



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 08.07.24

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

South African Acting Ambassador Visits Wexford

Wexford County Council hosted a visit from Acting South African Ambassador, Mabet Van Rensburg on Monday 24th June. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pip Breen welcomed the Acting Ambassador to Wexford together with Mr. John Mulder from the newly established South African Chamber of Commerce and Charlene Hiscock, Information Officer at the South African Embassy. The Cathaoirleach stressed the many cultural similarities between Ireland and South African and expressed a desire to build on those cultural links to increase the level of trade and cooperation between County Wexford and South Africa. Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning, Liz Hore, gave a presentation on the Economic landscape in Wexford and provided an overview of the many initiatives Wexford County Council were engaged in to stimulate, support and develop economic activity in the county. Senior Enterprise Development Officer, Annette Rowsome outlined the supports provided by the Local Enterprise Office to foster entrepreneurship and assist the sustainability and growth of small and medium businesses in County Wexford. Three Wexford businesses with South African owners, Pot Belly Café, Zaeire Artisan Chocolates and Ingadi were present on the day to meet with the Acting Ambassador, showcasing their products and sharing their experiences of coming to Wexford and establishing a business here. Ms Van Renburg also met with Janette Davis, SETU, Lorcan Kinsella President and Paul Roche CEO of County Wexford Chamber of Commerce at the reception.



Georgia Southern University

A delegation led by GSU President Dr. Kyle Marrero and accompanied by Sandra Lynn Neuse, Vice Chancellor Real Estate & Facilities for the State of Georgia held a series of design and finance meetings to progress the Adoration Convent student accommodation project. The delegation also included:

- Kendria Lee, Associate Vice President for Corporate and Community Affairs.
- Trip Addison, Vice President for University Advancement and President of Georgia Southern University Foundation.
- Ron Stalnaker, Vice President for Business and Finance, GSU
- Matthew Shingler, Director Facilities Planning, Design & Construction at GSU.
- Dr. Howard Keeley, Director of the Centre for Irish Research and Teaching at GSU

Separately, a group of 27 Georgia Southern University Alumni visited Wexford in early June. During their visit they had a tour of the GSU Learning Campus and met some of the current

students. They also visited the Adoration Convent which will be future student accommodation for students attending the GSU Learning Campus.

Tourism

Wexford Food in Tourism Plan

The development of a Wexford Food in Tourism plan funded by Fáilte Ireland will form part of a wider food strategy for the County. The approach ensures all aspects of the food economy in County Wexford are integrated into one overarching plan that will contribute to the wellbeing of our local communities and will become an integral part of the county's visitor experience. The plan also reflects the tourism vision for the county captured within the Wexford Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP) developed by Fáilte Ireland.

Local Enterprise Office

Local Enterprise Offices Policy Statement 2024-2030

The first ever Local Enterprise Offices Policy Statement has been published. The Policy Statement provides clarity and communicates the role of the LEO network to stakeholders and the wider enterprise ecosystem. It sets out a policy direction and sketches the pathway of how LEOs will align their work with the priorities of the White Paper on Enterprise. The policy statement was developed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, the LEO Network, and the City and County Managers Association.

The statement cements the Local Enterprise Office role in providing services to a wider range of businesses within local communities and outlines

how, through a variety of programmes and campaigns, LEOs foster a strong entrepreneurial culture and promotes enterprise nationally. There is an emphasis on a consistency of

approach across the LEO network and a clear intention to show that LEOs are, and remain, the first stop shop for all businesses regardless of sector. The statement outlines an agreed approach on how the work of the LEOs will adapt to contribute to the implementation of five of the priorities of the White Paper on Enterprise – decarbonisation, digitalisation, increasing exporters, enabling the locally traded sector to thrive, and stepping up enterprise innovation.

The LEO Policy Statement is anchored on four core pillars of engagement with small business comprising Enabling Entrepreneurship, Offering Business Advice, Providing Enterprise Supports and Supporting Local Economic Development.

Among the policy developments being introduced are:

1. Climate focused assessment criteria for capital grants for manufacturing and internationally traded services businesses and the measurement of the impact of climate related supports.

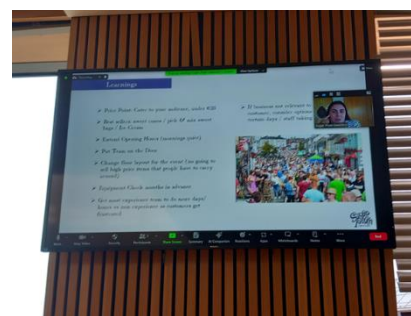


2. The review of all existing LEO schemes to consider eligibility criteria, and where identified, schemes will be simplified and rationalised to increase access to and take up of schemes, and to ease the burden on businesses.
3. Changes to the digitalisation offers to ensure consistency and greater eligibility with a target of 90% basic digital intensity in small business by 2030.
4. Greater emphasis on the role of the forthcoming National Enterprise Hub and its signposting service.
5. The promotion of LEO programmes to more locally trading business with up to 50 employees to improve productivity, particularly around innovation, digitalisation, reducing energy and carbon emissions, and implementing lean practices.
6. Introduction of a new export accelerator through the LEOs and EI.
7. Commitment to deliver the LEO Customer Relationship Management System digitalisation project.

Fleadh Cheoil Business Workshops

Ninety business owner/managers registered to attend two workshops run by the Local Enterprise Office on June 19th which were specifically designed to help retail and foodservice operators in Wexford capitalise on the opportunities arising from Fleadh Cheoil 2024.

The workshops provided an overview of the commercial opportunities, highlighted ways businesses could promote themselves to visitors attending the Fleadh Cheoil and set out the necessary preparatory steps for businesses to optimise their operational effectiveness during the event.



Guest speakers from the Mullingar business community also shared the learnings from their experience running a business in the town which hosted the Fleadh in 2023.

Women in Business Network

As part of an initiative to build links with other female entrepreneurship networks in the Southeast region, LEO Wexford welcomed 20 members of the South Tipperary Women in Business Network to County Wexford in early June. The organised day trip began with a business networking session with both networks in New Ross at the Dunbrody. This was followed by industry site visit hosted by Niamh Hogan at Holos Skincare in Enniscorthy. Members shared their business experience and explored opportunities for further collaboration.

GSU Students meet Wexford Women In Business



On Thursday 6th June LEO Wexford and Georgia Southern University co-hosted, what is hoped to be, an inaugural co-operative event, introducing the GSU students to representatives from the business and enterprise community in County Wexford. GSU students are taking modules in Entrepreneurship, Sports and Gender Studies.

Guest speakers included;

- Former public representative and current business owner Maura Bell,
- PR consultant and entrepreneur Nadia Pallas-Pettit of Yola Artisan Bakery,
- Physiotherapist and business owner Fiona Dempsey
- International FIFA soccer referee and practicing visual artist Michelle O'Neill
- Entrepreneur and business award-winner Nina Shelton of Sully & Juno

The student group shared their experiences around studying in Wexford.



2024/2025 Musgraves SuperValu Food Academy

LEO Wexford represents counties Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny and Carlow on the LEO Food Steering Committee which manages this programme. There were seven successful applications from the region, five from Wexford; Eamon Mullins Honey, Alfayed Falafels, Zaire Chocolates, 10nine Sauces, The Trough.

REGENERATION UNIT
Town Centre First

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

There are over 500 Towns in Ireland with over 400 people and they face similar challenges including building vacancy/dereliction-lack of vibrancy, how to increase employment in the Town centre, out of Town/Online shopping, poor pedestrian/cyclist access, less desire to live in the Town Centre, lack of parking, access to green spaces.

Town centre first was created to help address these challenges with the establishment of Town Centre first Teams and the creation of a Town Centre First plan (TCFP) which recognises that every Town is unique. It lays the foundation for each Town to develop at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges.

We have embraced this policy in Wexford and engaged actively in promoting Town Centre First throughout the towns and villages of Co.Wexford.

Table outlining status of Wexford's Town Centre First.

Wexford Town Centre First (TCF) Towns	TCF Team Established	Town Centre First Plan in Place	Status
Enniscorthy	Yes.	Yes	Plan in place, work with Town Team to assist in implementing objectives outlined in TCF Plan
New Ross	Yes	Yes	Plan in place, work with Town Team to assist in implementing objectives outlined in TCF Plan
Courtown/Riverchapel	Yes	In Progress	Under 2024 Measure 2 TCF Suite of Supports we received €30k to complete TCF Plan and have added €30k and are procuring Consultants to complete Plan with Community and Team. Lots of public engagement.
Wexford Town	No	In Progress	Working with Planning to complete TCF Plan and establish Town Team as part of Wexford Local Area Plan.
Bunclody	No	Health Check Plan Required	Under 2024 Measure 1 TCF Suite of Supports received €10k to establish TCF Team in Bunclody. Process just started.

Taghmon	No	Health Check Plan Required	Under 2024 Measure 1 TCF Suite of Supports received €10k to establish TCF Team in Taghmon. Process just started.
Castlebridge	No	Health Check Plan Required	Under 2024 Measure 1 TCF Suite of Supports received €10k to establish TCF Team in Castlebridge. Process just started.

Measure 3. The 2024 suite of Town centre first supports has the project development measure, which could see €50,000 allocated to a max 2 projects to progress these projects to shovel ready status (90% funding).

We have applied for the following groups projects and are awaiting a decision from DRCD on these applications.

The 2 groups are: 1. Feachtas Ealaoin t/a St Michaels Theatre.
2. Kilmore Scope

Vacant Homes

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

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

Current Wexford Crói Cónaithe Stats as at 30th June 2024.

Actions	Number
Applications Received	279
Approved	121
Refused	3
Grants paid out	28
Awaiting Information from Applicant	127
Queries received via email to date	Over 3,000

Ready to Build

In relation to Ready to Build we are looking at some possibilities for 2024. 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.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2024 until the 21st of June 2024.

Total no. of applications	718
No. of valid applications	614
No. of invalid applications	104
Extension of Duration	22
Exempted Development Declaration	33

Numbers are those received from the 27th of April 2024 until the 21st of June 2024.

No. of valid applications	211
No. of invalid applications	42
Extension of Duration	6
Exempted Development Declaration	9

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers up until the 21st of June 2024.

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2024	178
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2024	155
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 21/06/2024	40
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	60 days

Major Pre-Planning Data 2024 (up to 21st of June 2024)

- Meetings Held **40 No.**
- Proposed Commercial Development **34,921 sqm. approx.**
- Total No. of proposed Housing Units **1,514no. units approx.**

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

Work on the Wexford Town Local Area Plan is progressing well. The LAP team are progressing with strategy development and completing the site work that will inform the overall spatial planning framework for the plan area, including land use zoning proposals. The preliminary recommendations received from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment consultants, JBA Consulting, and the discussions held with the Office of Public Works, is informing this work.

The LAP team have held a number of workshops with the consultants working on the Urban Design Strategy, Rainwater Management Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

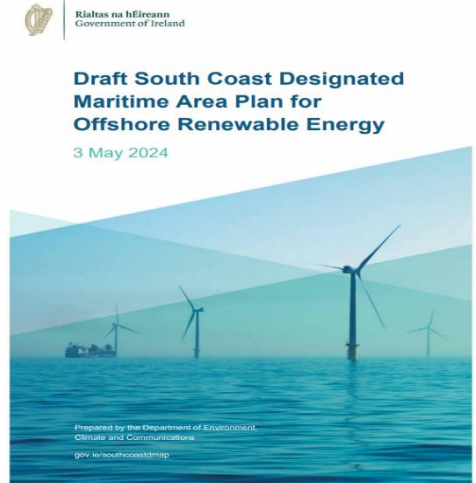
With regard to the Rainwater Management Plan, draft rainfall (pluvial) flood mapping has been produced by the consultants McCloy Consulting and it is currently being reviewed by Wexford County Council. This mapping will be used to inform the development of town-wide proposals for managing rainwater including nature-based solutions and guidance for developers.

The Urban Design Strategy consultants, Loci, continue to progress their work on the Ballynagee Master Plan and the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy, and will then focus on the wider plan area.

With regard to the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy, The Paul Hogarth Company have carried out their baseline surveys of existing green and blue infrastructure in the town and APEM Ltd. (ecologists) conducted on-site habitat survey work in May. The consultants are currently analysing the survey work to identify existing and potential green blue infrastructure assets, existing green blue infrastructure corridors, and areas where these corridors can be extended.

Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy

Following on from the publication of the Draft South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy in April 2024, officials from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications presented the Draft Plan to the May meeting of the Council. The Department also held a public event at County Hall on 22nd May 2024 and the Chief Executive formed part of the discussion panel. WCC subsequently made a submission on the Draft Plan which was submitted to the Department on 14th June 2024.



Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy Hub

Irish Rail held a non-statutory public consultation on its proposals to develop an Offshore Renewable Energy Hub at Rosslare Europort from 22nd May 2024 to 23rd June 2024. WCC made a submission on the proposed development of the port on 21st June 2024.



