth, through increased levels of export activity.

Launch of New Market Explorer Grant Support

A new Market Explorer Grant is now available through the Local Enterprise office. This support has been designed to support first time and small-scale exporters to undertake essential market research and to support the development of viable and sustainable market entry strategies in new geographic markets for businesses. The financial assistance proposed will provide support towards costs incurred in researching new market opportunities for products and services. The eligible activities include market research, in-market consultancy, attendance and exhibition at trade fair and the cost of overseas travel. Individual businesses can avail of up to €10,000 in grant aid.

Local Enterprise Week 2025

Small businesses and budding entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to sample 11 events aimed at helping them to start or grow their business as part of this year's Local Enterprise Week in Wexford. The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, supported by Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities, takes place from the 3rd to the 7th March 2025.

The events in Wexford will focus on the key stages in the business life cycle from startup to business growth/scaling, with events ranging from start your own business programmes to an event targeting established companies "Scale up: a Blueprint for Business Growth" which takes place in the Talbot Hotel. This event will also recognise the achievements of LEO client companies in recent years as Wexford's representative for the National Enterprise Awards will also be announced on the day. On Monday, there will be a Grow Digital workshop in the Hatch Lab in Gorey which will shine a spotlight on how digitalisation can drive efficiencies in business and how the LEO can support such activities.

Local Enterprise Office
Local Enterprise Week
 3rd - 7th March 2025

Making it Happen

DATE	EVENT NAME	EVENT TIME	LOCATION	COST
Monday, 3rd March	LAUNCH: Introduction to Google Analytics (GA4)	14:00 - 17:00	Online	€25pp
	Grow Digital Workshop: Set €5,000 to transform your Business	09:30 - 11:45	The Hatch Lab, Gorey	Free (Limited Spaces, Booking is essential)
Tuesday, 4th March	TikTok Marketing for your Business	09:30 - 12:30	Online	€25pp
	Scale Up: A Blueprint for Business Growth hosted by Susan HayesCulleton "The Positive Economist"	08:00 - 13:30	The Talbot Hotel, Wexford	€30pp
Wednesday, 5th March	Business Advice Clinic	09:30 - 17:30	Online	Free (Limited Spaces, Booking is essential)
	Green Business Workshop - Unlock Energy Efficiency Grants with Sustainability Expert Pat Kane	13:00 - 14:30	Webinar	Free (Limited Spaces, Booking is essential)
	Start Your Own Business (For 8 Evenings)	19:00 - 22:00	Wexford Enterprise Centre	€25pp
Thursday, 6th March	Build Online Recurring Revenue - The Amplify Foundations Programme	09:30 - 13:30	Online	€25pp
	AWARDS: Wexford Student Enterprise Awards	15:30 - 19:00	Wexford County Council	
Friday, 7th March	Build a Winning Business Plan	09:30 - 16:30	Online	€25pp
	International Women's Day 2025 with keynote speaker Bevin Mahon	08:00 - 10:30	Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy	€20pp

localenterprise.ie/wexford

Sustainability and the supports available to businesses improving their energy efficiency will also feature prominently during the week with sustainability expert Pat Kane delivering an online webinar on Wednesday – 'Unlock Energy Efficiency Grants with sustainability.' The focus shifts to encouraging the next generation of entrepreneurs on Thursday with an awards evening to recognise the achievement of participants in the Student Enterprise Programme. The week ends with a gathering of inspiring speakers and panellists at the Riverside Park Hotel in Enniscorthy to mark International Women's Day.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

In partnership with



Enterprise Ireland



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



Local Enterprise Office
Wexford

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Local Enterprise Office

Local Enterprise Week

SCALE UP: A Blueprint for Business Growth with the 'Positive Economist' Susan HayesCulleton

The Talbot Hotel, Wexford
Tuesday 4th March 2025
08:00 – 13:30

Limited Space
Book Now

localenterprise.ie/wexford



Local Enterprise Office
Making It Happen

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025
Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy

BOOK NOW

MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER
BEVIN MAHON
AIBF President, Owner & CEO of Dentaltech Group

#AccelerateAction

County Wexford Chamber

National Enterprise Awards 2025

The National Enterprise Awards will take place this year on May 22nd in Dublin's Mansion House. These awards celebrate all that is best in entrepreneurship, small business and Irish enterprise. Every county in Ireland will nominate a representative for the finals, and across 5 categories, an overall national winner, plus 5 category winners and regional winners will be chosen. Eight outstanding Wexford enterprises were shortlisted for the judging process which took place in Wexford County Council on 19th February. A winner has been selected which will be announced during Local Enterprise Week. The County Winner will represent Wexford in the national competition and will present to the national judging panel in April.



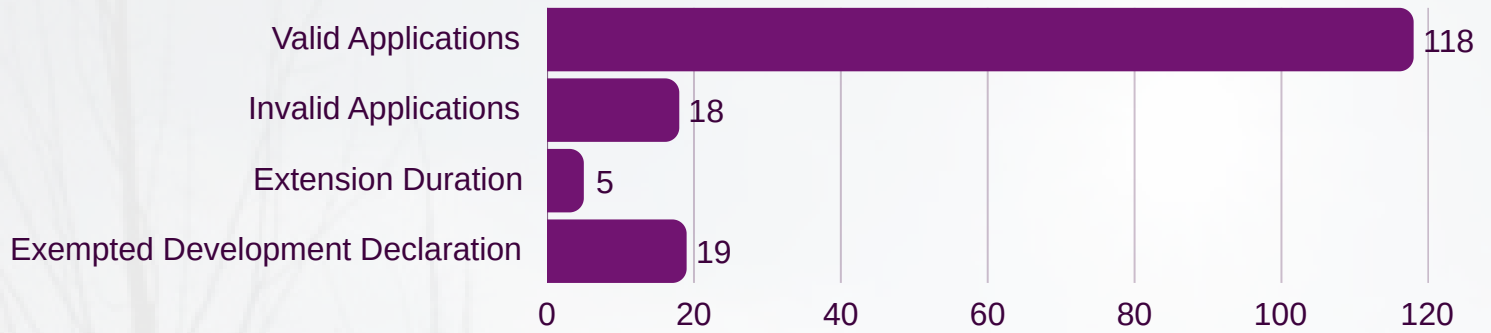
National Enterprise Awards

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil

Local Enterprise Office

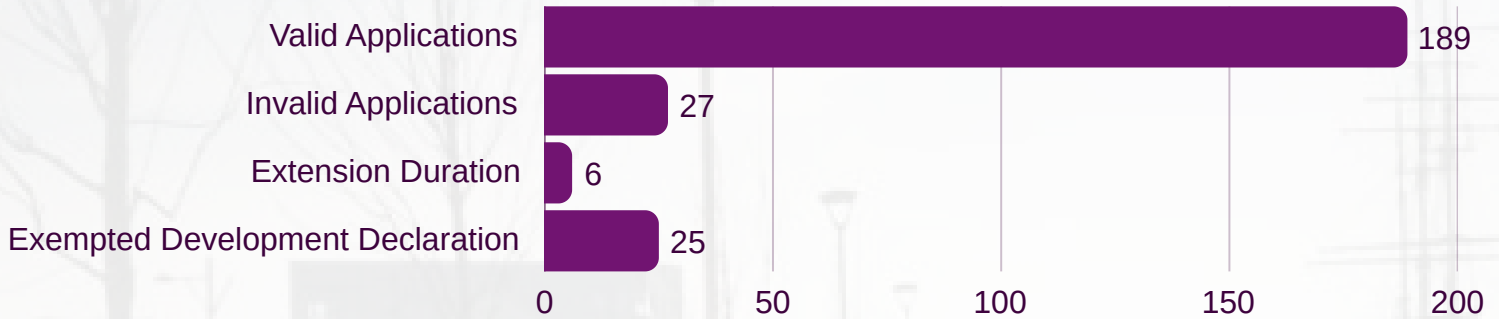
PLANNING

Planning applications received from 27th January 2024 to 23rd February 2025



Total number of applications: **136**

Planning Applications received year to date - 1st January to 23rd February 2025



Total number of applications: **216**

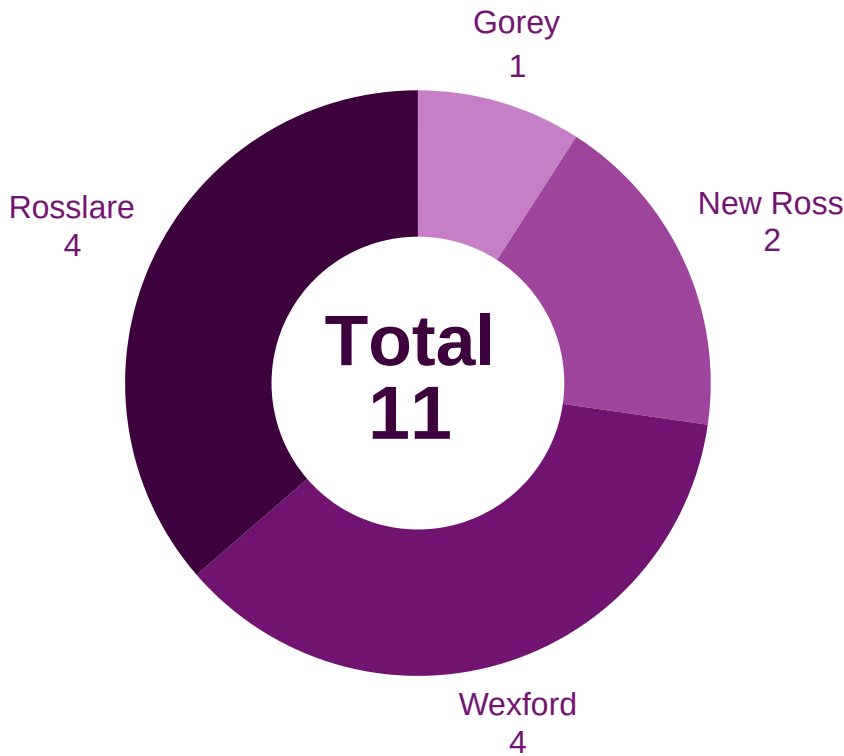
Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 23rd February 2024