Planning CSO Returns 2024

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

Month	<u>CSO</u> Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	<u>CSO</u> Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	<u>CSO</u> One-off Houses	LAC's Local Authority
January	0	2	24	5
February	93	34	15	60
March	41	32	25	7
April	0	1	21	0
May	0	1	27	0
TOTAL	134	70	112	72

* **Figures to 31 May 2024**

- Total number of housing units = 388
- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use.
- LAC's – Local Authority Development

Building Control (27th April 2024 – 21st June 2024)

- Validated Commencement Notices: **34**
 - Number of Building Control Inspections: **52**
 - Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: **22**
- TOTAL 108**

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 21st of June are as follows:

- Live Cases **407**
- Cases Opened from 1st January 2024 **150**
- Cases Closed from 1st January 2024 **103**

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures, URDF, RZLT and Short-Term Letting

Report from 27th April 2024 to 21st June 2024 as follows:

Derelict Sites

Number of Properties on the Derelict Sites Register	103
Number of Section 8(2) Notices issued. (notifies the owner that the Local Authority intends to list the property on the Derelict Sites Register)	21
Number of Section 8(7) Notices issued. (notifies the owner that the Local Authority has entered the property on the Derelict Sites Register)	7
Number of Section 11 Notices issued. (notifies the owner the list of works that must be carried out within a specified timeframe)	24
Number of inspections / site visits conducted	53
Number of new Derelict Sites files opened	7
Number of new Derelict Sites files closed	12

Example of compliance with Derelict Site Notices:



Dangerous Structures

Number of new Dangerous Structure files opened	3
Number of Section 3(1) Notices issued – Works to be carried out by the owner	2

Urban Development Regeneration Fund Call 3 (URDF)

On the 18th of April 2024, 2 members of the Derelict Sites team attended the URDF meeting with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Officials in the Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy, re Wexford Projects. The Department representatives approved the progress and work carried out by the Derelict Sites Team.

Number of sites approved on the programme is 170

Number of sites referred to Property Management Unit for possible CPO (Focus List) per town:

Enniscorthy	9
Gorey	5
New Ross	16
Wexford	11
TOTAL	41

The cumulative number of Derelict Sites files now closed which were included on the approved programme is **33**.

Short-term Letting – the letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment in the Designated Rent Pressure Zone (Gorey Electoral Area).

Total number of files currently open	8
Cases closed since 01/01/2024	2

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Rent Pressure Zone legislation of short-term letting is under development in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Fáilte Ireland and it is at an advanced stage. It is expected to be in place by Summer 2024.

Further correspondence will issue in due course from the DHLGH.

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2024 up to and including 21st of June 2024, totals **49**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	6	0	2	4	0
Gorey	11	2	5	3	1
New Ross	3	0	2	1	0
Wexford	24	2	3	19	0
Rosslare	5	1	0	4	0
2024 Totals	49	5	12	31	1

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	70
Major Pre-Planning (from 1st January 2024)	5


Water Services



1. Rural Water Programme

Water Services



<p>1. Rural Water</p>	
<p>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilanerin GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole. ○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution. ○ GWS received a quotation from EPS for the full installation of the Nitrate Removal System. ○ Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions.
<p>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CaimTank – WCC received estimate to carry out bypass of tank. ○ Contractor appointed - T. Swaine & Sons, work to commence in coming weeks. ○ Reservoir Bypass -Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept.
<p>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned. ○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. ○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites. ○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000. ○ New contractor appointed - GII Ltd. This is due to lack of progress with initial contractor on SI. ○ ROL received SI works to start first week in May. ○ SI complete awaiting Report.
<p>MARWP 2024-2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MARWP 2024-2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April ○ Submissions made across a range of measures totalling €5.2 million. ○ Dept requested further breakdown of quotes, these have been sent awaiting response.

<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 May 2024 ○ 20 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling approx. €35,000. ○ 46 inspections to date carried out in June. ○ Workflow prototype meeting held in May, due to constraints in IT programme won't be resumed until Sept.
<p>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 ○ 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 with Dept. 28th June to discuss next steps for advancing project.
<p>Lead Remediation Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9 applications received to date on revised grant, 6 paid, 2 approved, 1 awaiting further documents.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

Ground Investigation on-site works are completed at locations where access has been granted by the landowners. Due to the change of scope to Consultants Brief of Services in relation to the Service Areas and Active Travel, Ground Investigation works may extend in the coming period. Additional Traffic survey report is near completion.

Archaeological Geophysical Surveys draft factual report is near completion.

Due to the change of scope to Consultants Brief of Services in relation to the Service Areas and Active Travel, Archaeological Geophysical Surveys and Topographical Surveys may extend in the coming period.

Real Estate Consultancy tenders were received and are under assessment. Appointment of successful tenderer is expected in due course.

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

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

Engagement with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding is ongoing. Meeting, with the CINEA to discuss the following steps of the project is anticipated to take place in July 2024.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The Project is in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement.

Temporary works, undertaken within the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road Route Corridor by the OPE/Irish Rail Contractor working on Rosslare Europort Masterplan has impact on the development of the Phase 5 of N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road. Coordination with OPW/Irish Rail is ongoing in relation to the OPW/Irish Rail temporary works and N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road.

Technical Advisors are progressing through the Phase 5 (Enablement & Procurement) deliverables. Archaeological Services (Stage 1 – 4) tender documents are near completion and publication of the same are pending TII's approval.

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

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2022 Safety Schemes

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

This scheme was tendered in November 2021. Works commenced on 23 May 2022. The roundabout is substantially completed.

Works outstanding: Landscaping works are underway. They were delayed due to the unseasonal weather and are now due to be completed in June.

N30 Tominearly

Design report has been submitted to the TII Departures Portal.

N25 Tagoat

Feasibility and Options Report has been submitted to the TII for Gateway I approval. If approved, the next stage is preparation of a detailed design report.

The bus stop and shelter works have commenced at Tagoat.

2024 Pavement Schemes

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

Pavement works are complete. Accommodation works are underway and should be completed by the first week in July.

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

Tenders have been received and reviewed by Tramore House Road Design Office (THRDO). The lowest tender was valued at approximately €2,400,000.

This Scheme is still suspended due to TII funding constraints in the current year.

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

A contractor has been appointed. Construction has been deferred until after the Fleadh to late August.

VRS (Vehicle Restraint System – Safety Barrier) Maintenance

This contract commenced in 2023. To date 125 defects have been identified on our National routes. One location was completed as an emergency replacement on the N11.

A total of 39 repairs have been completed with a further with 87 repairs outstanding. The majority of the 86 repairs are minor with all of them located on the N25.

This contract is ongoing.

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.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2024 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on the 8 January at Ballynancoran.

Roads that were resurfaced in macadam in the last month were:

Scarawalsh to Ballycarney; (Enniscorthy District); Craan Lower; Cranacrower; Ballyeden / Tullabeg; Mullaunreagh; Knocknasilloge; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Ballyowen, Wellingtonbridge, Ratholm; Ballymacushin to Twelveacre; (Killinick); Loughnageer (Cul da sac) (Rosslare District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing commenced 20 May in Wexford Borough District at Craanagam. Roads that were surface dressed in the last month were:

N25 towards Newbawn; Mill Road to Foulksmills; Ballygalvert Junction to Lacey's Cross; Griffin's Cross to Kennedy Park; Cathys Cross to Kilanne; Ballyvergin Junction to Camross; Courtnacuddy to R730; Ballintober towards Rathgaroge; Ballindoney Cross Roads to R730; Carnagh; Courthoyle; Townamulloge; Kilbride to Green Road Junction; Leegane; Ramsgrange Cemetery to Rathroe Junction; Aldridge to Kilbride Junction; Clonmines; Miltown; Dunraghty; (All in New Ross District); Hollyfort to Monaseed; Brideswell Big; Ballyoughter; Toberanierin; Coolintaggart; Craan, Monaseed; Ballyduff road, Camolin; Bolacreen; Court Ballyedmond; Baurela towards Kilbride; Lacken; Knockduff; Mullaun; Mountdaniel; (All in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

Community Involvement Schemes

A grant of €502,650 was received to complete 8 road sections this year.

Roads resurfaced to date are:

Curraduff; (Enniscorthy District); Ballinclay; (Wexford Borough District).

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

A grant of €603,000 was received to repair 14 bridges.

The Municipal Districts have commenced many of these repairs with one bridge complete at Ambrosetown in Rosslare District.

Severe Weather - Flood Damaged Bridges

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

Specific Improvement Grants

A grant of €1,005,000 was received for the Owenduff river embankment stabilisation (undermining the R733) & to complete & pay the final account for the Deeps Bridge.

It is expected works will commence on the Owenduff river embankment after the Fleadh Cheoil, August 2024.

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

A grant of €687,200 was received to complete 20 projects.

Drainage works completed in the last month were:

Raheenahoon (Enniscorthy District); Camross Oldtown; (New Ross District); Bridgetown; (Rosslare District).

Local Improvement Schemes

A list of applicants is maintained in order of date received. €850,436 has been allocated for 2024 and €619,894 allocated to 2025. This is a total of €1,470,330 for the 2 years. The 2024 programme has been finalised with 17 lanes to be resurfaced. Resurfacing works is expected to commence in the next month.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Active travel schemes involving upgrades of cycling and walking infrastructure and traffic calming measures in Wexford town are at various stages of development.

Arterial routes into Wexford and one cross town route with the aim of providing infrastructure to provide a safe alternative for short local journeys have been selected for upgrade works.

Collectively these are under a Pathfinder scheme and include Newtown Road Cycle Scheme, Roxborough Cycle Scheme and Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme. Pathfinder status was awarded by the Department of Transport in 2022.

Newtown Road – Phase 1

Road, cycle track re-surfacing and line marking to be completed mid-July to bring the project to completion. An initial 35-week programme has been extended to 40 weeks due to additional road re-build including pavement Geogrid and re-surfacing, crash barrier installation, raised tables across junctions, fence and planting at weigh-bridge new drainage upgrade on Glenville Rd, and weather delays.



Fig. 1 Bus shelter installation Newtown Road

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

Phases Two and Three of the Newtown Road cycle scheme will involve the continuation of the footpath upgrades and protected cycle ways along the Racecourse frontage and as far as the junction at Wexford General Hospital. From there the scheme will continue towards the town centre to Bayview at Wygram.

These schemes are now at detailed costings stage with work currently underway on the preparation of tender documents.

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

This project will focus particularly on providing active travel infrastructure for those living, working, shopping, and going to school in the Beechlawn/Clonard area of town. The major junctions such as the double roundabout at Clonard Church, the major junction at the Hospital on Newtown Road/Carricklawn and the junction of Whitemill Road and Clonard Avenue adjacent to Kennedy Park National School will be upgraded to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

The scheme will commence at the junction at Newtown Road/Carricklawn at Wexford General Hospital where we are currently exploring a protected junction option based on the new Cycle Design Manual. Consultation with local landowners is underway, including with the HSE. From there it will travel through Carricklawn and Beechlawn, through Clonard Avenue and will terminate at Kennedy Park National School at Whitemill South.

The Active Tavel team met with staff of Kennedy Park NS to identify issues of concern outside the school, particularly at school drop off and pick up times. Proposals to upgrade the school frontage will be provided as part of the options report for review by the NTA.

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

Proposals for improvements to active travel facilities at Roxborough, Wexford. The proposed scheme extends from the Sinnottstown Lane to the Faythe Junction. The preliminary design is being finalised. Part 8 Planning application to commence in Q3 2024. Engagement with large employers in the area is underway to ensure that we have a good understanding of where staff are travelling to / from and movements of freight vehicles etc.

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

We will engage the services of a 3D imagery consultancy (GNet 3D imagery) to provide

- *Photomontages from selected viewpoints of the key junctions x 5*
- *Aerial photomontage image of one key junction from a selected viewpoint x 1*

to assist with public consultation and stakeholder engagement process.

Safe Routes to School Launches

Active Travel received allocation for 3 schools as part of the Safe Routes to Schools Scheme. Ramsgrange Community School, St. Patricks NS, Crossabeg & Gorey Central School received allocation in 2024.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce traffic congestion in front of schools and improve access to school for active travel.

Active Travel have designed a scheme for Ramsgrange Community School in preparation for consultation under Section 38 for submission in June 2024.

The AT team together with An Taisce presented the draft delivery plan to Gorey Central school on Friday 21st June to the Principal.

Crossabeg was reviewed with An Taisce on the same day.

Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Options Development Report has been completed and reviewed by Wexford County Council and the NTA as Part 2b of the Plan. Planning will review and comment in the coming days.

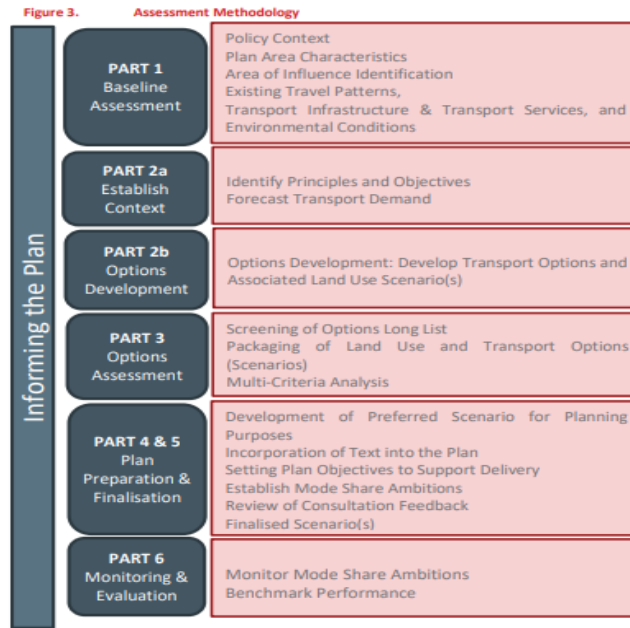


Fig.4 – NTA – ABTA process

Enniscorthy Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Baseline report (Part 1 of 6) has been completed and reviewed by Wexford CoCo.

Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy

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

Public e-Bike sharing scheme.

There is currently a fleet of 80 e-bikes in Wexford town available for bike sharing. The scheme was brought in as a trial in May 2023 but due to popularity and demand will be extended for a further period.