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	11	6	7
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	20	10	23
New Ross MD	9	3	7
Rosslare MD	15	11	3
Wexford BD	15	10	21
Total	70	40	61

Average days to pre-planning meeting is **53** (for 2024 and 2025)

Major Pre-Planning

Year to date up to the 21st February 2025 number of meetings held by district:



Commercial Development (approx. sqm)
3,481

Total No. of Housing Units
246

Planning CSO Returns

2025 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as of 23rd February 2025

Housing Developments (total no. units)	Apartments incl. self contained dwelling units (total no. units)	One off Houses	LACs Local Authority Development	Total no. permissions granted 27th October 2024
67	1	23	0	91

Building Control - From 1st January 2025 to the 23rd February 2025

Validated
Commencement Notices
35

Building Control
Inspections
49

Validated Cert. of
Compliance on
Completion
14

Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 23rd February 2025

Live Cases
429

Cases Opened (YTD)
53

Cases Closed (YTD)
39

Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme supports owners of historic buildings in maintaining and safeguarding their properties. In February the Heritage Section secured grant aid of **€261,989** under the BHIS and this will assist 12 homeowners in Wexford. In addition, **€46,774.76** was obtained under the BHIS Thatching Stream and this will fund works at 4 thatched cottages.



Dangerous Structures and Places

Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964

**3 Section 3.1
Notice**

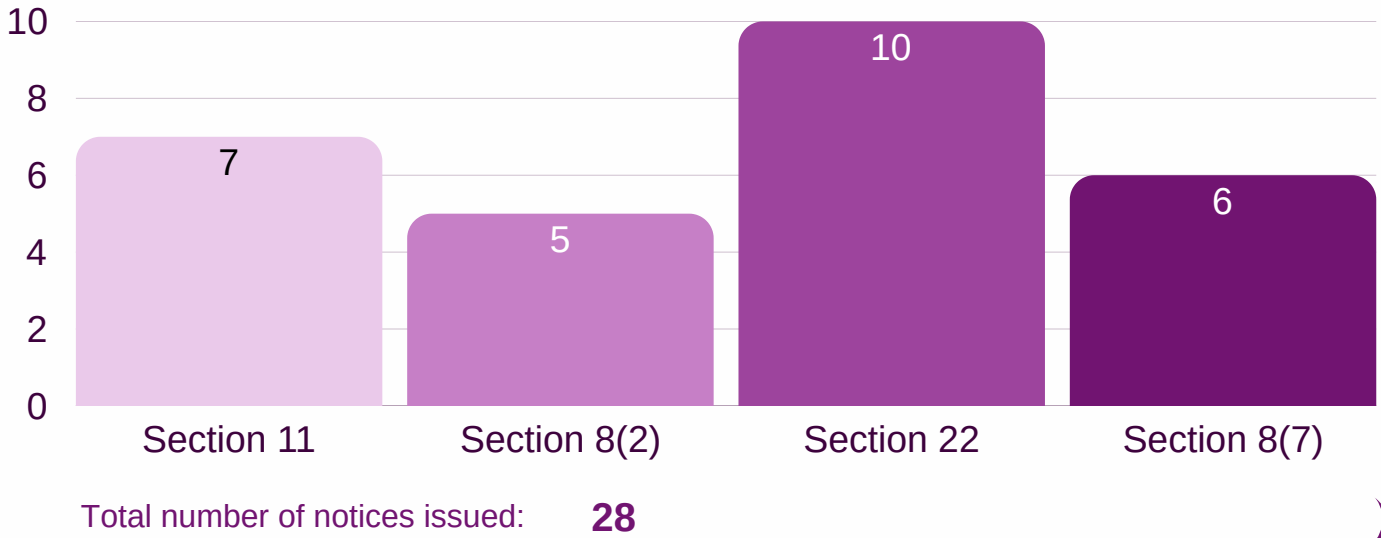
**1 Section 3.2
Notice**

**3 New Files
Opened**

Year to date up to the 23rd February 2025

Derelict Sites

**Derelict Site Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.
Year to date up to 23rd February 2025:**



<p>137 sites on the Derelict Site Register</p>	<p>23 new file opened</p>	<p>49 site inspection/visits carried out</p>	<p>5 files closed</p>
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*Year to date figures

URDF - Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

**174 sites approved on the acquisition programme as of the
23rd February 2025**

- **39** Awaiting initial engagement with property owner
- **33** Engagement with Property Owner Commenced
- **1** Process to Purchase Commenced by Agreement
- **9** Process to Purchase Commenced by CPO
- **1** Property Acquired by LA
- **2** Enabling works underway by LA
- **7** Advertised for sale - property owned by LA
- **48** Brought back into use by Original Owner (closed case)
- **28** Property no longer vacant/derelict following review (closed case)
- **6** Being Dealt with Under Different Programme



One additional site has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for inclusion into the URDF Call 3 Programme.

Access - Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

20 valid DAC applications for the year to date up to 23rd February 2025

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	18	0	1	17	0
Gorey	17	0	2	14	1
New Ross	12	1	2	9	0
Wexford	44	5	10	28	1
Rosslare	12	0	4	8	0
2024 Totals	103	6	19	76	2

Disability proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals:

12

LAC/PLAC and
General Planning Applications

2

Major
Pre-Planning

Access Items

- Completed collation and submission of information from Consultation findings to Special Projects Team in support of the second phase of funding for Curraclloe Water Sports Facility.
- Reengagement with Gorey Tidy Towns and their proposals for Information Signage at Gorey Town Park, agreement in principle to fund signage to the value of €1453 following the accessible proofing process. This signage will enhance the current accessible and sensory space within the town park. Installation will be assisted by the District.
- Agreement for the retrofit works to Pierce Street to improve pedestrian and especially mobility aid users on this walkway, following the walkability audit carried out in January. The retrofit proposal demonstrates ease of access for all and are expected to be completed within the second quarter 2025. The Access Office is supporting the retrofit work estimated at €8000, to be carried out through the Wexford Borough District.
- The Access Section is currently working on the migration of files to the sharepoint system under Planning Department Programme.

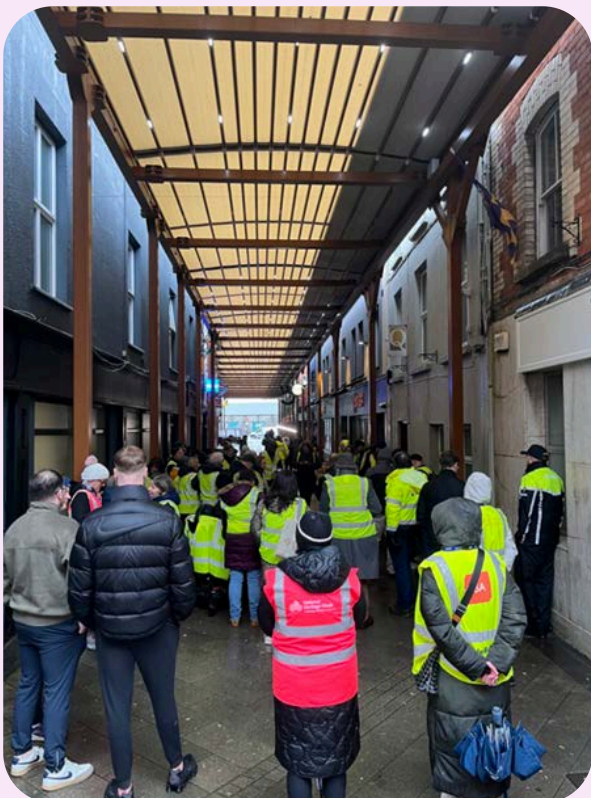
Forward Planning

County Development Plan Monitoring

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.

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The Wexford Town Team are busy carrying out public consultation on the preparation of the Town Centre First Strategy which will form part of the draft Local Area Plan. The team, supported by Loci Consultants, the Regeneration Unit and the Local Area Plan team, led a very successful public consultation event on Saturday, 15th February 2025 with approximately 70 people taking part during the course of the day.



The 2km guided walk around the town centre was very well attended in the morning despite the inclement weather. The purpose of the walk was to discuss key issues and opportunities for the town centre.

The afternoon workshop, which was held in White's Hotel, was also very well attended. The interactive workshop, which involved the participants working in small groups, focused on identifying key priorities and shaping a vision for Wexford Town Centre. Overall it was a very successful and positive day with many ideas shared and explored.

Forward Planning cont'd

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The second part of the public consultation focuses on inviting the public to submit, in writing, their comments, ideas, and suggestions on the future of the town centre. **The submission period runs from Sunday, 16th February to Friday, 14th March 2025** (inclusive), and submissions can be made online via Wexford County Council's Online Consultation Portal.

The suggestions and feedback gathered during both public consultation events will inform the drafting of the Town Centre First Strategy. The Local Area Plan team continue their work on drafting the spatial planning framework for the plan area which includes land use zoning, the urban design strategy, the rainwater management plan and the green blue infrastructure strategy.



REGENERATION UNIT

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Town Centre First Teams are active in 7 Towns in County Wexford with each Town at different stages of the Town Centre First journey and funded through the 2024 TCF Suite of Supports.

Measure 1 - Under this measure town teams have been established in Taghmon, Bunclody and Castlebridge and completed health checks for all towns.

Using this funding stream, a capacity building event bringing all 7 town teams together for a discussion on urban regeneration and a presentation by former chief executive of Mayo County Council Peter Hynes on his experience with urban regeneration including towns like Westport. It was a very well attended event with the opening address by the Chief Executive Eddie Taffe and chaired by Liz Hore Director of Services.



Also, as part of this capacity building programme Bunclody town team visited Castlecomer and were given a tour of the town by the Castlecomer development association. A lot of ideas and discussion took place and learnings taken from the experience.



We are working on further capacity building ideas for Taghmon and Castlebridge.

REGENERATION UNIT

Measure 2 - We are working closely with the Courtown/Riverchapel TCF Team to develop a TCF Plan for Courtown/Riverchapel.

There is a post primary consultation workshop planned for Thurs the 6th March and a full days consultation planned for the 8th March. We anticipate strong interest and participation at this event.

Measure 3. Work in ongoing with the Projects development measures for these 2 €50k projects.

1. St Michaels Theatre, New Ross. Architect has been appointed to design improvements works and bring to detailed design stage.
2. Kilmore Scope/ Bridgetown hub for cycling, cycling and walking tourism. Community Consultants have been appointed to bring it through stage 1. Extensive consultation with stakeholders and the local community is ongoing.

Listening to your ideas!

Consultation
with local businesses
on potential recreation and tourism
opportunities linked to
Bridgetown Canal

Drop In Session in the AOH Hall:

Thursday 27th February 2025
5.30pm to 6.30pm

Initiative supported by:



VACANT HOMES

Work is continuing on vacant homes with the administration of the Croi Conaithe Grant taking up the vast majority of our time with over €550,000 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 27-01-25

Applications Received	414
Inspections Required (First)	6
Inspections Required (Final)	1
Applications Info Requested	115
Applications Approved	288
Awaiting Approval	0
Applications Rejected	3
Application on Hold	0
Withdrawn By Applicant	8
Funding Issued	62
Total Funding Paid to Date	€3,603,823.93

READY TO BUILD

In relation to Ready to Build we are looking at some possibilities for 2025. Brief details of Ready to Build are as below,

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

WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
<p>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</p>	<p>Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions. • Awaiting announcement from Department on approved projects under the MARWP 2024-2026.
<p>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</p>	<p>Blackstairs GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CaimTank – Works complete. Road Reinstatement to take place in Spring 2025. • Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept. • Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q1 2025.
<p>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication to etenders Friday 15th November 2024. • Tender assessment and report completed. • Contractors have been notified of Tender Assessment • Tender assessment report sent to Department for review. • Department currently considering the tender price submitted by the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer
<p>MARWP 2024-2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April • Submissions made across a range of measures totaling €3.26 million. • All submitted projects have progressed to Phase 2 assessment • Awaiting announcement from the Department
<p>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</p>	<p>Individual Well Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 20 new well grant applications were registered to date in February 2025. • 37 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €79,387.36 • 50 inspections to date carried out to date in February 2025.
<p>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</p>	<p>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme. • Detailed programme for the delivery of project was submitted to Dept. on 10th May 24. • Meeting held with Dept. 28th June to discuss next steps for advancing project. • Project now with Uisce Eireann to progress to next stage. • Workshop -5 held with UE on 3rd October.

WATER SERVICES cont'd

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 applications received to date on revised grant, 6 paid, 3 approved.

DPI Resolution Project					
	Name	Towland	Expecting Costings	75% Funding Provided	Project Completion/ Programme
DPI Resolution Programme 2019-2021	Cois Cuan	Arthurstown	€152,475	€114,356	Q4 2025
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q4 2025
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q4 2025
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2026
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q4 2025
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q4 2025
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2026

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

Project design is advancing, with additional tasks addressing Service Area requirements and Active Travel provisions.

Consultations with Iarnród Éireann regarding the railway protection structure at the River Slaney Bridge crossing are ongoing. Consultation with directly affected landowners is ongoing. Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project is currently in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement. Coordination with OPW and Irish Rail regarding temporary works and the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road is ongoing. Tender documents package is being prepared.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

Safety Schemes

N25 Tagoat - The detailed design of the traffic calming scheme will commence in Q1 2025

N80 Clohamon - A traffic video survey at the junction is complete and under review and analysis to determine possible engineering solutions. A report with recommendations will issue in Q2 2025.

N30 Leeches Bend – West of Clonroche - The preliminary design is pending TII approval and the construction works will be tendered in Q1 2025.

N25 Larkins Cross - The Feasibility and Options report is pending TII approval. The preliminary design is being developed in preparation for a Part 8 planning consent application in Q1/2 2025.

2025 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballygillane to Ashfield Cross Roundabout Phase 2 Pavement Scheme - The preparatory drainage works have commenced in advance of the pavement resurfacing.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's allocation through the Regional and Local Road Grant 2025 is €23,310,350.

Restoration Improvement Programme - The total RI allocation for the 5 Municipal Districts is €12,068,000. The Programme of Works will be advised through each District.

Surface Dressing Programme - The total RM allocation for the 5 Municipal Districts is €2,841,500. The Programme of Works will be advised through each District.

Severe Weather Repairs - €700,000 has been allocated to finalise the reinstatement of the Aughnaglaur (Chapel) Bridge, Adamstown and Little Cullenstown. The reinstatement works at Chapel Bridge are well advanced with the new bridge deck installed in late February.

Grange Cliff Stabilisation will be completed within the next month as recent storms have delayed the works.

Winter Maintenance - Winter Maintenance commenced on the 21st October 2024 and will continue till the 27th April 2025. There have been 30 treatments to the end of February.

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Newtown Road – Phase 1 - completed.

Newtown Road Phases Two and Three (Part of the Pathfinder Project) - Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3 designs are ongoing

Hospital Junction, Newtown Road - will proceed to Part 8 in Q1/2 2025. 3D modelling to be completed end of March.

Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project) - to progress to Part 8 in Q1/2 2025.

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project) - This Scheme design is being finalised to proceed to Part 8 in Q2 2025.

Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme (New Ross) - to progress to Part 8 in 2025.

Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) - Completion of this study is expected in April/ May 2025 with draft report to be reviewed.

Enniscorthy Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) - The options development report (Part 2b of 6 steps) is in draft. This study will continue following further consultations during the year and draft final report is planned for late 2025.

Ramsgrange Safe Routes to School Scheme - Traffic calming and footpath works are substantially complete as part of SRTS Scheme. A new bus shelter is installed in the village centre.



Safe Routes to School 2025

The following sites are approved for works in 2025:

1. Ballaghkeene NS - Presentation of draft delivery plan to stakeholders is ongoing.
2. Killealy NS - Presentation of draft delivery plan to stakeholders is planned in March. Detailed design will follow consultations
3. Enniscorthy Vocational College - Preliminary designs are being compiled to enable consultation with stakeholders.

Schemes are under design, in consultation with the schools and An Táisce, and will be subject to a Section 38 consultation process under the Roads Act 1993.

Public e-bike and e-Scooter Sharing Scheme

An invitation for Expressions of Interest for an e-bike and e-scooter sharing scheme is advertised on the open market for operation in Wexford Town. The current scheme will continue to operate until the award of a supply and operations contract is in place following the procurement process.

Gorey to Courtown Footpath

- Phase 1 Planting & Fencing completed recently.



- Phase 2: Ballinatray Bridge - consultants completing a modelling assessment of a potential signalised shuttle system at the Ballinatray Bridge.
- Phase 3: Works on the Courtown side of Ballinatray Bridge. (currently looking at design and costings).



Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy - A feasibility report on phase 1 (Urban) and phase 2 (Rural) with detailed costing was submitted to the NTA for consideration.

Castlebridge to Wexford Survey - Topographical surveys of the route will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme - New bus shelter installations. Final locations will be advised following consultation with bus service providers. .

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The effective date for the implementation of Phase 1 of the 60km/hr default speed was 7th February 2025. Poles and new and/or appropriate signage is in place across the county in line with regulations.

A local and national multi-platform media information and education campaign is active to publicise the new default speed. There will be an information point in County Hall and information posters will be posted in all Council offices/buildings.

ROAD SAFETY

Just 1 Life

Our joint road safety event in association with Wexford Rotary Club, Just 1 Life (J1L) is continuing with approximately 500 attendees from 5 Secondary Schools which commenced on the 21st January.

3 further J1L events are planned in February, March and April and all Elected Members are welcome to attend any of these event dates. Presentations include An Garda Síochána Roads Policing Unit, Wexford Fire Service, National Ambulance Service, HSE Accident and Emergency Staff and Wexford Mental Health Association.

The Just 1 Life programme was the overall winner in the Best Community Category at the recent LAMA Awards ceremony.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

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

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

Projects to be delivered in 2025 are in Kilmuckridge and Castlebridge Phase 2. We have completed works on 2 streets in Castlebridge.

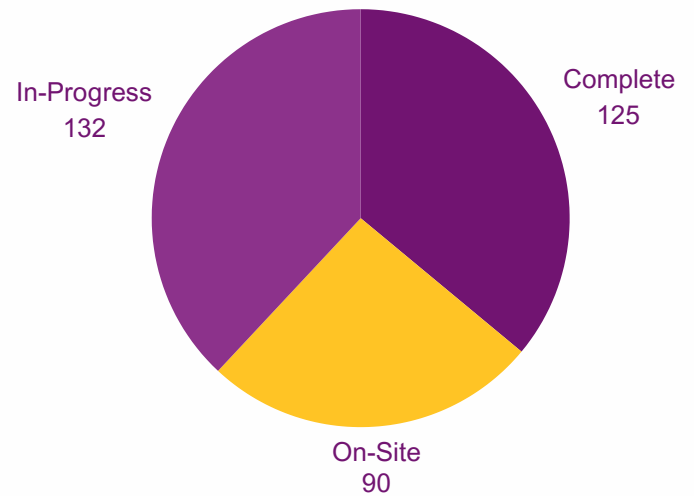
Smaller infill projects will continue in each district using our maintenance contractor.



HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY	
Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings Complete 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete 2025	90
Dwellings to Complete 2026	132
Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline	439

Construction Status



Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2025 - Total 90

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



Funded Projects for delivery 2025 – 2026

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
Total 132			

HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS CONT'D....

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Clonard, Wexford	55	Creagh, Gorey	24
Group TAP Housing	5	Castlemoyle, New Ross	82
Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	The Lyre, Enniscorthy	50
Bride Street, Wexford	3	St Walerans, Gorey	100
Lacken TAP	1	Park, Wexford	12
Kilmore Quay, Rosslare	12	Belvedere, Wexford	8
		Bunclody, Enniscorthy	65
Total 439			

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Projects at Planning Stages

Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project - Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project is ongoing. An initial concept design was presented at the December EMD meeting for review. Design enhancement is ongoing to incorporate feedback received from district members. It is planned to commence the Part 8 process in April 2025.

Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building

Tenders have been invited for the groundworks and civil works package. It is expected that works will commence in March 2025.

Esmonde Street, Gorey - A tender competition for a works contractor was published to Etenders in December 2024. Tenders are due in on February 5th. It is anticipated that construction will commence on-site in late March 2025.

Enniscorthy Sports Hub - A tender competition to procure a works contractor for the Sports Hub has been concluded. It is expected to make an appointment for a works contractor in February 2025.

Adoration Convent Wexford - A tender competition to appoint a works contractor was advertised in November 2024 with tenders received before Christmas. Tender assessment is ongoing, and it is intended to commence works on site in Q2 2025.

Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)

The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded to Fehily Timoney and Company for Stage (i) design services including development consent. A formal contract signing was held in Gorey on January 21st and preliminary design has commenced.

Ballynagee Link Road - A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design and preparation of a Part 8 submission (subject to screening) was published in July 2024. Tenders have been assessed and contract award is imminent.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Projects at Planning Stages

Gorey Market House - A tender for the procurement of an architect led design team for detailed design, procurement and construction supervision services was published in December 2024. It is anticipated appointment will be made in Q1 2025.

Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 2 - The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded to Tobins for Stage (i) to (v) design services. Design work and site investigation will commence in Q1 2025.

Enniscorthy Technology Park – IDA Advance Factory Building - Tenders have been received for an architect-led design team to prepare a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park. Tender assessment is complete and Henry J Lyons has been awarded the contract.

Dunbrody Centre Extension - A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake Stage (i) to (v) design services for the extension of the Dunbrody Centre is being prepared. Tenders will be invited using an existing framework in early February 2025.

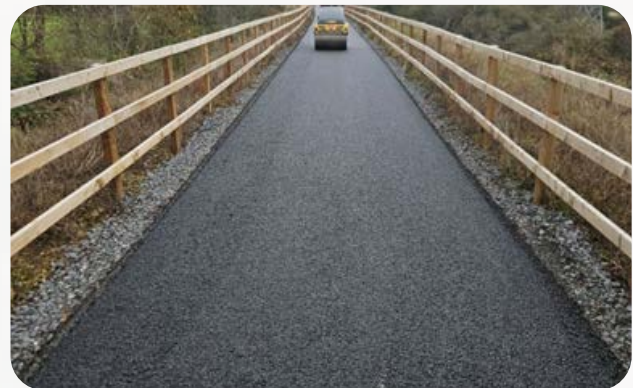
Mechanics Institute, Wexford

Design and scoping is ongoing to invite tenders for internal renovation works, to bring the building back into use for community groups by Q4 2025.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

South East Greenway - The works are nearing completion for Lot 5a, a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore. A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit and some subsequent works will be required in advance of opening of that section. Opening of Lot 5A is also dependent on completion of an access ramp to the south of Abbey Road, which is part of the north Quays project. We understand that this ramp may not be completed until April 2025.

Construction Works at Kilmurray Ramp



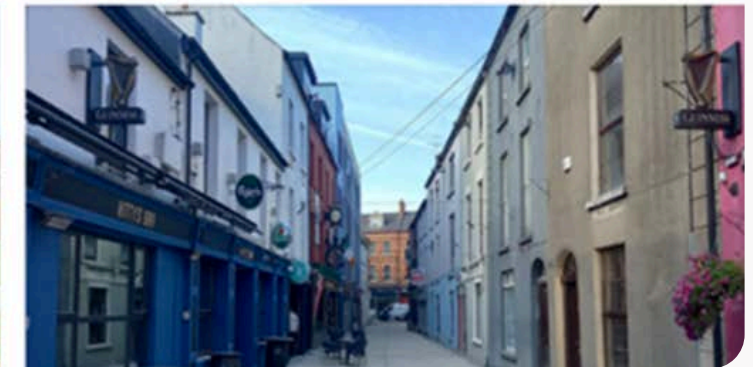
Trinity Wharf - We have placed the order with Irish Rail to construct the new level crossing, which will be required in advance of the next phase of development works commencing.

Ferndale Gymnasium, Wexford - Works are progressing on site with a target completion date of October 2025.

Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility - The main contract works are progressing on site, with completion expected for Summer 2025

Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

PROJECTS - DELIVERED		
2021	Forth Mountain Activity Park–Phase 1: Trails & Carpark	Enniscorthy Technological Park, Phase 1
2022	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy Active Travel, Phase 1	Gorey District Park
	Min Ryan Park	Wexford Arts Centre Extension
	Monck Street Enhancement Scheme	New Ross Fire Station
	High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross	
2023	Southeast Greenway Rosbercon to Glenmore	Emigrants Park, New Ross
2024	Trinity Wharf Access Road	Oyster Lane Public Realm
	Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience Upgrade	Ferndale MUGA
	Murphy Floods Enabling Works	Mechanics Institute Essential Repairs



Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The new DRCD unit within Special Projects has taken over the administration of the ORIS scheme from the Environment Section. Environment will continue to provide support on the delivery of existing projects.

FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN 2025

Ronan Griffin has been appointed to the position of Volunteer Co-ordinator for the **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025** and, with the support of the Community Team, has begun the necessary preparations to manage the volunteer requirement for the 2025 Fleadh. It is anticipated that volunteer recruitment will begin in March.



THE WEXFORD GARDA YOUTH AWARDS 2025

This was launched in County Hall on the 6th March. The Garda Youth Awards celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age and recognises the good work being done by young people throughout the communities. The awards acknowledge the young people who by their presence make their communities and society in general, a better place in which to live. They also acknowledge the endeavours of young people who have faced and overcome challenges in their life. An Garda Síochána administer the Garda Youth Awards in County Wexford in association with Wexford County Council. Nominations can be made online further details to follow after the launch.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date	€1,107,544.01 <i>(incl. WCC Admin)</i>
Works complete (20 projects)	78%
Works in progress (3 projects)	7%
To be started (4 projects – extension to 2025)	15%
Total fund claimed to Q3 2024 from Dept.	67%

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,703,377.0 (incl. WCC Admin.€85K)
Total fund expenditure to date	€196,742.91 <i>(incl. WCC Admin)</i>
Works in progress (4no. of 23no. projects)	17%
Shortlisted Window 1 – March 2024	€798,291.00
Shortlisted Window 2 – September 2024	€241,996.00
Shortlisted Window 3 – January 2025	€574,026.74

The following milestones have been achieved this period:

1. Confirmation of approval of a further 3 shortlisted projects from Window 2 (Sept 2024) from DRCD –
 - Meals On Wheels Gorey - Electric vehicle - €50,000
 - Camross Hall CLG - Camross Hall upgrade - €90,000
 - Wexford St. John's Volunteers GAA Club - Pitch drainage project - €101,996
2. Final CRF24 Window 3 (Dec 2024) completed. 52 new applications received. Previous 2024 applications were still LIVE and reconsidered.
3. WCC Evaluation Panel met in February 2025 and shortlisted a further 9 projects across the 5 Districts.
4. Final shortlist application by WCC to DRCD due end of February. Shortlist of projects embargoed until formal approval and announcement by DRCD.

WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

As part of the ongoing work in Taghmon, a **Healthy Food Made Easy talk** was held on 4th February for parents of pupils in **Taghmon National School** on healthy eating and nutrition. The talk was delivered by Danielle Doyle, Health Promotion & Improvement Officer (Health & Wellbeing) with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.



Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team held a Coffee Morning on the 28th January for all members of the team to meet up and get to know each other. This event will help to build on the ongoing inter agency community work in Enniscorthy town.

HEALTHY WEXFORD

The **Healthy County Committee** met again in February, with updates from their working groups, many of whom had met in January to develop their 2025 workplans. This sets out our work for 2025 to meet the Healthy Wexford strategic objectives.



Finance and Progress reports for **Healthy Ireland Fund Round Four** activity were submitted to Pobal in February and our Healthy County Coordinator presented to Wexford LCDC at their February meeting seeking approval for the allocation of the additional funding received for 2025.

Continuing to highlight both our own activity and signpost to other supports and opportunities Healthy Wexford had an **information desk** at the recent 2025 Staff Engagement Forum at Wexford County Council.

In March Healthy Wexford has been invited to showcase at the upcoming Living Well Ageing Smart Expo in New Ross and the Living Well with Arthritis event in Wexford.