There are currently 42 parking (drop off & pick up) locations within a restricted zone as per Fig.5



Operating zone & 42 parking locations
 Fig.5 Bolt Bike operating zone.

Wexford County Council are in consultation with Bolt to add e-scooters to the fleet for a trial period of 6 months.



Fig.6 – Bolt e-scooter



eBikes available at County Hall for staff and customers

In preparation for the Fleadh Cheoil, co-ordination with the committee will be conducted to determine demand management, new temporary parking locations and alterations to cycling zones.

Discussions are being held with Bolt to provide additional bikes and parking locations at the Fleadh camp sites and park and ride locations.

The stats below give an idea of the popularity of the bikes and the usage numbers.

The demand is evident, with over 40,000 bike rides up to start June 2024 from May 2023 with a total distance of 95,925 km. Average journey distance is almost 2.4km.

40,506

Rides since operations commenced

(Commenced May 2023)

95,925

Distance travelled in KM since operations commenced

(Commenced May 2023)

Hospital Junction

Active Travel are preparing a design for a protected junction at the Hospital Junction to provide connectivity through the junction for Active Travel. (Fig.7)

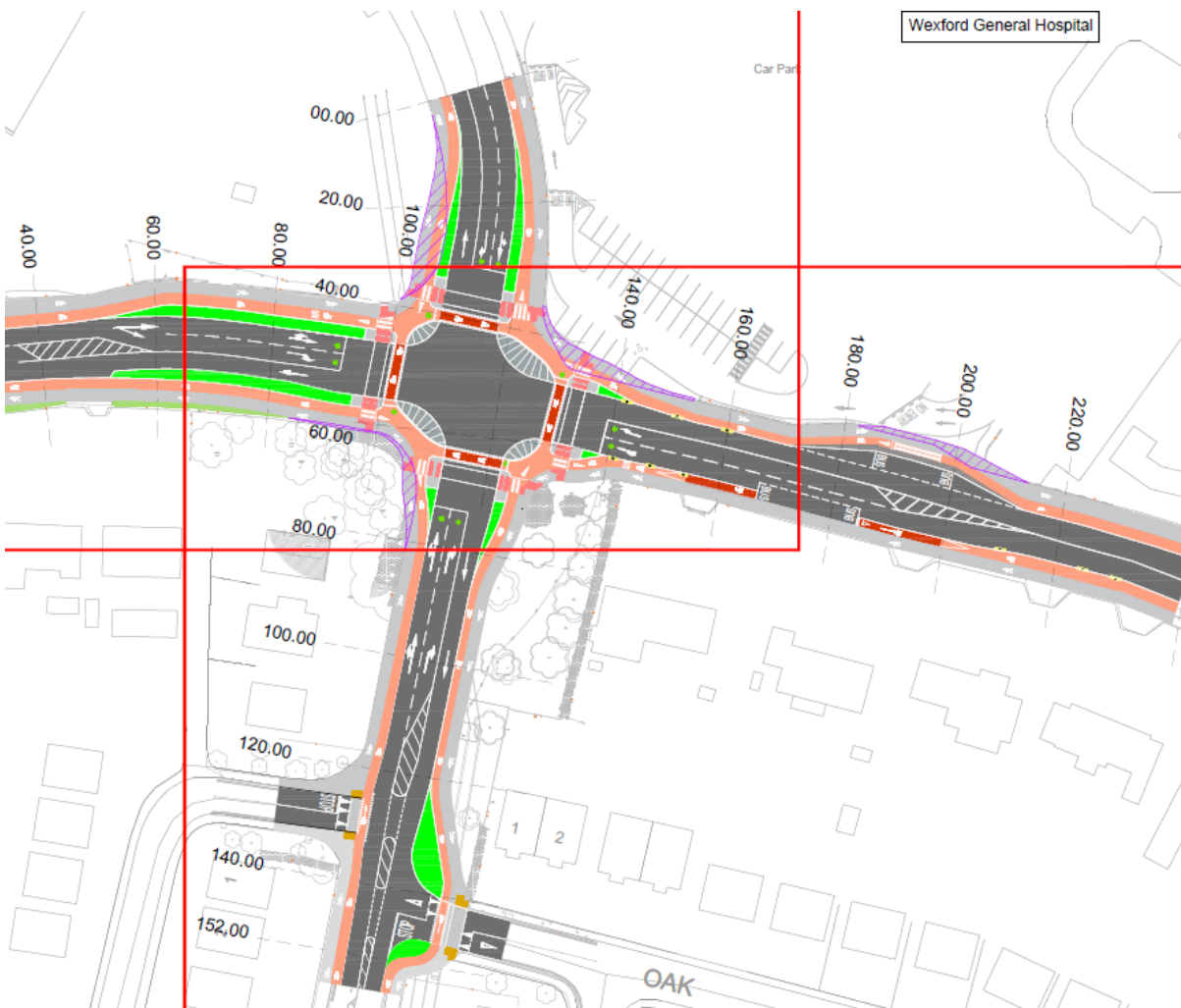


Fig.7 – Hospital Junction proposal

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 93% of lanterns have been upgraded to LED to date.

Funding applications to upgrade the lights on the 3 roundabouts on the M11 at Scurlocksbusbush, Templescoby and Milehouse to LED have been successful and discussion has commenced with the successful tenderer in relation to finalising traffic management and lighting designs.

It is hoped the remaining non-national road lanterns are upgraded to LED by the end of 2025.

Cost savings continue to be used to fund the public lighting development programme including infill lighting where required. It will also be required to fund cable repairs on the older cable networks in the towns. This is increasingly becoming a major cost element to our maintenance budget.

Public Lighting Development Fund

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

- Ramsfort Avenue and Garden City, Gorey – civil works are completed, awaiting certification and ESB connections.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – completed.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove – Awaiting ESB connections.
- Kilmore Village – civils and electrical works completed with ESB connections awaited.
- Castlebridge – civil works completed on one section; three separate sections are being considered for the village.

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

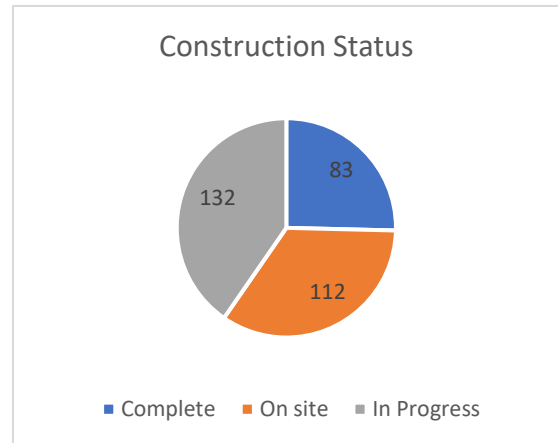
Smaller infill projects are also taking place in each district using our maintenance contractor. We also have multiple Taking in Charge lighting projects that are being completed through Building Control.

Housing Supply


Capital Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings to Complete in 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025	70
Dwellings to Complete in 2026	132
Dwellings to be funded in HFA	12
Affordable Housing	67
Other Preliminary figures	368



Dwellings Complete under Housing for All in 2022				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District		
Carleys Bridge	17	Enniscorthy		Dwellings complete in Feb 2022
Glentire, The Ballagh	7	Gorey		Dwellings complete July 22
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare		Dwellings complete December 22
<p>Rosetown 23 Phase 1</p>				
Glascanny	1	Wexford		TAP Dwelling complete June 22
Total	48			

Dwellings Complete 2023				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Status	Comment
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Complete	Complete Dec 2023.
<p>Whiterock Hill 22 Phase 1</p>				
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Complete	Complete June 23
Total	23			
Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024				
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. To Complete 2024. On Target.
		<p>Womens Refuge 12 Maudlintown</p>		
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	To Complete Q4 2024. On Target.



**Whiterock Hill 22
Phase 2**

Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Complete	Substantial completion 19 th June. Handover underway.
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**Rosetown 12
Phase 2**

Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 To Complete Q3 2024.
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**Ballyhine 8
Wexford**

Total	54			
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Dwellings to complete in 2025				
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Commenced on site July 23. Progressing to programme. To complete 2025.
				<p>Wexford Street 30, Gorey</p>
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Under Construction	DB Contract. On site. Groundworks & foundations commenced. To complete 2025
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Commence on site Q1 24. DB Contract. On Site, progressing well. To complete 2025.
Creagh 22, Gorey				
Total	70			
Funded Projects for delivery 2025 - 2026				
Francis Street	2	Wexford	SS Approved	Contractor appointment underway. Commence on site Q4 2024.
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions complete. Stage 3 submission June 2024. Tender to follow.
Rosbercon	50 +(est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Invasive Species removal complete. Site Investigations to commence Q2 24. To proceed as a DB contract.
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 3 to be submitted July 2024.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A – Monomolin and Ballygillane. DB Contract.

				Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding application. Part VIII approved Jan 2024. Submit Funding for Bundle A July 24. Site clearance complete.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A as above. Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding July 24. Demolition of derelict house complete.
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle B – Grogans Road and Adamstown. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Part VIII approved March 2024. Funding application Q3 2024
<p>Grogan's Road, 4 Wexford</p> 				
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Bundle B as above. Part VIII approved March 2024. Funding application Q3 2024.

TOTAL

132

Dwellings yet to be funded in Housing for All Programme

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Single stage funding approved. Consultant appointment underway. Part 8 submission Q3 2024.
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. SS Submission July 2024.
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Preparing revised proposal.
TOTAL	12			

Affordable Housing

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tender assessment complete. Sign contracts for DB in Q3 24. Site Start Q3 24.

Ramsfort Park 20,
Gorey



St Walerans	47	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for housing scheme including affordable units received Oct 23. Documents being prepared for Stage 2 Q2 24
TOTAL	67		

Projects in Design / Pipeline to 2031

Location	Units	Municipal District	Comment
Clonard	56	Wexford	Pre Planning 12 Dec 23. Stage 1 Funding Approved April 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.
St Waleran's	47	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for housing scheme including social dwellings received. Documents being prepared for Stage 2 Q2 24
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Clear site and Pre Planning Q3 24
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Brief received March 2024, layout to be reviewed.
The Lyre	50	Enniscorthy	Preliminary master plan and pre planning complete. Site Investigations / surveys in Q2 24.
Castlemoyle	75	New Ross	Master Planning nearing completion for land transfer to WCC.
Bunclody PPP	65	Enniscorthy	Part of Bundle 7. Team lead Dublin City Council
Kilmore Quay	12	Rosslare	Closing out purchase and prepare to clear site for surveys. Preliminary layouts being prepared Q2 2024
Park	12	Wexford	Site cleared for levels and ground surveys Sketch Design under review.
Cluain Fada	22	New Ross	Pre Planning complete. Combined Stage 1/2 funding approved May 24
TOTAL	368		

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Projects at Planning Stages

1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

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

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

The Part 8 process for Market Square and town centre street enhancement was commenced on 4th October 2023, which was designed by Moloney O’Beirne Architects & Roughan & O’Donovan Consulting Engineers. Following a public submission, An Bord Pleanála requested further information from WCC in relation to the proposed development. This was submitted to ABP on 18th December 2023. On 7th June 2024, WCC were directed by the Board not to prepare an EIAR in respect of this development.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project has now also commenced and it is intended to submit a Part 8 planning application for this in Q3 2024.

ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This masterplan will be completed in time for the forthcoming URDF application.

ILLUSTRATED VIEW 01

VIEW FROM CASTLE STREET INTO MARKET SQUARE SPACE



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

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

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

1.3 Gorey District Park

The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public. The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders were received and a contract awarded. The Changing Places unit is now complete. The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public.



1.4 John Street Grainstore, New Ross

A Part 8 process for the Grainstore and building extension elements was commenced on 7th February 2024. An application for Category 1 funding, under the RRDF, was submitted on 8th February. A further development consent application will be made to An Bord Pleanála in the coming months for the public realm area to the rear of the property.



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

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

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. The preliminary design has been extended to include a design for a new Visitor Centre in order to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Bord Pleanála in Q3 2024. A Learning Journey to the National Famine Museum (NFM) at Strokestown, (managed by the Irish Heritage Trust) took place on June 21st 2024 by members of the Board of the INHP; Fáilte Ireland and WCC. The visit was very informative and showed how the NFM has increased

its visitor numbers from 46,000 in 2019 to an expected 80,000 in 2024 with increased investment and marketing spend, overseen by the Irish Heritage Trust.

Hook Lighthouse

Tandem Design have been appointed to provide Interpretive Design services on a new tourism development at the Hook Lighthouse. A commencement meeting took place in Nov 2023 where the Consultants met with the Manager and Board of Hook Heritage and representatives from Irish Lights and Fáilte Ireland. The Preliminary Concept Design was presented and approved by the Hook Heritage Board in Q1 2024.

Tandem Design continue to work on the development of the Interpretive and Concept Design of the project which will be further developed and finalised when the Integrated Design Team (including Architect) is appointed. The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be issued in Q3 2024 as part of the framework created for Architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the full preliminary design including Environmental reports, Interpretative and Architectural Designs will be completed in Q2 2025 and submitted to An Bord Pleanála at that time.



New Ross Tourism Project

The renovation of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre is progressing with contractors now appointed for the Exhibition Fit out and installation, Graphic print, Digital Hardware, Audio Content and Digital Content Creation for the improvements to the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience. The works on this project are now underway and planned to be completed by the end of Q2 2024.

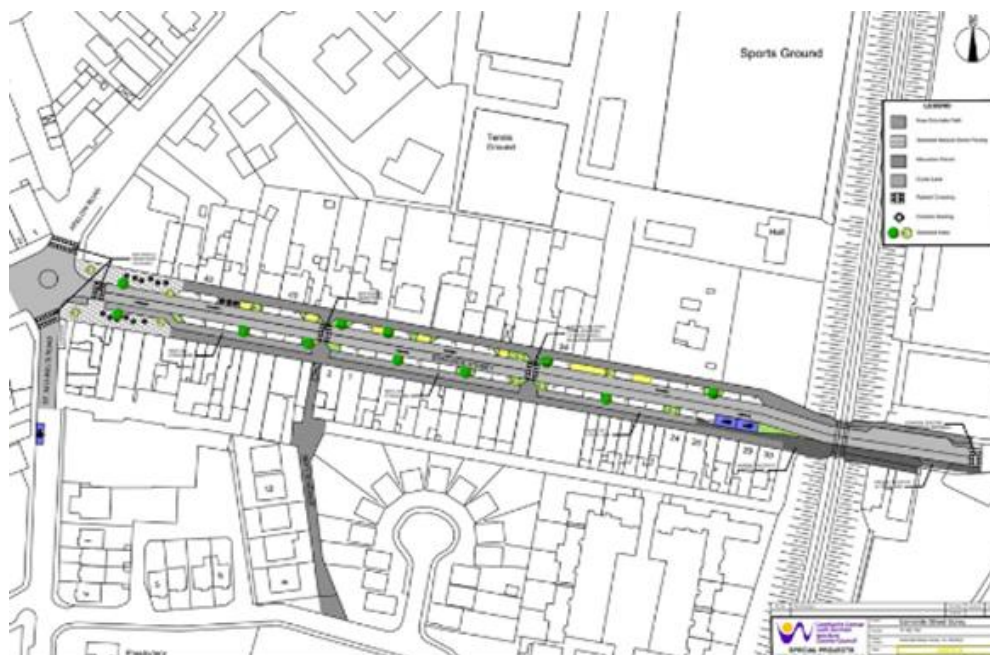
Bright Ireland have been appointed as Interpretive designers for the Norman Themed Visitor Centre and a kick off meeting took place on the 7th March 2024. Concept Design has begun on this project which will lead into Preliminary Design in the coming weeks. An integrated design team will be appointed from a Framework being formed for Architectural services for tourism & recreation projects. Stage 2 tender assessment is now complete and an award of contract is anticipated in Q2 2024.

1.6 Esmonde Street, Gorey

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members

in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans, with works expected to commence on-site in January 2024. €2m of own funds is committed to the Esmonde Street project.

A further redesign of the proposed public realm improvement project, which included an increase in on-street parking from previous proposal and a revised layout for cycling infrastructure, was presented to the members of GKMD in November 2023. The members approved implementing the plan as proposed, with minor amendments. The project is currently progressing through detailed design, with a tender competition for a works contractor to be published to etenders in August 2024.



1.7 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

All planning and design work on the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has now been suspended following the publication of the All-Ireland Rail Review. The draft report issued in July 2023 appears to promote reopening of the train line in future.

The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced in parallel with the Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand greenway project.

1.8 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are ongoing. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. A second public consultation on the preferred route corridor options will take place in July and it is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q4 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is programmed for Q4 2025.

Fehily Timoney & Company are also project technical advisors for the Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway. Public consultation on route options for this greenway will take place in parallel with the Wexford to Rosslare Strand route. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q4 2024, with an expected Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.

1.9 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

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

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in 2024, subject to advance approval of a Marine Area Consent by the Marine Area Regulatory Authority.

1.10 Crescent Quay – Dredging

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete and results have been assessed. Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

1.11 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O’Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sports Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. Further ‘top-up’ funding of €150,000 has now been awarded under the LSSIF scheme. A tender competition to procure a works contractor for the Sport Hub was advertised on eTenders on 18th June 2024.

1.12 Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, Wexford:

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tenders received in September. Tenders exceeded the available budget, so a design review for the building is currently being undertaken by the Design Team. This revised design has completed detailed design, and a tender for the Construction of the Gymnasium building was advertised on Etenders on 22nd March 2024. The tender period has now closed, and tenders received are currently being assessed. The Contract signing for these works took place in late May 2024 with construction to commence on-site in July.



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

Press release

Wexford County Council have awarded the contract for the construction of the new Boxing Gymnasium to Colm Byrne Civil and Building Contractors Ltd., Ballindoney, Ballywilliam, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The contract signing took place in the Council Chamber of Wexford County Council on Monday 27th May.

The project is being funded under the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, Wexford County Council's own funds and also a significant donation from the Neville Group . The project includes the construction of a Gymnasium building measuring 330 square metres, including a main gymnasium hall, a secondary gymnasium studio, an office, plant room, toilets, showers and changing facilities. A new entrance, access road, carpark, and all associated landscaping and services complete the external of the building.

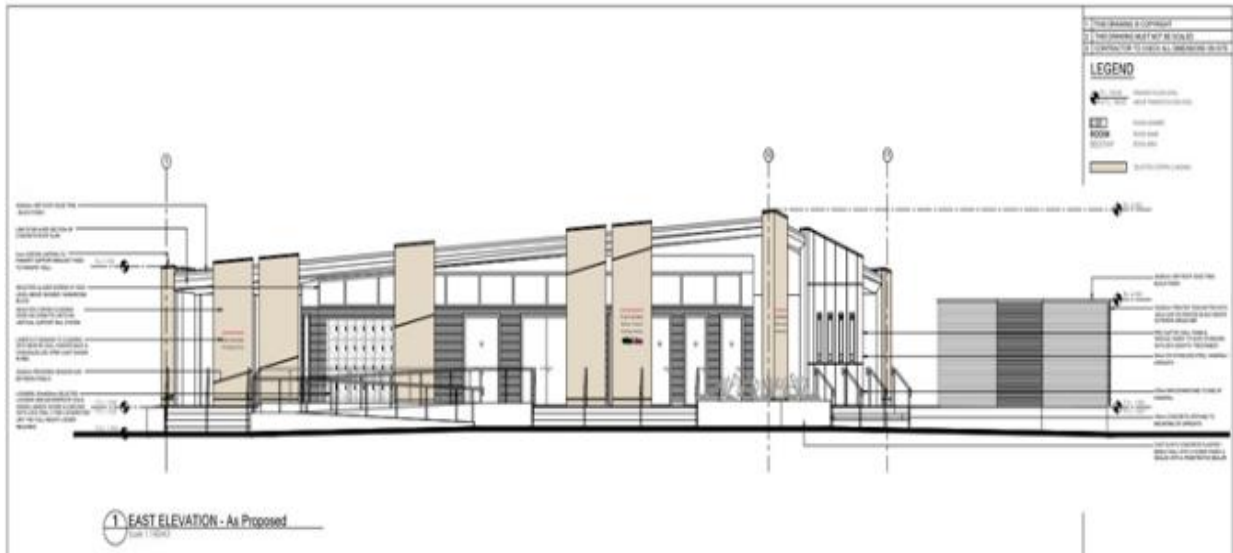


1.13 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

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

Following the tender process for design services in Jan 2022, Neville Conroy Architects was appointed. Surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023.

Tenders for the enabling works package, published to etenders in December 2023, are currently being assessed. Tenders for the construction of the main building were received on 22nd March 2024, and are also currently being assessed. It is anticipated that the Contract for the main building works will be awarded in July, with construction to commence on-site in September.



1.14 Adoration Convent Wexford

Part 8 approval is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. The appointment of Stephen Carr Architects was approved by GSU in July 2023. Detailed design and associated survey works are now largely complete, with a formal presentation of design and cot proposals made to GSU in June 2024. This was formally presented to GSU in January 2024. It is intended to tender out these works out in Q3 2024 with works to commence in Q1 2025.



1.15 New Ross Skate Park

Fehily Timoney and Company (with sub-consultants Brady Shipman Martin) have been engaged to prepare a preliminary design and Part 8 submission documentation for a new skate park for New Ross, to be located adjacent the Greenway car park in Rosbercon. Commencement of the Part 8 process is expected in August 2024.

1.16 St Waleran's Link Road

A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design, Environmental Impact Assessment and submission to ABP for approval, was published to etenders on 3rd June 2024.

The appointment of the Consultant to undertake these services is expected to take place in July.

1.17 Ballynagee Link Road

A brief and tender documents for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design and preparation of a Part 8 submission (subject to screening) has been prepared. It is planned to issue an invitation to tender imminently with appointment expected in August.

1.18 Gorey Market House

To support an application for funding under the EU THRIVE scheme, we have developed a proposal for Part 8 approval which will be advertised on May 1st, subject to a Special Meeting of GKMD on April 30th. This proposal will restore the market house to original condition, will develop it for multi-purpose community use, will involve some essential extension to the building for access and facilities and will develop an exciting public realm space linking from Main Street, through the Market House property and back to Market Square.

The THRIVE application deadline is May 3rd.

2. Projects Under Construction

2.1 South East Greenway

Phase 1 of the South East Greenway - New Ross to Glenmore was officially opened on the 25th of July 2023. Work on Phase 2, a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore commenced on site on 13 November 2023.

Fehily Timoney and Company were appointed the successful new technical advisors for the completion of the project and contracts were signed on 28/5/24. A kick off meeting was held on 11 June 2024.



Failte Ireland have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG. Failte Ireland gave a presentation on the Southeast Greenway Interpretation Plan - Public Consultation Findings and Analysis to the four MDs that the greenway runs through, in January 2024.



GLAS are progressing work on Lot 5A which is in the Phase 6- Construction.

2.2 Trinity Wharf

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glas Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works are now almost at substantial completion. Streetscape and surface finishes on Trinity Street and the future access road are complete, and the installation of street furniture is nearing completion.

Ayesa has been appointed for design services for the next phase of the project. The next main works contract is scheduled to commence on site in Q1/Q2 2025 and will involve site development and public infrastructure enabling works. This design work is progressing, and geotechnical site investigation (SI) works will soon be procured to enable a ground model to be developed for the marine and land structures. The SI works are expected to commence in Q3 2024.



2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park

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

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023. The Emigrant park was the winner of the LAMA best urban planning award 2024.



2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

The works contract for essential maintenance works at the Mechanics Institute has been awarded to Roger Doyle Contractors and works commenced on site in January 2023. The main contract work is substantially complete with the building due to be handed back on the 5th of July 2024.



2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford

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

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

The demolition contract was awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd, with an extension to the main works contract also agreed for the demolition of the former Dun Mhuire Theatre. All demo works onsite are now complete.

The procurement process for the provision of the temporary performance structure at the site was unsuccessful with costs greatly exceeding the available budget. We are now looking at alternative options.

A works tender to carry out surfacing works to the site, along with some landscaping, to make the site suitable for use as a public space, is underway and will be completed in advance of the Fleadh Cheoil.



2.6 Murphy Floods Redevelopment

WCC has recently acquired the former Murphy Floods Hotel site, and adjacent derelict properties, in Enniscorthy Town Centre. The Council now seeks to advance a proposal to redevelop this vacant plot, which has previously secured Part 8 consent in July 2022. O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers were appointed in May 2023 to undertake full stage design services for the demolition and site preparation elements of the scheme.

A tender competition to appoint a works contractor for the demolition works onsite has been completed and a works contract awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons. Phase 1 works will commence on site in August 2024.

3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

	Project	Date Delivered
1	Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1: Trails & Carpark	2021
2	Enniscorthy Technological Park, Phase 1	2021
3	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy Active Travel, Phase 1	2022
4	Gorey District Park	2022
5	Min Ryan Park	2022
6	Wexford Arts Centre Extension	2022
7	Monck Street Enhancement Scheme	2022
8	New Ross Fire Station	2022
9	High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross	2022
10	Emigrants Park, New Ross	2023



4. Flood Defence Schemes

4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Statutory Process

The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie. Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy. The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan, and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme. It was confirmed that the Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme will proceed on a phased basis.

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

This phase of the project will include the construction of the new River Slaney Bridge, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre.

The baseline data for this phase is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are complete. The planning application is to be submitted in Q2 2025.

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

This phase of the scheme will include the construction of the main flood relief measures for Enniscorthy town. The project baseline data is to be updated, scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. It will then be necessary to decide on the most appropriate planning route for the scheme. The hydrology and environmental baseline data is currently being updated; ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q2 2024.

4.2 Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The topographical surveys have been completed. Flow and monitoring equipment was installed in the Racecourse, a culvert within the curtilage of a house (with permission of the owner), the Irish National Heritage Park, at Casa Rio in the Horse River and a number of surface water sewers that flow into the Horse River.

A scoping document for the culvert surveys is currently under review by WCC.

The Consultant Engineer have issued a revised draft (following comments\observations by the Steering Group members) of the Hydrology Report to the Steering Group. At the June Steering Group meeting it was agreed to accept the May Project Programme as the baseline programme for the scheme.

The Coastal subconsultants were on site on June 11th to June 13th for a walkover along the coastline to gather information for hydraulic modelling.

A contractor has been appointed to carry out LIDAR surveys of coastal overtopping areas.



UKRAINIAN RESPONSE & INTEGRATION TEAM UPDATE

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	223	723
Irish Red Cross	39	124

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 25/06/24 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Letters of Intent have issued for 4 properties with 2 further properties undergoing the early stages of assessment. 3 properties have received their contracts.

Local Authority Integration Team

The team is continuing to host information clinics in accommodation centres throughout the county, with high levels of engagement. Many people are seeking support to access additional English language classes, find employment, and obtain information on changes to legislation regarding Ukrainians' rights and entitlements.