Our Healthy County Coordinator engaged in the recent National Creative Ireland Office visit to Wexford County Council - along with her Culture Team colleagues - providing feedback on the health and wellbeing impact of the Creative Ireland activity from a Healthy Wexford perspective.



As part of the Period Dignity Project promotions activity an animation was commissioned to highlight product availability and the Period Dignity Product Locations Flyer. This animation – created in both English and Irish, was released in February and will be used across social media and online.

AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD



On the 11th February the 21st plus Vat Group took part in a Therapy Dough session in the Waterfront Centre in Enniscorthy run by Amy Winter and funded by the Age Friendly Programme.



The Group made two types of therapy dough 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 rate by refocusing the mind to the hands. The ladies did breath work and direction of daily rituals to provide mindful moments they could use at home with the therapy dough they had made during the session. The Age Friendly Programme Manager attended the Age Friendly Ireland National Network of Programme Managers Residential Meeting on Thursday 13th & Friday 14th February 2025 in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath.

The Age Friendly Programme Manager attended the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Riverchapel and Courtown Ladies Club which was held on the 17th of February in Riverchapel. There were approximately 40 ladies in attendance along with Councillors and representatives of local businesses. There was food and dancing till late.



Active Adults for over 55's	Active Adults Initiative started in both Wexford Town (Activator Pole Exercises) and Enniscorthy Library (Chair & Matt Yoga). 41 women participated
PG Leader Workshop	PG Leader Workshop conducted in 5 of following schools; New Ross ET, CBS Wexford, Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare, Ballygarrett NS & Crossabeg NS. Boys – 56 & Girls – 45 participated.
ShuttleTime Workshop	ShuttleTime Badminton Ireland Teacher Training Workshop in Astro Active Enniscorthy. 6 schools participated with 12 participants. 7 males & 5 females.
Older Adult presentation	Healthy living practices and Every Move Counts presentation with older Adults group 21+VAT in the Waterfront Pool & Leisure Centre. 9 women attended.
Chronic Disease Open Day	One staff member presented a poster highlighting the work of the Physical Activity for Health Officer programme in Wexford to date at the HSE chronic disease hub open day in Enniscorthy primary care centre.
Men's Sheds - Sheds for Life Awards	One staff member presented at the Men's sheds association 'sheds for life' awards in the Riverside Park Hotel promoting the work of Sports Active Wexford.
Young Onset Dementia	4-week exercise programme consisting of the 'Go for Life Games' finished in the recently opened Dementia Lodge in Castle gardens nursing home, Enniscorthy. One participant said "The programme helped me maintain a positive outlook through gentle activity" 4 Males and 1 Female took part.
Learn to Cycle	<p>A learn to cycle program took place in St. Joseph's Hall, Wexford. A total of 12 children took part. 8 girls, 4 boys</p> <p>A learn to cycle program took place in Kilanerin Hall, Gorey. February A total of 6 children took part. 5 boys and 1 girls.</p> <p>An 8-week learn to cycle program was delivered in Poulfur National School Fethard (one of the largest ASD units in Ireland) for children with disabilities. 12 students took part. 7 females and 5 males.</p>

<p>Ability Awareness</p>	<p>A 4-week Ability Awareness program concluded with Gorey Educate Together Secondary School. 9 TY students completed the 4-week program. 5 females and 4 males.</p>
<p>Sport 4 Empowerment</p>	<p>The ESF officer conducted a customer discovery workshop with the LGBTQIA+ teenage group in Gorey Youth Needs. 9 teenagers took part. A second workshop occurred for 'ideation' took place to generate ideas on potential physical activity opportunities among the group. 9 teenagers took part. An initial engagement workshop took place at the women's IPAS centre in Wexford town. 24 women took part.</p>
<p>Safeguarding</p>	<p>1 x Safeguarding 2 Course took place in February with 11 participants, 9 female and 2 male.</p>
<p>Volunteer in Sport Award</p>	<p>The Federation of Irish Sport proudly announce the recipients of the 2024 Volunteers in Sport Awards, recognising 35 outstanding volunteers from every county in Ireland (four in Dublin) for their tireless dedication to sport and physical activity in their local communities. Congratulations to Nicky Haberlin, New Ross Rugby Club, who was the recipient of the Volunteer in Sport Award in Wexford.</p>



**Nicky Haberlin, New Ross Rugby Club.
Winner of the Volunteer in Sport award
for Wexford.**

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

Fethard Harbour New Slipway and Beach Access - We are drafting a response to submissions received for the foreshore lease and will submit to the The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications asap.

Beaches - Grange Beach Cliff Stabilisation works started in Oct 2024. The beach access is temporarily closed until the works are completed in Q1 2025.

Green Coast Beaches - we applied to An Taisce for 10 green coast beaches for 2025. Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, Rosslare Harbour, St Helen's, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, Booley Bay. An Taisce will announce the awards in May 2025.

Coast - Seaview Coastal Protection and Beach Access, Kilmore: Contractor started works on site at the end of January 2025.

Operations - Eddie Downes commenced work on 4th Feb as Pilot / AMO. The feasibility of carrying out dredging surveys is ongoing. A Marine User Licence Application for surveys has been submitted to MARA. The business development plan for the Port is ongoing and Explosive Byelaws are due to go to public consultation in Feb.

Public Conveniences

- Cahore PC: Carpark surfacing, white lining and bollards completed by Contractor.
- Carne PC: Contractor completed the upgrade of toilet facilities.

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2025	1 application Received	2 Grants Paid/Sent for payment	7 outstanding for review/documents due from 2024
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Court cases

- 3 Currently in the court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices
- 9 cases closed prior to court hearing as works were already carried out.
- 11 cases over 4 years old closed. 54 other cases closed. 122 new inspections carried out.

Open Cases

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2025
2017	154	62	92	5	0
2018	150	51	99	1	0
2019	156	48	108	5	0
2020	111	38	12	3	0
2021	91	24	67	9	2
2022	139	50	89	8	0
2023	123	54	69	24	1
2024	122	36	86	60	2

No of Verification Inspections

2024 - Verification Inspection = 58	2025 - Verification Inspections = 6
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Low Smoke Fuel Areas - The 4 stations in New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey have now had their monitors updated to measure air quality and noise levels. There are also 14 low-cost sensors installed in Enniscorthy monitoring PM10 & PM2.5 only. UoG & UCC have started a programme called Town Air to monitor gases NOx, SO2, CO continuously, particle numbers 10 nm to 10 microns, as well as black carbon and organic aerosol, ions ammonium, chloride, sulfate and nitrate, all in real-time, as well as collecting 24hr filter samples of PM2.5. The filter samples will be analysed for metals and toxicity. These will be compared with 2016 levels taking during the SAFFIRE project. They will be monitoring the weather also.

Agriculture - Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon farms where major non compliance are observed and cross reported to DAFM.

Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council carried out a total of 169 farm inspections throughout the county concentrating in areas where water quality was most at risk of not meeting its objectives under the WFD.

In 2025, Wexford County Council will be required, under the NAIP, to carry out 270 GAP inspections where a team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role lead by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section.

A total of 108 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were received in 2024 highlighting the continued investment in Wexford Agriculture and maintaining compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Court Overview

Month	No. of cases heard	Outcome	LITTER	WASTE	Water	Air	Noise
January	5	Total fines	€350	€1325	NA	NA	NA
		Total costs	€250	€1225	NA	NA	NA

Waste Management

YEAR	Dumping Incidents Reported	% Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
2025	439		202	

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system.
The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan – Dec 2024	Jan 2025
Incidents	4998	5136	3896	4235	4196	794
Closed	4997	5133	3702	3890	3612	274
Closure Rate	99%	99%	95%	92%	86%	35%

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	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dogs collected	546	575	564	46
Dogs reclaimed	117	128	147	13
Dogs re-homed/transferred	370	404	442	32
Dogs put to sleep	51	38	31	1
Dog Fines	21	14	11	0

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

RECYCLING SERVICES:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites January 2025	Recycling out (End January) 2024 (t)	Recycling out (End January) 2025 (t)
Glass bottles		367.11	537.15
Aluminium Cans		8.8	4.4
Total	108	375.9	541.5

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Jan 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jan 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jan 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Jan 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Jan2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- Jan 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Jan 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Jan 2025 (t)
Total Recycling out	48	67	63	65	70	86	48	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	278	289	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Jan	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2023	2024
	87	86	129	132	129	148	98	91

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

Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	To end January 2024	January 2025	To end January 2025	% +/_
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	244	223	223	-8.6%
<i>Gorey *</i>		35		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		74		
<i>Wexford *</i>		51		
<i>New Ross*</i>		36		
<i>Rosslare</i>		27		
Total Bring Site Inspections	791	853	853	+7.8%

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

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

National Tree Week: National Tree Week takes place from Sunday 9th March to Sunday 16th March and the theme this year is 'Planting Trees, Growing Together'. It is organised by the Tree Council of Ireland in partnership with Coillte and invites communities across the nation to come together to appreciate the beauty and crucial importance of Ireland's trees. 500 saplings have been received from Coillte and arrangements are being made to distribute these out amongst interested schools. A tree planting ceremony will also take place during the week with An Cathaoirleach Councillor Pip Breen.

Green Schools: Communication with all renewal schools is ongoing as assessments visits must be completed by 28th March.

Trees for Wexford: Trees were collected by groups on Friday 7th or Saturday 8th February from Holmestown Household Recycling Centre. In total 9,745 trees / hedging were distributed under the scheme.

National Spring Clean: Registrations with An Taisce have opened for National Spring Clean which takes place during the month of April.

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

Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
01/02/25 – 28/02/25	91
01/01/25 – 28/02/25	187

ENVIRONMENT cont'd

CLIMATE ACTION

All Local Authorities were given notice from the Climate Action regional Office that the period for collection of data for the Climate Action Plan was from the date of adoption of the plan up to the end of 2024. All staff responsible for actions in the plan were requested to update the progress on that action up to 31st December 2024. Ten KPIs in relation to resourcing and Severe Weather events are collected directly on behalf of the CCMA in conjunction with CARO. The progress on the 133 actions in the Wexford County Council Plan was collated. The status, start and completion dates for each action was reported on. It was also reported whether the action was recurring during the lifetime of the Plan. A report will be provided on the progress for 2024.



An information event for The “House on the Beach” project at Rosslare was held on Saturday 25th January. The Artists, academics from Trinity College Dublin and members of the Climate Action team were in attendance to provide an insight into the proposal and answer questions on the project.

Discussions are underway with Energy Cloud on running a pilot project in the Enniscorthy DZ which will see surplus renewable energy used to help tackle fuel poverty. The goal of the project is to reduce renewable energy wastage and instead divert it for social good to heat hot water in fuel poor homes.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

The 16 successful projects have commenced works, with six groups having completed significant elements of their projects. The second round of the Programme is expected in 2025.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) launched their Energy Master Plan for the Community of Wexford Town on Thursday 13th February in St. Josephs Community Centre. As well as launching their Energy Master Plan, the group hosted a “Home Energy Expo” which provided practical advice to homeowners on how to reduce energy costs and avail of SEAI grants for home energy upgrades. The event was very well attended, with over 120 people coming through the doors during the three hour expo.



Biodiversity– Returning to Nature

The Biodiversity Officer and Environmental Awareness officer, together with Wexford Parish Care for the Earth Group met with Bishop Ger Nash and Parish Priests from across Wexford on the 18th of February at Ballyvaloo Retreat. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a ‘Returning to Nature’ project for Wexford parishes



ENVIRONMENT cont'd

In 2023 the Irish Bishops' Conference had agreed that parishes would return 30% of church grounds to nature by 2030. This is a response to the biodiversity crisis our world is facing. The Bishops Conference referenced 'Laudato Si', a papal encyclical from 2015 on Care for our Common Home where Pope Francis calls for all peoples of the world to work together to protect our environment for future generations.

Wexford County Council is coming together with the Parishes of Wexford and the Wexford Parish Care for the Earth group to commence a pilot project in Wexford with six parishes invited to partake in biodiversity schemes on church grounds in 2025. Supports will given, including expert advice from a biodiversity specialist and funding to get projects off the ground. The aim is to allow room for nature and to manage sites to support wildlife.



An application for funding has been forwarded to National Parks and Wildlife Service for funding for the following projects in 2025 : Biodiversity training for Staff, Wetlands Survey of Wexford Phase 3, Mayfly Survey of Wexford (part of the National Mayfly Survey), Nightjar Survey Phase 2, Invasive Species Control, Tintern Abbey, Returning to Nature Project with Wexford parishes and Biodiversity Education and Awareness Events.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Ireland Reads: A National Celebration of Reading

Libraries throughout the country, including Wexford, in association with Children's Books Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland, Adult Literacy for Life, NALA and others, partnered once again to get the whole country reading during February, in the lead up to "Ireland Reads Day" on 22nd February, 2025.



Author Caroline Busher for Ireland Reads in Wexford Library with 1st and 3rd class from Mercy School Wexford.

Every Wexford Library Branch held events to promote reading for both adults and children. The invitation was, as always, to get lost in a good book! Author visits included Eve McDonnell, Liz Nugent, Maria Nolan and a Conradh na Gaeilge event featuring 2 lectures delivered by Dr Conchubhar Ó Cruaiaíoch and Dr Colm Mac Gearailt.



Gorey Library announced as Regional Finalist for Library of the Year Award

Gorey Library has been selected as a 'Regional and Country' Finalist for the Library of the Year Award, a new category of the British Book Awards. The British Book Awards - aka The Nibbies - is a celebration of books, the people who make them and the people who bring them to readers.

Sponsored by DK and in association with the Reading Agency, the new Library of the Year Award considers public libraries from across the UK and Ireland. This prestigious award celebrates public libraries that are making extraordinary impacts in their communities through innovative reading initiatives, showcasing the vital work of libraries to support local communities. Gorey Library is thrilled that their 'Book Buddies' book club for adults with intellectual disabilities has been recognised for this award. This book club allows participants to choose books according to their own interests and abilities each month, with a focus on inclusion and reader development.

The regional finalists for the Library of the Year Award have just been announced, with Gorey Library selected as one of two finalists in the 'Island of Ireland' region. The regional winner will be announced on 12th March, to progress to the final shortlist for the Library of the Year award, finally awarded in May.

Housing Information Clinic - Gorey Library

The Housing Department of Wexford County Council hosted an information clinic to outline the affordable housing application process.

My Open Library

Total My Open Library Members in Gorey Library has now reached 1000 with 54 new members registering this February. New Ross Library has 464 members with 12 new registrations this month.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

Irish Language Services

Wexford Libraries newest Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Conversation Group now meets for evening and daytime Sessions in New Ross Library.

International Women's Day Event

Bunclody Library celebrated International Women's Day a little early this year. Organised by Wexford Local Development and hosted by Bunclody Library, the theme was 'Celebrating Women in the Community' and was attended by a diverse group of people from the area.

HERITAGE

James Ryan of Wexford: Architect of a New Ireland

Gorey Library hosted the North Wexford Historical Society February Talk on Dr. James Ryan with Michael Loughman of Dublin City University.

New Ross Library hosted an event which introduced attendees to the life and work of the author Maurice Connolly, late of Dunanore, Foulksmills: with some references to other Wexford-Waterford historical links. The talk was given by historian Donald Brady.

INTEGRATION

Ireland is my Second Home

This Community Gathering in Gorey Library looked back on the past three years of Ukrainian events and projects, in collaboration with Wexford Local Development and the Gorey Youth Needs Group.

The Ukrainian community in Wexford celebrated Ireland as their second home in a photography exhibition Ireland is my Second Home launched with Wexford Local Development in Wexford Branch.

English Classes with Wexford Local Development

Gorey Library continued to hold English Classes for all nationalities organised by Wexford Local Development twice a week in the library on Mondays and Fridays from 4:00pm.

AGE FRIENDLY SERVICES

Four Activator Walking Pole Taster Session with Sports Active Wexford took place in Wexford Branch. These sessions are part of the Active Adults for over 55's programme. Two Age Friendly Chair Yoga and two Mat Yoga sessions were offered as part of the Active Adults for over 55's programme in Enniscorthy Branch.

Weekly IT classes for the over-55's facilitated by WWETB on Monday and Tuesday mornings continued in New Ross Library. Over 4 Thursdays in February, Age Action Age Equality 1 to 1 Digital Skills sessions continued in Wexford Branch.

IT Skills

Wexford Branch was visited weekly in February by Windmill Therapeutic Training Unit for self-directed Touch Type Read & Spell classes for adults with mild to moderate intellectual disability.

Digital Skills for Beginners with WWETB continued in Wexford library. This free part-time course with WWETB will continue once a week on Tuesdays for 8 weeks.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Energy Advice Clinic at Enniscorthy Library

People with questions about making their home more energy efficient got the opportunity to participate in a one-on-one chat with an energy expert at this Energy Advice Clinic.

Health & Well Being

A number of branch libraries featured events focused on health and wellbeing in February. The Irish Heart Foundation Workshop, “High-Risk Prevention of Heart Disease and Stroke” was hosted in Enniscorthy Library along with a series of Pilates classes and Yoga Taster Sessions in conjunction with Sports Active Wexford. Bunclody Library hosted a Breathwork and Sound Workshop and introductory yoga session for adults.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 27 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, six researchers visited the Archive during February. Research topics included historical information regarding the earthwork on the grounds of Ballytrent House, Rosslare; family history research through extant rentals and valuation maps for the Lord Templemore estate at Ballyhack and Arthurstown (1815-60); a study of early architectural drawings for council cottages (1960s); research through the Gorey Guardian for recent sports coverage on camogie matches (2007-11); social dance spaces in urban centers across County Wexford (1920-60).

Acquisition

The Archive received an autograph book from descendants of John (Seán) Sinnott from Park Annesley, Clonevan, Gorey who was active during the 1919-23 period with Ballygarrett ‘C’ Company, 3rd Battalion, North Wexford Brigade. John’s autograph book was maintained by him during his imprisonment in Waterford Jail and covers the period 9-11 December 1921. Verses and salutations throughout the book are written from fellow comrades from across County Wexford in addition to men from Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Westmeath and Waterford.

The autograph book has been temporarily deposited in the Archive for digitisation purposes. The archive of Dr Peadar (Pax) Sinnott, John’s brother, is already housed in the Archive. John and Peadar and their five brothers hailed from a strongly nationalist family in Clonevan.

ARTS

Westgate Heritage Centre Arts Space – Music Rehearsal space open

Westgate Heritage Centre and the adjacent Computer Centre is now under the auspices of the Arts Office as artist workspaces with accommodation for visual artists and musicians. A Music Rehearsal Space at back of the centre opened for booking in February. Westgate Heritage Centre will also be available to hire for Pop Up exhibitions and other events. Four visual artists are now on year long leases in Westgate Computer Centre, Sarah Cogley, Oonagh Latchford, Mirona Mara and Laura Flood. Wexford Arts Centre are contracted to manage the everyday running of both spaces and all bookings and queries are via Wexford Arts Centre Box Office. Wex Walks and The Lions Club Heritage tours continue to access the space.