On the 14th May 2024, the Immigrant Council of Ireland delivered training on Voter rights to staff in Wexford County Council which was very informative and engaging.

This month, the LAIT were invited to join the monitoring teams for two secondary schools striving to achieve their School of Sanctuary status. Congratulations to Selskar College Wexford and Enniscorthy Community College for being awarded Champion Status in recognition of their commitment to inclusivity and welcome—a significant honor.



Following a tendering process, it is hoped that Wexford County Council will confirm a partner to develop the Migrant Integration Strategy for Wexford by the end of June.

The LAIT attended Africa Day 2024 hosted by WLD and Wexford County Council and enjoyed the celebration of African culture and cuisine.



The inaugural meeting of the International Refugee Protection Programme Interagency Working Group took place on May 28, 2024. The positions of Integration Resettlement Worker and Intercultural Support Worker are expected to be advertised in the coming weeks.

The submissions for funding under the Community Recognition Scheme have been accepted and are being assessed. There was great interest and a very high standard of applicants. We look forward to recognising communities that have so generously supported those seeking refuge from war and persecution.

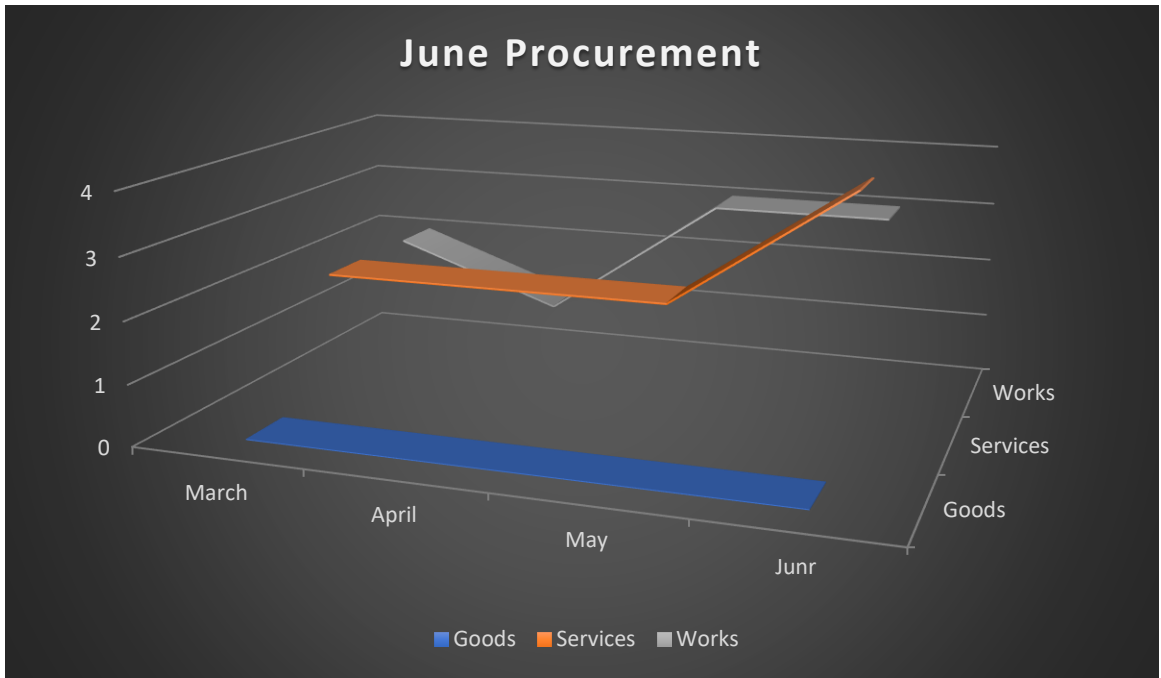
The team are working closely with New Ross Rugby Club & St. Johns Volunteers Wexford promoting integration through sport. New Ross Rugby Club will be hosting an inclusive family fun day on the 8th that celebrates everyone's love of the sport and invites children to try out the sport and learn some new skills. St John's Volunteers are running an evening for Mothers & Others inviting international protection applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection on 18th June. The LAIT is also working with creative communities on Crinniu Na Nog and the young residents of Slaney Manor will be participating in workshops in circus skills and land art.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES (FOI & Procurement fall under this heading)

FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	7
Customer Complaint	21
Ombudsman Complaint	2
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	1
Total	32

PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY



PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

Tenders from 1st June 2024 to 27th June 2024

No. of Tenders Uploaded

Type	
Goods	0
Services	4
Works	3
TOTAL	7
Total Estimated Value	€3,385,000.00

No. of Tenders Received

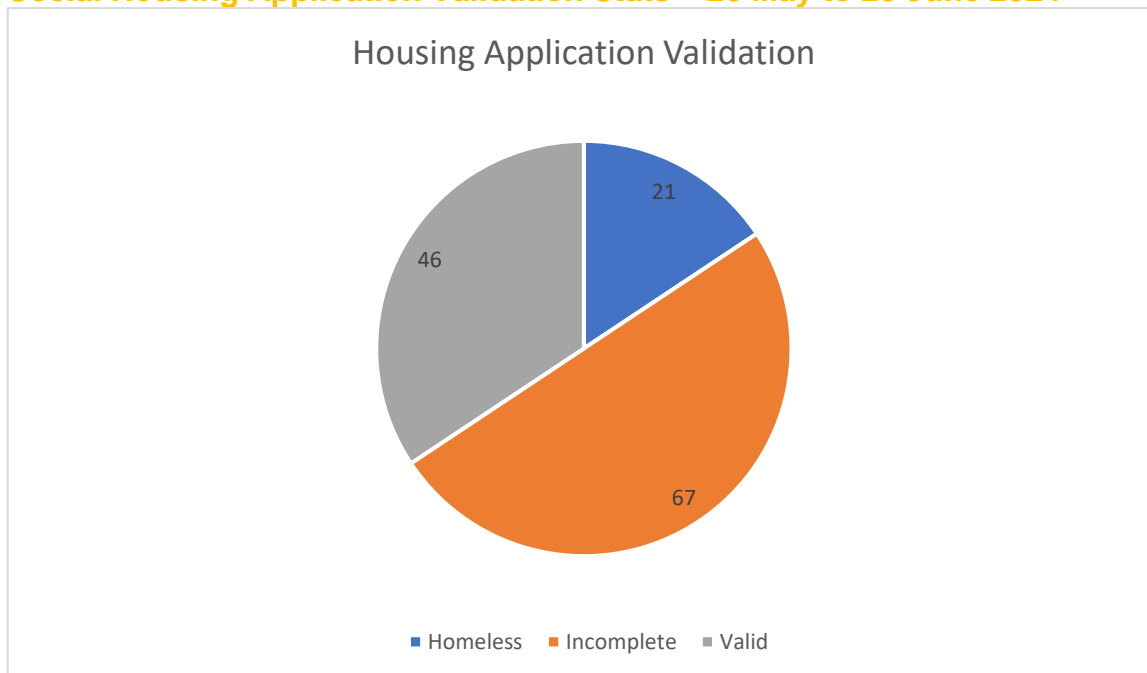
TOTAL	6
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CSU Stats

CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 28 May to 25 June 2024

Area	28 May to 25 June 2024
Phone Calls	3,794
Environmental Complaints	2695
Change of Circumstances	43
Housing Validation	134
Quick Calls	1,549
Roads Fault Log	68
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,698
Web Updates / Consultations	55
Newspaper Adverts	62

Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 28 May to 25 June 2024



Members Portal Queries by Section – 28 May to 25 June 2024

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Arts and Library	0	2	2
Community	0	1	1
Customer Service Unit	0	1	1
Enniscorthy Municipal District	0	2	2
Enterprise & Tourism	0	1	1
Environment	2	7	9
Housing	23	109	132
Planning	2	9	11
Roads	0	10	10
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	0	68	68
Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD	1	6	7
Roads – New Ross MD	1	0	1
Roads – Rosslare MD	0	1	1
Roads – Wexford MD	2	32	34
Water – Non Irish Water Queries	0	1	1
Wexford Municipal District	0	2	2
TOTAL	32	252	284

COMMUNICATIONS

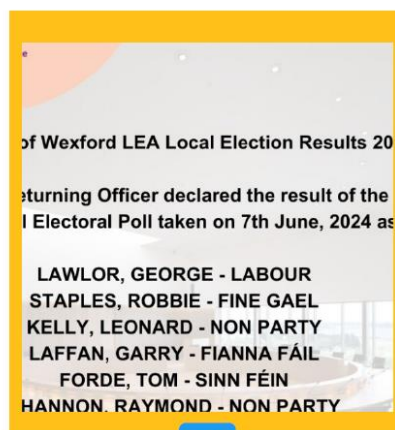
Top Performing Posts

Fringe Fleadh



44.2K views

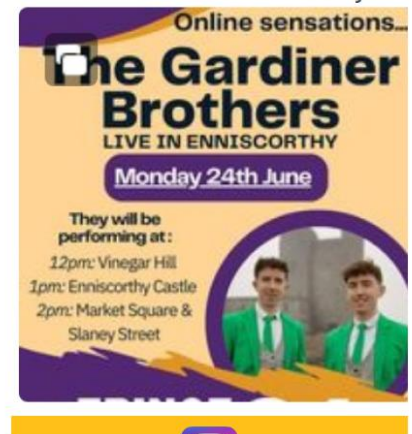
Local Elections



5.4K Impressions



Gardiner Bros in Enniscorthy



2.9K views

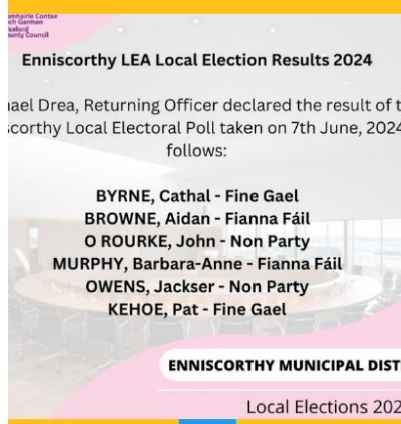
Top Performing Posts

New Parking App



20.3k views

Local Elections



5.1K impressions

Do Not Swim Notice _ St Helens



2.6k Views

Monthly Social Media Stats

	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	168.5K	142.9k	10260	1055	193
	4.7K	3.8k	3350	123	193
	IMPRESSIONS	PAGE FOLLOWERS	NEW FOLLOWERS		
	488K	14,623	254		

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

Monthly Social Media Content

- Successful Litter Fine Prosecutions
- Recruitment - various
- Newly Elected Cathaoirleach
- Press Statement - Swim Ban St Helen's
- Check the Register
- LA Resident's Competition
- Fringe Fleadh - various
- Expressions of Interest - Affordable Housing
- Refugee Week - various
- Resurfacing Works - Newtown Rd
- Crinniu na nÓg
- Age Friendly
- European Maritime & World Ocean Day
- Local Elections - Various
- Patron at Paupers Graveyard
-

Press Releases June 2024

06-Jun Wexford County Council and Wexford Local Development officially launch SICAP 2024-2028
10-Jun Do Not Swim Notice St. Helen's Beach
10-Jun Age Friendly Wexford and Wexford County Council hosted the Older People's Council AGM
10-Jun Wexford County Council Receives Major Investment for Creative Health and Wellbeing Projects
11-Jun European Maritime Day and World Ocean Day celebrated by Wexford County Council, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) and Local Community
11-Jun Extra Investment for Creativity and Gaming for Teenagers
14-Jun Do Not Swim Notice Lifted - St. Helen's Beach
14-Jun New Ross Family Fun Day Kicks Off Summer at Pearse Park
21-Jun Cllr. Pip Breen elected Cathaoirleach as new Council takes office
21-Jun New Ross Municipal District host launch of new Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) publication.
21-Jun Winners Announced for Refugee Week 2024 Photography Competition
26-Jun Wexford's Biodiversity promoted through Art

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

Press Queries June 2024

7 Press Queries received in June.

Queries:

Plans for Outdoor Dining Area for Thomas Moore Tavern
Eligibility to stand as candidate in Local Elections
Councillor Gratuity
Councillor Expenses
Deposit Return scheme
Emergency Homeless Accommodation
Campervan Park, Kilmore Quay

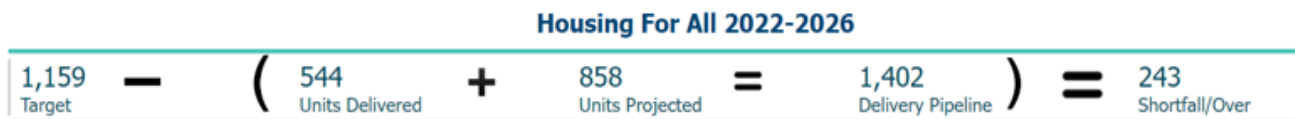


5 responses issued.

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 most recent Expression of Interest closed on 20th June 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

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

Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	2 x 2-bed	Q1 2025	Part V	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2025	Part V	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	2 x 3-bed	Q3 2024	Part V	2
			Total Part V	24
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q2 2026	AHB	86
Ramstown, Gorey Phase 3	21 x 2-bed 9 x 3 bed	Q3 2024	AHB	30
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 X 1-bed apts	Q3 2024	AHB	6
Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey	2 X 1 bed apt 4 X 2 bed apt 17 X 3 bed	Q1 2025	AHB	23
			Total AHB	145
Total				280

Rosslare Municipal District

Project address	Unit Type	Estimated Delivery	Delivery Stream	Total Units
Carrig-on-Bannow	5 X 1 bed 5 X 2 bed	Q3 2025 Q1 2026	TKY	10
Forth View, Murrintown	9 X 2-bed 14 X 3-bed	Q3 2024	AHB	23
Total				33

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project address	Unit Type	Estimated Delivery	Delivery Stream	Total Units
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8 x 1-bed	Q3 2024	TKY	8
Castlelands, Ferns, Enniscorthy	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Q3 2024	TKY	20
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 X 2-bed	Q3 2024	TKY	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 X 2-bed 9 X 3-bed 2 X 4-bed	Q2 2025	TKY	14

Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	11 X 3 bed 1 X 4 bed	Q2 2025	TKY	12
			Total TKY	59
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	6 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q2 2025	Part V	6
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8 x 1-bed apt	Q3 2024	Part V	8
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 X 3-bed	Q3 2024	Part V	5
			Total Part V	19
Pairc na Bearna, Enniscorthy	5 X 3bed	Delivered Q2 2024	AHB	5
Total				83

New Ross Municipal District

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

Borough District of Wexford

<i>Project address</i>	<i>Unit Type</i>	<i>Estimated Delivery</i>	<i>Delivery Stream</i>	<i>Total Units</i>
<i>Coolballow, Wexford</i>	4 X 2 bed 4 X 2 bed 4 X 2 bed 8 X 2 bed	Q1 2025 Q2 2025 Q3 2025 Q4 2025	TKY	20
			Total TKY	20
<i>Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd</i>	2 x 3-bed	Q3 2024	Part V	2
<i>Ard Uisce, Wexford</i>	10 X 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q4 2025	Part V	10
			Total Part V	12
<i>Beechfield, Clonard</i>	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q3 2025	AHB	50
<i>Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)</i>	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Q3 2024	AHB	24

Wexford Womens Refuge Maudlintown, Wexford	12 x 1-bed	Q4 2024	AHB	12
Whiterock Hill, Wexford	6 X 2 bed 34 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	AHB	40
			Total AHB	126
Total:				158

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 444 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	76
Gorey	149
New Ross	72
Rosslare	77
Wexford	70
Total	444

Housing Maintenance

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

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

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

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

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

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

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

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

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

Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

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

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

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

There were 764 calls to the HSSU up to 25 th June the following is the breakdown of same:-	
700 (91.5%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
31 (4%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
26 (3.5%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
7 (1%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

Local Authority Residents Competition

Housing is running the annual Local Authority Residents Competition. There are many volunteers and residents within our Local Authority Estates who work tirelessly to make their home and estates a place to be proud of. This competition strives to recognise this hard work, build on community spirit, and support biodiversity.

There are a number of categories available for entry, including best Local Authority Estate and best Biodiversity Initiative. In support of the overall competition and to include our younger residents, a children's art competition is being run. The theme is 'My Garden' with entry categories of preschool, under 9 and under 12. Entries will be displayed at our Residents Awards Event in October in the Riverside Park Hotel, a prize giving for the art competition will follow a children's event.

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENT'S CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

THEME: MY GARDEN

Age Range Includes:

- Preschool
- Under 8 years old
- Under 12 years

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST 2024.
WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A SPECIAL CHILDRENS EVENT AT OUR RESIDENTS DAY ON 30TH OCTOBER IN THE RIVERSIDE PARK HOTEL.

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council

Wexford County Council is delighted to launch our 2024:

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTS Competition

Prizes include:

- Best biodiversity initiative
- Best planter eg basket/pot/box
- Best garden
- Best Local authority estate – prizes for each district & an overall winner
- Judges' wildcard picks

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL HOUSING LIAISON OFFICER OR LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRES IS WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST 2024.
WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRIZE GIVING EVENT IN OCTOBER.

Affordable Housing Programme



BREAKFAST BRIEFING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY - 09th May 2024

Affordability and the chance to own a home are being placed at the heart of national and local housing policy. A number of delivery and support streams to assist the delivery of Affordable Housing have been introduced under the 'Housing for All' Programme'.

To support the delivery of the programme, Wexford County Council has organised a 'A Breakfast Briefing on Affordable Housing Delivery', May 09th Ferrycarrig Hotel, with professionals from across the housing sector. Invited speakers will present an overview of the schemes and funding opportunities to deliver Affordable Homes in County Wexford.



ONLINE SURVEY TO ASSESS LEVEL OF INTEREST IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

An Online survey of interest in affordable housing closed on **10th April**.

Over 440 submissions were received during the 8-week period from across all five Municipal districts – an analysis of this information is currently underway which will assist with developing plans for Affordable Housing Options across county Wexford.



For all queries, please contact affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie

Choice Based Letting

68 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2024 to **28/06/24**.

As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 122 properties were available for allocation.

Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table:-

Municipal District	Number of Properties Advertised	Properties Available for Allocation	Number of Views	Number of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	14	17	4747	841
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	15	34	6082	1667
New Ross	12	12	3116	518
Rosslare	14	36	5420	1148
Wexford	13	23	6049	1485
TOTAL	68	122	25414	5659

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LEADER

2014 – 2022 LEADER Project Claims

From the 27/05/2024 – 21/06/2024 the Article 48 team processed 2 claims under the 2014 – 2022 LEADER Programme.

The value of these claims was **€131,767.33** which will support 1 enterprise and 1 community group throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:



Payment Processed:

All Blacks AFC Community Walking Track	€31,921.87
Jackford Gin	€99,845.46

SICAP – SOCIAL INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

On the 31st May, Wexford Co. Council and Wexford Local Development held an event hosted in Templeshannon Community Centre to mark the official launch of the SICAP 2024-2028 programme. SICAP is delivered at a local level by Wexford Local Development with management and oversight from Wexford County Council. SICAP is a National Programme, and it is the governments primary social inclusion intervention.



SICAP supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on low income, International Protection Applicants, Refugees, members of the Traveller and Roma communities and other disadvantaged groups. The target groups of the programme are predefined nationally.

Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) have chosen 3 “Local Priority Target Groups” for a specific focus for the duration of this new programme which are:

- People living in disadvantaged communities.
- People impacted by educational disadvantage.
- Travellers



SICAP has been active in County Wexford for a number of years, and this is the third iteration of the programme. Speaking at the launch of the programme, Cllr. Aidan Browne, Chair of Wexford LCDC said, “Wexford County Council and the LCDC are committed to supporting our partners in delivering on agreed objectives, and I look forward to the continued collaboration between Wexford LCDC and Wexford Local Development, in delivering this key inclusion programme across County Wexford.”

PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2024

Pride of Place is an all-island competition that recognises improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is about people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. The Rocks Community Area and Fethard-on-Sea Community Development Association have been selected for the competition for County Wexford this year.

Judging will take place in July with the national awards held in Monaghan in November.

FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer numbers overall are strong, with over 900 on board on the 21st June. The focus is now on completing training and distribution of appropriate equipment.



Two rounds of in-person volunteer onboarding training have taken place to date, with over 600 volunteers now trained. During July, the specific role-based training will commence. This will be delivered online to all involved. Failte Ireland will deliver specific training for Street Ambassadors and Team Leaders on the 16th July. Work in all areas is ramping up with great support from members of the public in their roles as Fleadh Cheoil 2024 Volunteers.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND (CRF)

Community Recognition Fund 2023

The 2023 Community Recognition Fund (CRF) delivery closes in October 2024. The total fund value is €1,509,869, allocated to fund 27 projects across 5 Municipal/Borough districts. €692,359.97 (46%) of total CRF fund distributed to date.

Progress to date	
Works complete (16 projects)	59%
Works in progress (6 projects)	22%
To be started (5 projects)	19%

The following milestones have been achieved this period:

- Wexford Co Council - Bellefield Enniscorthy Phase 2 complete (funded by CRF23)
- Launch of Sensory Garden, Pearse Park, New Ross Municipal District (21/05/24)
- Launch of new facilities at Gorey Family Resource Centre (23/05/24)



Sensory Garden (Pearse Park), New Ross
Gorey FRC, Gorey



Community Recognition Fund 2024

The following milestones have been achieved this period:

WCC evaluated 89 no. applications and proposed projects across 5 municipal/borough districts to the Department of Rural and Community Development (31/05/24). Estimated six week turn-around for approval by Department.

Announcements of the successful/unsuccessful applications will not be made until the Department's final approval, as they may make a request for further information or query the validity of an application under their criteria.

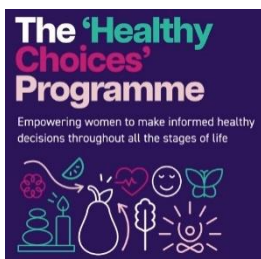
HEALTHY WEXFORD

Healthy Ireland Fund Round Four

Work continues on the funded activity including the following current activity:



Enniscorthy & Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal Districts continue to progress their **Playful Spaces Projects** with Enniscorthy MD focusing on musical equipment at and Gorey Kilmuckridge MD focusing on Play Tables. Both projects are expected to be delivered later this year.



Ongoing progression of the **Womens Health Through the Ages** programme continues, with finalisation of materials to be completed in June and new programme planning for Autumn. The project is now titled 'The Healthy Choices Programme' Empowering women to make informed healthy decisions throughout all stages of life.

Resilience Training for Community Volunteers was held again in June. This training provides individuals with a toolbox of evidence-based approaches designed to enhance their emotional resilience and manage stress more effectively. These tools help individuals improve their self-awareness, enhance their emotional literacy, empathy skills and improve peer relations. Further training will be offering in Q3.



New Ross Community Activity Hub – Access for All activity continues and the family fun day is planned for the 30th June. This event includes a range of family fun and physical activity opportunities through sports, dance, and games. The Activity Hub Coordinator is currently planning the schedule of activities for the latter part of the year, with the aim of the Healthy Ireland funding to support disadvantaged families and communities to engage with physical activity opportunities in New Ross.

Social Farming funded placements, supporting people with disabilities to increase their physical activity, continue with four placements completing in June and another four ongoing, having started in May. Four further placements are scheduled to commence in July.

Other Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

Sourced for use at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Healthy Wexford has been working with the Municipal Districts to have SunSmart Sunscreen Dispensers at key events across the county.



Events in June included Festival of Ferns, Street Rythems Festival, Enniscorthy MD Fleadh Frigne, Jazz at Johnstown and the Family Fund Day in Pearse Park New Ross.

Following updating off locations Healthy Wexford collated a new **Period Dignity** Flyer, highlighting free period product locations across the county.

The information was collated in collaboration with the Family Resource Centres, Wexford Public Libraries, Wexford County Council and HSE Social Inclusion. Flyers will be distributed across the county to increase awareness of locations. An online version of the flyer will also be adapted for use on social media. The Period Dignity project is supported by Department of Health.



Our Healthy County Coordinator attended Wexford PPN Plenary meeting in Enniscorthy on the 20th June, sharing information of Healthy Wexford and other initiatives available for all to work towards a Healthy Wexford.

WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP)

Taghmon Healthy Food Made Easy

The culmination of a Community Food Initiative where people have a 'hands on' learning experience in cooking a range of practical and nutritious meals while gaining knowledge on ingredients, food storage and waste and budgeting took place in Taghmon on Friday 14th June.



Sláintecare.
Healthy Communities

The HSE designed cookery programme received additional funding and support from the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme which through Taghmon Family Resource Centre (FRC) gave the participants the ingredients required every week as well as the utensils required for them. The support of the FRC was invaluable in supporting the participants during the course. The participants as well as gaining valuable cooking skills formed great friendships which are continuing well past the last class. On the 14th July, the participants put on a special dinner for staff from the FRC, FDYS and the Council who supported them on their journey. They now plan to release a cookbook!



AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD

Age Friendly Wexford and Wexford County Council hosted the Older People's Council AGM on the 5th June, 2024. The meeting was an opportunity for attendees to raise issues of importance and help to influence decisions and actions to be taken in the year ahead.



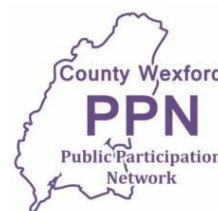
Guest speakers on the day were Cllr Ger Carthy Leas Cathaoirleach and Amanda Byrne Director of Services Wexford County Council. There were presentations from Laura Reidy, Health Insurance Authority of Ireland an Impartial body on Health Insurance and Nutritionist Sarah Siggins from FDYS. This initiative is supported by Wexford County Council.

A number of the attendees expressed an interest in joining the Older Person Council. Training was held on the 19th June, 2024, Alice Corbett, Regional Age Friendly Manager provided details of duties of the Older Persons Council. There will a meeting of the new Older Persons Executive in July where the new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected.



PPN – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Wexford PPN Secretariat and Municipal Districts Representatives attended the launch of the SICAP programme in Templeshannon Community Centre, Enniscorthy on Friday the 31st May. We also attended the Older Persons Council AGM in the Presentations Arts Centre, Enniscorthy hosted by Age Friendly Co-Ordinator Niamh Bolger. Wexford PPN are working closely with the Enniscorthy Inter Agency Committee to support community groups and resident associations in Enniscorthy.



Summer Plenary

On Thursday 20th June the PPN Summer Plenary was held in the Reach Ability / Astro Active Centre in Enniscorthy which was well attended. The theme for this Plenary was Climate Action and Communities Caring for Water from our Wexford PPN Climatic Action Thematic Group

Guest speakers included;

- Dr Yvonne Byrne, Mentor for County Wexford and Waterford under the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community Programme, explaining access to grants available.
- Anne O'Reilly Spokesperson for Wexford Sustainable Energy Committee on the 100% funded housing project in Maudlintown, Wexford Town.
- Clinton Donovan Community Climate Action Officer – Wexford County Council Climate Action Team update, introduction to the GIS mapping facilities.
- Paul Dubsky Climate Action Week Facilitator 2024. His experience with Side Ons to prevent flooding and addressing pollution of streams, rivers and bathing water @ Ballymoney.
- Claire Goodwin – Newly appointed Biodiversity Officer with Wexford County Council Discussing her new role and the new systems available to combat ground water flooding like Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

A proposed new project with Wexford PPN is mapping all watercourses, invasive species and biodiversity areas in Wexford County through a survey of Member Groups to produce a new map as a resource for all member groups, Bunclody Tidy Towns Map was shown as an example.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Step and Tone

A 5-week step and tone program started in Min Ryan Park. 7 women attended.

Zumba

Zumba at St Mary's Youth Centre, New Ross ran for its entire 6 weeks with a total participation of 61 women taking part.

Adventure Hour

An afterschool 5 week programme run to introduce games to children aged 8-10 years to play over their summer holidays. St Mary's Youth Centre New Ross. 50 Children to date.



- FAI Soccer, Mini League & Skills and Drills
- 6 week soccer continued at Woodbine Close MUGA
- 6-9 years, skills and drills
- 10-12 years mini league
- To date there have been
- 13 Girls and 12 Boys

Orienteering for primary schools

160 students from 3 of the local primary schools took part in Orienteering at Pearse Park on the 12th June. This followed training being offered to some of the local primary schools.

Playground Leaders

Playground Leaders school programme was delivered to Castletown Primary School 10 boys and 10 girls.

Balance Bikes

Balance Bikes were delivered to two schools during June: Rathnure NS and Rathgarogue NS. Training was delivered to the students and teachers and bikes left for 2 weeks. 76 students participated in junior and senior infants. 40 boys and 36 girls.

Nature Walker Presentation

A presentation on the Nature Walker App in Wexford Town Library was delivered on the 20th June. 11 adults attended 2 males and 9 females.

Healthy Woodlands

St. Aidan's Day Services and KITE Services Gorey completed their 6-week healthy woodland programme in Courtown Woods on the 11th of July. 13 adults with disabilities registered 8 female 5 males.

4-week GAA integration in Bunclody

A 4-week GAA integration program has begun with Empowering Communities (Wexford Local Development) in Carrig Ban Housing Estate in Bunclody. The goal is to integrate young people into their local GAA club. 14 boys and 6 girls participated on the green.

Social Soccer

A social soccer integration blitz occurred on Thursday 20th June to celebrate World Refugee Day. Teams from all direct provision centres in Wexford, Wexford Community Guards, Wexford Local Development & Wexford County Council played. 34 participated; 28 males and 7 females

Safeguarding

- 11 x Safeguarding 1 courses have been completed in 2024 with a total of 142 participants.

- 3 x Safeguarding 2 courses have been completed in 2024 with a total of 35 participants.
- 1 x Safeguarding 3 course has been completed in 2024 with a total of 13 participants.

Cycling Training

Two Staff members and a Summer Student undertook cycling training in a bid to expand their own skills when working with our groups and to increase our options to work with groups.

Wexford County Council Podcast

On Tuesday 4th June, as part of the Wexford County Council podcast, 2 staff members recorded a podcast speaking about the role of Sports Active Wexford and the populations we work with.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Beaches –

An Taisce announced the blue flag and green coast awards at the national ceremony in Salthill, Galway on 20th May 2024.

- Blue Flag Beaches: Morriscastle, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare, Carne
- Green Coast Beaches: Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton’s Gap, Rosslare Harbour St Helen’s, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, Booley Bay.

The beach access at Grange beach is temporarily closed due to the risk of material falling from the cliff on to the access. The green flag cannot be flown at this beach while the access is closed. We are in the process of awarding a contract to remedy this issue.

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works – works complete. Universal Access Toilet, Beach wheelchair and improved beach access was officially opened on 31st May 2024.

Cullenstown the “No Swimming” notice has been lifted. The water safety signage was moved.

Coast -

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

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O’Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being agreed. The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

Site investigations contract to determine ground conditions for the flood scheme on the Burrow Road, Rosslare will be awarded shortly with works commencing summer 2024.

An informal information and data gathering session was held on Tuesday 21st May with residents of Burrow Road in relation to the proposed coastal flooding works.

Seaview, Kilmore: Planning permission was granted on 8th April 2024. Funding application was submitted to the OPW. The works will go to public tender in June 2024.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. The Minister of HLGH has now signed the foreshore consent and it is with the Chief State Solicitors office to finalise.

Kilmannock Drainage Scheme – this is a land reclamation and drainage scheme dating from mid 1800s, draining approx. 1,000 acres of land near the Great Island Power Station. Further maintenance works will be carried out in 2024.

B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Public Conveniences	Open	Comments
Slade	All Year	
Dunncannon	All Year	
Cullenstown	All Year	Painted June 2023
Kilmore	All Year	
Carne	All Year	Painted June 2023
Bunclody	All Year	
Rosslare Strand	All Year	
Ballyconniger	Seasonal	
Ballineskeer	All Year	New Beach Wheelchair shed now installed.
Curraclloe	All Year	New Adman steel shed installed for beach wheelchair
Min Ryan Park	All Year	Recently Painted – June 2023
Vinegar Hill - Dryloo	All Year	
Carrigfoyle	All Year	Anti-Vandal Container delivered 18 th October 2022
Morriscastle	All Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	Universal Access Toilet (UAT) to open Monday 23 rd July, External shower installed. Beach Wheelchair Shed installed 08th February 2024.
Baginbun – Portaloo's	All Year	Percolation Test carried out 29 th June 2023
Cahore – Portaloo's /Dryloo's	All Year	Portaloo's now re-located beside bottle bank. Dryloo's installed 01 st December 2023. Opening Date 15th March 2024
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

Cahore to receive 3 Dryloo's similar to what was installed in Vinegar Hill last year. Dryloo's now delivered to site on 19th October 2023, retaining walls works to commence Monday 13th November, followed by assembly of the Dryloo's 01st December, concrete footpaths 16th February 2024. These are to replace the temporary portaloo's. External Shower to be installed.

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

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

2. Water Sampling:

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

3. Septic Tank Inspections:

123 inspections under the National Inspection Plan were carried out in 2023. Wexford had a minimum of 130 inspections to carry out in 2023, which resulted in a shortfall of 7. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. Of the 123 inspections carried out in Wexford, 54 were passes and 69 fails. Due to time constraints, the remaining 7 inspections will be carried out in 2024. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2024 plus the 7 carried from 2023. 39 inspections have been booked in for June and July 2024.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 75 files were closed during 2023. 39 extensions of time were granted in 2023. There are currently 47 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 33 open for 2023, a total of 80 open cases at the end of May 2024.

Eleven applications for grants have been received in 2024, ten of which have been paid and one returned to sender for more documentation.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2024
2017	154	62	92	5	0
2018	150	51	99	4	0
2019	156	48	108	5	5
2020	111	38	73	6	0
2021	91	24	67	16	1
2022	139	50	89	11	2
2023	123	54	69	33	11

There are currently 6 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 1 of these are for mention and 5 for hearing.

25 verification inspections were carried out in April 2023 on sites which have Advisory Notices open over 2 years. In total 72 verification inspections were carried out in 2023.

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 5 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 4 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange. 2018 has 4 open files with good progress on 2 of these, 2 are in court. A public sewer for Ramsgrange has been approved with a connection to Duncannon. 2017-2023 figures can be seen in the Table above.

The Minister announced the following changes to the Domestic Wastewater Treatment System grant scheme on Saturday 11th November 2023, following a recently completed review of the grants:

- an increase in the maximum grant available to €12,000, up from €5,000; (Up to 85% of cost of work up to max. of €12,000) and
- removal of the requirement to register the system before prescribed date of 1st February 2013 in order to be eligible for a grant. The applicant does not have to register before applying for the grant. All work **must** be completed, and a completion certificate issued to the homeowner before the grant is paid.

These changes will apply to the following 3 DWWTS grants:

- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) (under the National Inspection Plan)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) (for Prioritised Areas for Action)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) (in High Status Objective Catchment Areas)

The Department has finalised the new regulations. Details of the Regulations have been published on Wexford County Council website and Ian Plunkett attended all District meetings to update the Councillors on new grant scheme.

The new regulations and grant will be effective from 1 January 2024. Where a grant process has commenced under the previous scheme, but has not been concluded, the Department has no objection to it being concluded under the new scheme, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

The Eligibility criteria to qualify for the grant has not changed, the house served by the Domestic Waste Water Treatment system must, in the opinion of the local authority:

- a) be occupied by the applicant as their primary place of residence (e.g. not a holiday home),
- b) not be connected to a public sewerage scheme,
- c) not be currently under construction or constructed within the last 7 years,
- d) not have been paid a grant for the DWWTS within the last 7 years, and
- e) have all works completed satisfactorily in accordance with the Advisory Notice.

Any grant process that has commenced under the previous scheme, but has not been concluded, homeowners may be eligible to have their grant concluded under the new scheme, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 91 active Discharge Licences, two licences have been granted in 2024 to date and seven are under review.

5. 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 compliances are observed and cross reported to DAFM.

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

D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. New Recycling

Re-turn Scheme. Irelands new deposit return scheme. In February 2024 a new deposit return scheme will operate throughout Ireland. When you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that feature the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full. The deposit will typically be 15c to 20c. For more information, please see www.MyWaste.ie

2. Food Waste

From 1 January 2024 every household in Ireland, regardless of location, will be entitled to a brown bin collection service. No matter how remote your home is, you can organise your brown bin collection service through your current waste collector. Visit mywaste.ie to learn more. Food waste inspections without notification are currently being carried out with householders and commercial businesses.

3. Landfills:

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

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

4. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites May 2024	Recycling out (End May) 2023 (t)	Recycling out (End May) 2024 (t)
Glass bottles		1522	1538
Aluminium Cans		28	33
Total	108	1550	1571

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-May 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-May 2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- May2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- May 2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- May 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- May 2024(t)
Total Recycling out	252	266	270	289	331	368	203	220
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1266	1479	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Jan-may	70	71	115	116	136	147	80	79

Due to net operating costs increases, an entry charge of €2 was introduced to all household recycling centres on 13th June 2017.

5. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	To end May 2023	May 2024	To end May 2024	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	1,033	223	1,213	+17.4%
Gorey *		49		
Enniscorthy *		61		
Wexford *		56		
New Ross*		36		

<i>Rosslare</i>		21		
Total Bring Site Inspections	4,417	803	3,871	-12%
<i>Gorey</i>		206		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		188		
<i>Wexford</i>		187		
<i>New Ross</i>		170		
<i>Rosslare</i>		52		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	7,030	1,644	7,883	+12.1%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	553		
<i>Enniscorthy</i> *				
<i>Wexford</i> *	<i>South</i>	1,091		
<i>New Ross</i> *				
Other Works	2,709	804	3,535	+30.4%
<i>Gorey</i>		150		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		278		
<i>Wexford</i>		225		
<i>New Ross</i>		116		
<i>Rosslare</i>		35		

Other Works done by Holmestown photo record are as follows.

- 1- Beach and lifeguard work
- 2- Black spot checks across county
- 3- Town inspections every morning
- 4- Trails maintenance
- 5- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep
- 6- Community Clean up across county

6. Enforcement:

RMCEI 2024: The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan was submitted to the EPA on 15 March 2024. The plan aims to undertake 6,921 routine inspections this year by 21 full time equivalent staff members to cover waste, water, air & noise. The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three-year target and they are.

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

1 LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2023	TOTAL FOR MAY-2024
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	212	80
Fines Paid in Full●	64	45
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	56	19
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	28	16
Legal Proceedings in Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	41	36
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€13,023	Litter €6,711.00, waste €500.00. Total €7,211.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€6,210.00	€2,955.00

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

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

March 2024

Due to availability of witnesses in March, one case proceeded for hearing under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws. The case was successful, a fine of €75 and costs of €200 awarded.

April 2024

Four cases were here in April 2024 between Wexford and Gorey District Courts. Three successful litter cases where fines of €1000.00 euro in total were awarded and costs of €750.00. One successful WPBL case was heard, and the Council were awarded €100.00 for costs.

May 2024

One case under the Litter Pollution Act in Gorey District Court, a fine of €250.00 was awarded along with €250.00 in costs to Wexford County Council.

Wexford Co. Council – National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys 2004-2020 Percentage of County Littered (Litter Pollution Surveys)

Year	Litter free	Slightly Littered	Moderately Littered	Seriously Littered	Grossly Littered
2022	24.2%	63.4%	11.3%	1.1%	0%
2021	6.9%	74.1%	15.5%	3.4%	0%
2020	9.4%	68.8%	18.8%	3.4%	0%
2019	9.8%	67.9%	18.8%	1.5%	0%
2018	10%	70.5%	17.7%	17.7%	0%
2017	18.3%	67%	14.7%	0%	0%
2016	12.10%	65.9%	21.9%	0.4%	0%
2015	10.60%	65.90%	18.43%	5.07%	0%
2014	37.40%	50.41%	12.30%	0%	0%
2013	51.92%	39.43%	7.69%	0.96%	0%
2012	26.79%	60.71%	12.50%	0%	0%
2011	7.5%	82.5%	10%	0%	0%
2010	13.2%	53.9%	28.9%	3.9%	0%

2009	0%	75.3%	21.0%	3.7%	0%
2008	9.4%	55.2%	26%	9.4%	0%
2007	5.4%	60.9%	17.4%	16%	0%
2006	0%	53%	23%	20%	3%
2004	0%	23%	56%	21%	0%

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2019	2,925		741	
2020	3,187	Up 9%	628	Down 15%
2021	2,721	Down 15%	1,331	Up 112%
2022	2,188	Down 20%	1,023	Down 23%
2023	2,461	Up 11%	1054	Up 3%
Jan – May 2024	1193		518	

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

Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2024(May)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2024	80	16	1096
2023	212	28	2284
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

E. CLIMATE ACTION

Wexford County Council held its first Climate Action Week from May 13th – May 19th, 2024. The week was about raising awareness on Climate and Sustainable actions to showcase various projects and initiatives that are underway across Co. Wexford.

The week served as a platform to inspire action and drive positive change at local level. The week kicked off on Monday 13th May with an OPW staff Energy Awareness event held in co hall. Staff were invited to engage with an energy consultant on energy efficiency measures and to discuss their individual energy queries.

On Tuesday, 14th May, the Enniscorthy Community Allotments invited the public to take a tour of the allotments and learn about the climate and environmental benefits of community allotments including reducing food waste and using locally sourced produce thereby reducing carbon emissions.

This was later followed by a Community & Home Energy Clinic held in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. The event hosted by Wexford County Council Climate Action Team was aimed at homeowners and community groups and provided them with an opportunity to access expert advice on energy savings, retrofit upgrades and various SEAI grants with energy advisors from the South East Energy Agency. Sustainable Enniscorthy, a voluntary community group, launched their Energy Master Plan at the event.

Information was also available from various contractors specialising in solar panels, insulation, heat pumps and boiler maintenance, as well as green finance options available through Enniscorthy Credit Union. Contractors and consultants in attendance at the event included Custom Solar PV, Encon, Heat Doc Ltd, Doyle Boiler Servicing and KRA Renewables.

The clinic also served as an awareness opportunity to promote the four local link bus services serving the town of Enniscorthy. Local Link sponsored free TFI Leap cards which were provided to those who booked an energy appointment.

On Wednesday 15th May, Climate Action Week took on a rural theme. A Future Farm Signpost Farm Walk, hosted in partnership with Teagasc and Tirlán, took place on the dairy farm of Shay Ryan, Cushinstown. The visit showcased some of the measures the agriculture sector is taking relating to climate action, water quality and biodiversity. Experts in the area of solar energy, environment schemes and funding, and forestry were all on hand as were representatives from the National Biodiversity Data Centre. There were information stands on solar energy (FarmGen), the farm accident support network (Embrace) and ASSAP advisors (Tirlán) at the event.

Wexford County Council's Climate Action Team sponsored a free bus to this event and provided refreshments at the farm. Approximately 60 people attended the event which was a mix of farmers, members of the public and members of voluntary/community groups.

A number of events were held in the libraries across the county under the theme of sustainability and climate action to bring about awareness to all age groups.

The public were given the opportunity to visit a newly built Nearly Zero Energy Building (nZEB) in Wexford on Thursday 16th May. An nZEB building has a very high energy performance, while the nearly zero or very low amount of energy required is covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources produced either on-site or nearby. 100% of Wexford County Council's new build housing is delivered to nZEB standard since 2018.

On Thursday evening, May 16th, Rosslare Development Association, supported by Wexford County Council, hosted a drop-in Energy Clinic in Rosslare Strand for homeowners and community groups. Advice was provided on energy savings, retrofit upgrades, and accessing funding with an SEAI advisor on hand to explain the grants and supports available. Advice was also available from various contractors specialising in solar panels, insulation, heat pumps and general retrofit measures.

A “Reduce Your Food Waste” Event was held in Bunclody on Friday 17th May. Wasted food, which ends up in landfill produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas which can have significant impacts on the environment. Recycling food waste diverts this important resource from landfill and allows it to be transformed into renewable energy and fertilisers for horticulture and agriculture use in Ireland. The Council’s Environmental Awareness Officer provided practical advice along with hints and tips. Approximately 50 food waste caddies & liners and an information leaflet were made available to all attendees free of charge.

The Ballymoney Community Group hosted a farm and beach visit on Friday afternoon. Participants were able to view water and nutrient/silt retention measures constructed during the Ballymoney EIP project. People also got to see collapsing riverbanks and view solutions from hard engineering gabions to more nature-based solutions such as willow planting. A number of Fringe events were also held outside Climate Action Week.

Wexford County Council would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of Climate Action Week.

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme funding scheme closed on the 6th March 2024. It is expected that the second round of this fund will open in early 2025. The external assessment panel met on 21st March and the recommended projects were forwarded to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for appraisal. It is expected that DECC will confirm the approved projects in July 2024. Further details on the programme are available [here](#)

F. GENERAL

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

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – Dec 2023	Jan -May 2024
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	4235	2035
Closed	4733	4963	5066	3544	3643	1445
Closure Rate	99%	99%	99%	91%	86%	71%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

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

Control of dogs	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023	Jan – May 2024
Dogs collected	429	546	575	259
Dogs reclaimed	133	117	128	56
Dogs rehomed/transferred	267	370	404	211
Dogs put to sleep	29	51	38	14
Dog Fines	18	21	14	4

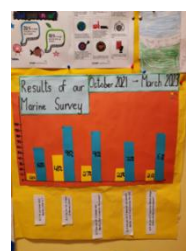
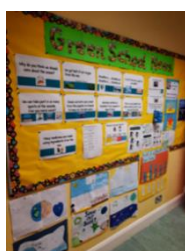
There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

In 2023 six horses were rehomed and four goats. One horse was reclaimed and one euthanised.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: 30 schools were awarded their green flag at an awards ceremony in Kilkenny by An Taisce on Tuesday 14th May. 3 schools received their first green flag-Gorey Educate Together Secondary School, Tombrack National School and St Patricks School, Enniscorthy. 27 schools received their renewal green flag on themes covering: Water; Travel; Biodiversity; Global Citizenship Litter & Waste; Global Citizenship Energy; Global Citizenship Marine Environment and Global Citizenship Food & Biodiversity. Communication to schools working on year 1 or who deferred their renewal this year is ongoing.



School Workshops: Workshops for both primary and secondary schools covering topics on climate action, fast fashion, biodiversity, and waste management.

Rubbish Film Festival: 6 secondary schools participated in Rubbish Film Festival workshops. All participating schools were invited to the County finals which took place online on the 26th April. Gorey Community College won Best Film for their film entitled 'In the Eyes of Innocence' and Selskar College won Best Runner Up Film and Best Poster for their short film 'The Act'. Best Film and Best Poster went forward to the national final on May 3rd.

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

Leave No Trace Workshops: 10 primary schools participated in Leave No Trace Workshops. The aim of the programme is to introduce primary school learners to the principles of Leave No Trace and provide opportunities to explore and build awareness of their own behaviour in the outdoors in an interactive, fun and educational manner. This school programme consists of two half day workshops.

Workshop 1 will introduce the principles of Leave No Trace and present the class with a project to prepare in advance of Workshop 2. The second workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to present their project and further develop and reinforce an understanding of the principles of Leave No Trace.

Composting in Schools Programme: 9 secondary schools are participating in the Composting for schools Programme. The schools participating are Bunclody Vocational School: CBS Secondary School New Ross: Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy: Colaiste Eamonn Ris (Wexford CBS): Gorey Community School: Meanscoil Gharman, Enniscorthy: Ramsgrange Community School: St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross: Selskar College, Wexford. The programme gives schools the opportunity to explore and improve waste management in school via waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

As part of the programme teachers from each school will participate in online zoom training 1 hour per week over 5 weeks. After the training participating schools will receive 2 site visits which will.

- review waste management practices at the school
- discuss options related to waste prevention, reuse, recycling, on-site composting, and brown bin collection of bio waste
- create an action plan.

After the initial site visit and the creation of action plans by the schools, another site visit will be conducted to assist with implementing plans and provide additional tailored training for students, green school committees, teachers, caretakers, parent committees or other school staff. All teachers would be given access to BaseCamp to avail of the resources developed for the programme including booklets, guides, instructional fact sheets, videos as well as learning resources. In addition, schools receive a €300 voucher for bins, tools, and supplies to help carry out their action plans.

Keep Wexford Beautiful: Applications are now open for the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition. Closing date is Friday 21st June. Awards will be presented at the annual Environment Awards which will take place on Monday 11th November.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Community and Culture

Refugee Week

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Established in 1998, this annual festival coincides with World Refugee Day on June 20th. The theme this year was 'Our Home'.

Adults, teenagers and children from the Direct Provision Centre at Cedar Lodge attended an information session, story time and an activity event in New Ross Library. Thirty four residents attended. This was organised with the help of Youth New Ross Family Project Worker and Parent & Child Coordinator, Lauren Murray.

New Ross library also held a Story Time and screened a movie related to a book for ages 4+. The theme of the event was home and what it means and there was also colouring and drawing. In Bunclody Library children aged 7years+ enjoyed a refugee themed movie to celebrate World Refugee Day.

Wexford Branch held a Refugee Week 2024 Photography Competition (in partnership with WCC Integration Team) on this year's theme of 'Our Home'. Thursday 20th June saw the presentation of prizes to competition winners. The top three entries will remain on display in Wexford library until 30th June.

Staff from Wexford Branch Library visited the Direct Provision Centre in Slaney Manor, Wexford this month. Two library staff provided information on library services and a story time event for children.

Pride Month

Pride Month, held in June, is a month **dedicated to celebration and commemoration of**

LGBTQ+ pride.

Gorey Library held two craft workshops with 14 members of the LGBTQ+ Group at Gorey Youth Needs Group (GYNG), where attendees created papercraft and painted decorations for the library space to celebrate Pride Month.

My Open Library

My Open Library Service is operational at New Ross Library and Gorey Library.

After an induction, members of this enhanced service can access the library on a self-service basis from 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Fully staffed library opening hours remain in place Monday to Saturday. During My Open Library hours, all library services are available, My Open Library users can: use the study space, a public PC or laptop, printing services, the internet, the Wi-Fi and borrow and return items and collect requests. There were 540 My Open Library visits in Gorey this month and 6 new registrations, New Ross had 651 My Open Library visits and 1 new registration.

Learning and Information

Heritage

Book Launch of Places for the Living, Places for the Dead, New Ross Library

Places for the Living, Places for the Dead, Archaeological discoveries on the N25 New Ross Bypass book, was launched at a public event in New Ross Library.

The launch event included a short, illustrated talk summarising the most significant discoveries and contributions from guest speakers. The book was available to purchase on the night. Notable guests included editor of the book James Eogan MIAI FSA, Senior Archaeologist, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Peter Walsh, Chief Executive, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Patricia Long, Managing Director and Senior Archaeologist, Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd, Ian Doyle, Head of Conservation, The Heritage Council, and Eamonn Hore, Director of Services and Deputy Chief Executive, Wexford County Council.

At the event, Peter Walsh, Chief Executive, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, presented landowner Philip Becker with a signed copy of the book. One of the most significant finds, a Norman period farmstead, was discovered on Mr Becker's land.

Local History

A total number of 36 local studies enquiries were responded to and a total of 18 genealogy enquiries were completed in Wexford Branch in June.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Mariia from GYNG facilitated Parent and Toddler time, Storytime and Craft and Reading club sessions for children who speak Ukrainian in this programme of events in Gorey Library. The events will be presented over 3 Wednesdays every month throughout the summer. Gorey Library

also hosts English Language classes, which are aimed at members of the Ukrainian community, with Olga from WLD twice a week.

Wexford Branch held Ukraine English Classes with Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine. These are weekly group meetings are facilitated by volunteer tutors. The Branch also held Outreach to Ukrainian Families, weekly information help and guidance meetings with a Ukrainian tutor.

IT Literacy

Digital Skills Group

The digital skills group under the tutelage of Noel McCormack (WWETB) in Enniscorthy Library, completed their weekly classes in June for this term.

Digital Ambassador Drop in Clinic Bunclody Library

This purpose of this clinic is to help participants learn how to familiarise themselves with digital devices (phone, tablet, laptop etc.).

Our Lady of Fatima School attended Wexford Branch for Touch, Type, Read and Spell (TTRS) classes weekly on Wednesdays in June.

Windmill Therapeutic Training Unit, for adults with mild to moderate intellectual disability, attended Wexford Branch for TTRS classes weekly on Monday mornings.

Age Friendly Digital Literacy classes with the WWETB New Ross Library

Navigating daily activities and tasks online can pose challenges for adults struggling with digital skills. These classes, which are facilitated by WWETB tutors, are conducted in New Ross Library and tailored to each learner's pace.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme

Wexford Branch presented a talk on the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme with Mary O'Connor, Wexford co-ordinator for the Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) programme. The programme aims to support older people to live in their own home with dignity and independence for as long as possible.

Environment and Climate Action

Environment

Small Scale Farming - the way to a sustainable future

This talk in Enniscorthy Library covered the experience of small-scale food production on Gorse Farm, an organic market garden of 1/2acre in size. In addition to sharing an overview of the farm and methods, the talk also covered the broader social context of local, small-scale food production and the role it can play in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.

Buy it to Bin it? Or Buy it to Eat it?

Food waste is not only bad for your pocket, but it is also bad for the environment.

Gorey Tidy Towns hosted this talk on food waste prevention. This free talk, given by Cliona Connolly, Environment Awareness Officer with Wexford County Council took place in Gorey Library. The event was run as part of National Food Waste Recycling Week. Waste caddies were available on the night to encourage composting of leftovers. Gorey Tidy Towns volunteers were on hand to