ArtLinks Emerging and Professional Bursary Awards 2025

Artlinks Wexford received a large number of applicants across all disciplines responding to this year's open call. The ArtLinks partners of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford local authorities support Professional and Emerging artists through the Artlinks Annual Bursary Awards. All art forms are supported. Fifteen Wexford artists were selected by a panel and awarded grants between €1,000 - €2,500 in a very competitive selection process. Names of the successful applicants have yet to be announced.

Artist in the Community Programme 2025

An Open Call took place in January 2025 and this scheme is open to all community groups that are members of Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) and/ or community groups of place and interest, that are interested in working on an arts project with an artist from the Artist In the Community Artists Panel. This artist's panel comprises of 32 artists based in County Wexford who work in a wide variety of art forms and have experience of engaging with communities. The maximum award is €3,000. The deadline is the 3rd March 2025.

Artist Workspace Scheme 2025 - offers funding to support professional artists to access suitable and flexible workspaces to develop their arts practices. The workspaces must accommodate at least two professional artists or artist collectives who are proposing to share resources for the benefit of their arts practices. Applications are welcome from artists working in all art forms. Grants will be available in the region of €3,000 per application and must accommodate at least two artists sharing a building or part of a building for their workspaces. Grants of up to €5,000 may be awarded to applications involving three or more artists taking a lease on a building. Deadline is the 27th of March 2025.

International Residency Opportunities

'Breaking the Patterns' Exhibition of Irish and European Artists

Wexford County Council Arts Office is delighted to be part of a new exhibition led by Capacity Ireland as part of a Creative Europe Project, in association with the Arts Council of Ireland and other local authority art services Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford. The opening took place in Farmleigh, Phoenix Park, Dublin on Saturday 22nd February. The Arts Office supported four emerging artists based in Wexford in 2024 on a three-month long residency focusing on professional development for emerging artists in Seville and Lisbon – all of which have been selected to be shown in this exhibition. The Wexford based artists are Carmel Daley, Sarah Cogley, Paul Cashin and Sarah Kinneen.

Theatre Forum Limerick Gathering

Wexford County Council Arts Office in partnership with Theatre Forum is offering two bursaries for theatre practitioners based in the Wexford area to attend the Theatre Forum annual Gathering in Limerick on 27th and 28th of May 2025. An Open call took place in February. Applicants must be professional theatre practitioners living in the Wexford area. The deadline is Friday 28th March 2025.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Award

Two Wexford based artists in any art form will be selected to spend one week at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a one-week period, a studio and a stipend of €300 towards expenses. This opportunity opened for applications in late November and closed on the 28th of January 2025. The selection panel took place on the 19th of February. Names of the successful applicants have yet to be announced.

Drama League of Ireland Scholarship 2025 - This open call is for two scholarships for the Drama League of Ireland Residential Summer School which takes place at the University of Limerick from July 19th to 26th 2025. This opportunity is for professional and amateur theatre companies and/or groups. The selection panel took place on the 19th February. Names of the successful applicants have yet to be announced.

Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme - Wexford Arts Office is supporting two Wexford based artist to take part in the Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring programme. The selected artists will receive professional mentoring from an acclaimed Irish writer of their choosing. The open call took place in February and is now closed.

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE) - is a 3-year Arts Council funded initiative in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford County Council Arts Office and Enniscorthy Municipal District seeking to embed creativity into Enniscorthy.

The Power of Three - Creative Places Enniscorthy is part of six diverse projects on the island of Ireland to have been awarded funding for Shared Island Creative Youth Partnerships. 'To the Power of 3' which is led by Tallaght Community Arts is a creative exchange between young people in Derry, Dublin and Wexford. The project will use performance to explore the importance of cultural connection, diversity, pride of place and what it means to be a young person on the island of Ireland today. 60 young participants, 20 each from Derry, Wexford and Dublin, will come together in each locality to host creative meetings and workshops for participants in each city and collective group residencies across the island of Ireland. The goal of each exchange is for the young people to collaborate in making short performance pieces.

To the Power of 3 is funded by Creative Ireland Shared Island Initiative and kindly supported by Tallaght Community Arts, the Arts Council of Ireland, SDCC Arts Office, Creative Places Mac Uílliam and Creative Places Enniscorthy.

Creative Places Enniscorthy: Open Call 2025 - invited artists, creatives, community groups and individuals to propose creative projects that align with CPE's priorities and aims which opened in February 2025. The Open Call 2025 is for new project ideas and projects developed from the Open Call 2024 Research & Development award; projects and events can apply for funding from €3,000 to €5,000. Individuals and groups are invited to submit proposals for Project/Events funding for creative programmes, activities, or events in Enniscorthy. The project must demonstrate some form of creative or artistic expression. Deadline is Thursday the 13th of March 2025

Screen Wexford - This is a Wexford County Council Arts Office and Economic Department initiative to support the development of the film and screen industry in Wexford.

Shadowing Fund 2025 - initiative opened for applications in February, this initiative is to support a Wexford film crew participant on a film or television set to shadow and learn from an experienced and professional filmmaker. These can be in the areas of Director, Producer, DOP, Art Dept, Gaffer, Editor, Scriptwriter, Script Editor etc.

Film Professional Development Fund 2025 - Also opened in February, the Film Professional Development Fund 2025 can be used to help complete an already filmed piece. Full details are required for concept and process. The fund can be used for research, script writing, training courses, filming, postproduction, sound design and mix and festival entry. Deadline for the applications is the 28th of March 2025.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Yola Language Project - Creative Ireland Wexford has collaborated with the Heritage Officer, Libraries and Rosslare MD on a project that will drive the cultural transmission of the heritage of Yola. With various communities in the Forth and Bargy areas, theatre practitioner Chris Moran will lead a community theatre project and develop a suite of creative resources for children and adults that preserve the knowledge and heritage of Yola.

HPBA Artist in Residence Workshop - On the 19th of February a workshop was held in Enniscorthy Library with businesses from the HPBA, Senan House at the Green Tech Hub and a group of Wexford-based artists. The workshop explored the potential for an artist in residence programme at Senan House and worked on a call out for artists to take up the post which will be advertised imminently.

Cruinniu na nÓg 2025 - Cruinniú na nÓg 2025, the national day of creativity for children and young people will take place on Saturday 7th June 2025. A programme of events for children is being planned across the districts leading into this day. This year's programme will prioritise events for groups of children who have limited access to creative activities.



The poster features a light beige background with colorful abstract shapes (orange star, purple teardrop, orange semi-circle, green arrow, purple swirl) at the top. The text is organized into two columns. The left column details a songwriting event on Friday 14th March at the Wexford Arts Centre, with a meeting at Whites Hotel at 19:00 and a ticket price of €17 (10% discount). The right column details a Wex Walks Tour on Friday 21st March at 15:30, meeting at the Bullring, with a cuppa at Trimmers Lane and a ticket price of €10. The bottom of the poster includes logos for Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council, Wexford, Healthy Communities, Wexford, LCDC, and Age & Opportunity.

**UPCOMING EVENTS
MARCH 2025**

Songwriting in the Round,
Music by Megan O'Neill,
Gráinne Hunt and Emma
Langford

Friday 14th March

Wexford Arts Centre
at 20:00, meet up for
cuppa in Whites Hotel at
19:00
€17 (10% Discount as
Cultural Companion)

Wex Walks Tour

Friday 21st March, 15:30,
Meet at the Bullring

cuppa at Trimmers Lane
Cafe afterwards

tickets per person €10
Please RSVP by emailing
Cultural.Companions@wexfordcoco.ie

Wexford Cultural Companions

Who are the Cultural Companions?

Cultural Companions is a network of adults of all ages interested in arts and culture who attend together as a group.

We are here to provide means to attend cultural and arts events with others around Wexford.

The network is facilitated by Wexford County Council who work with a volunteer to draw up a calendar of events to choose from every three months

• Our Mission •

To be an open and welcoming community for anyone who would like to attend Arts and Cultural Events together

MARCH

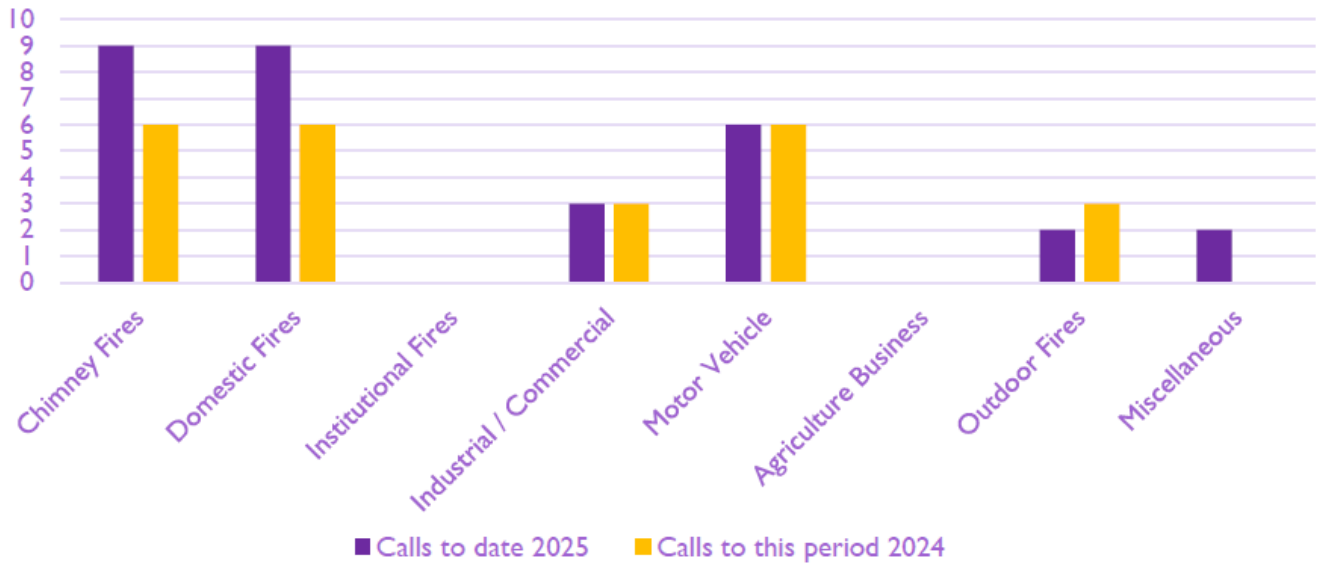
1) Songwriting in the Round, music by Megan O'Neill, Gráinne Hunt and Emma Langford. Wexford Arts Centre, Friday 14th March @8pm, meeting in Whites at 7pm. Tickets €17 (10% Discount as Cultural Companion) – ring and let Wexford Arts Centre box office know when booking.

2) Wex Walks Tour on Friday 21th at 15:30, tickets €10 – tour starts in The Bullring and ends at Trimmers Lane, stay for a cuppa at Trimmers Lane café after. Please RSVP for this tour by emailing Cultural.Companions@wexfordcoco.ie or phoning 053 9196564.

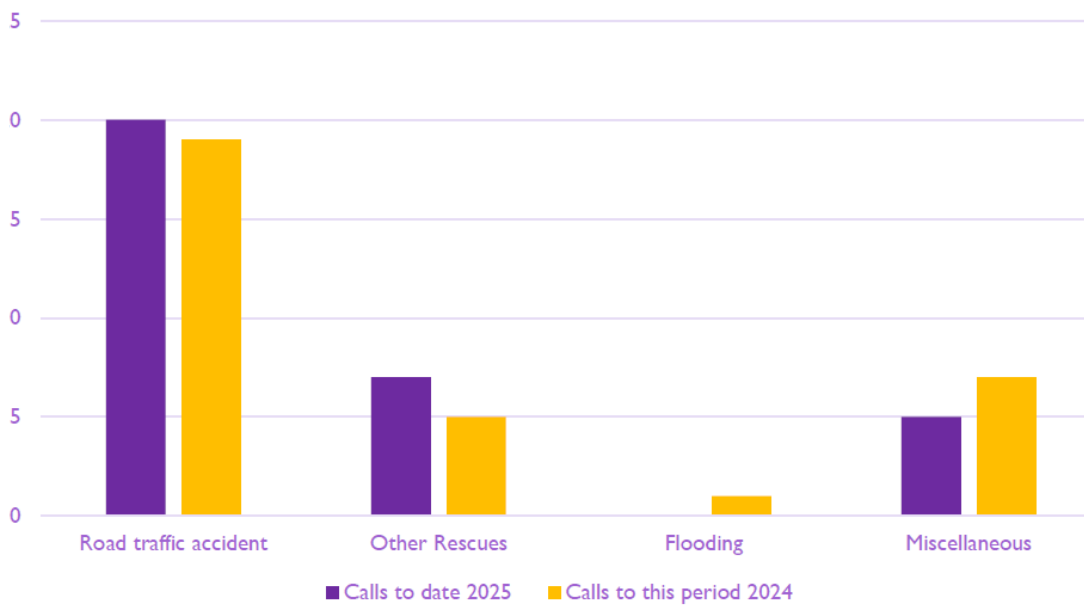
This network is supported by Wexford Arts Department, Healthy Wexford, Slainte Care Wexford, Age Friendly Wexford, LCDC and Age and Opportunity.

WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES

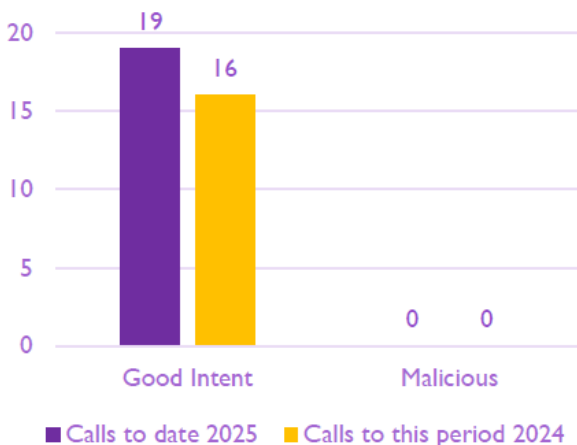
Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service



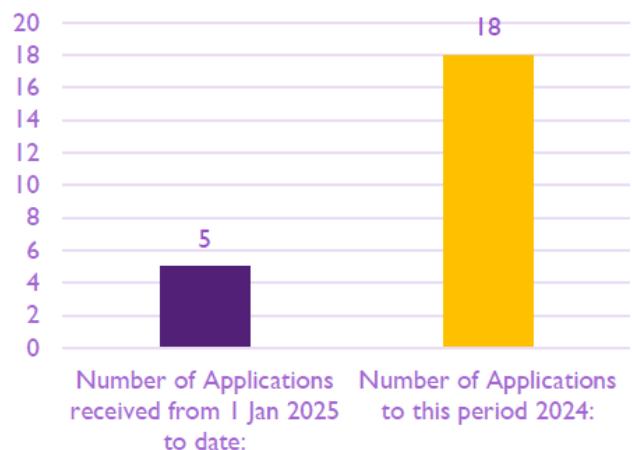
Special Services - Wexford Fire Service



False Alarms



Fire Safety Certificates



CORPORATE SERVICES

Customer Service Unit Statistics – February 2025

Task	February 2025
Phone Calls	3,478
Emails (Received & Sent)	3,382

Top 5 CSU Phone Queries

(27%) Housing Maintenance	(10%) Environment Reports	(6%) Housing Grants	(5%) Housing Rents	(5%) Housing Applications
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FOI OFFICE REQUESTS February 2025

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	11
Customer Complaint	16
Ombudsman Complaint	4
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	1
Total	32

THE LOCAL INTEGRATION TEAM

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) held twelve clinics across the county, providing vital support and information to migrants navigating life in Wexford.

Collaborations & Interagency Work

In February, LAIT facilitated seven collaborative information sessions, including:

Mental Health & Resilience: Niall Basil Kennedy delivered engaging workshops in two IPAS Centres.

Community Guidance: Jesuit Refugee Service and WWETB provided information and support to residents in Courtown IPAS Centre.

Health & Wellness: Sports Active launched a programme for women in Wexford's IPAS Centre, promoting physical activity and social engagement.

Employment Rights & Entitlements: WLD & LAIT delivered a session in Courtown on work permits and employment rights.

Culinary & Cultural Exchange: The FDYS & LAIT "My Kitchen to Your Kitchen" programme provided an opportunity to cook their own meals while learning about health, nutrition, and well-being.

Sports & Youth Engagement: FAI & LAIT are planning Easter football workshops to connect children in IPAS Centres with local clubs. Wexford Wanderers Rugby Club welcomed a female resident, demonstrating sport's role in integration.

Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) Update

The Intercultural Support Worker joined the team, enhancing community outreach. Five families are now accommodated under the programme.

The Community Integration Forum and IRPP Working Group met in February to discuss ongoing work.

LAIT and IRPP continue to empower individuals, build capacity, and foster meaningful integration, ensuring Wexford is a welcoming place for all.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT

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	282	870
Irish Red Cross	34	110

The Offer A Home scheme runs until 31st March 2025. A decision on whether the newly formed Government will extend the scheme is expected this month

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 17/02/25 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme - Four properties are open and operational. Two further properties are open and awaiting the arrival of residents.

Name	Occupancy	Capacity	Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	64	68	Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	1	37
Unity Court, Wexford	33	57	Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	0	15
Michael Street, Wexford	14	19	Ryland Road, Bunclody	0	21

FINANCE

Eddie Taaffe

Annual Financial Statement 2024 - Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2024 Accounts. The preparation of the annual accounts will take a number of months to complete but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

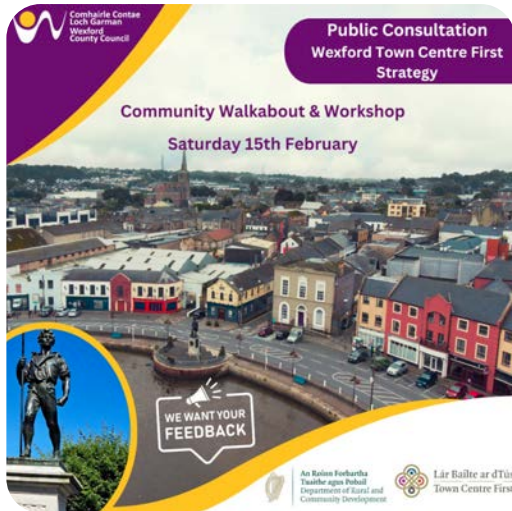
Rate Accounts 2025 - Rate Demands for 2025 have been issued. The Council continues to promote the use of the portal for eBilling for all Rate Customers and communications were issued to advise that they can access their Rates Bill through the new Payment Portal which also provides additional payment options and other features. To date over 2,000 ratepayers have registered on the Payment portal.

Audit Committee/Audit - The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 19th March 2025.

Cash Flow/Overdraft - Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €15m to 31st December 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS

February saw the launch of Wexford Town Centre First Strategy with an invitation to join a Public Consultation Walkabout & Workshop. A video of the day is also available on Youtube



Communications will be heavily involved in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025. The new website has been launched and can be found on <https://fleadhcheoil.ie/>



Communications are working on several campaigns to promote the work of Wexford County Council and its employees. The first of these campaigns is in collaboration with Environment as we focus on Illegal Dumping.





Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive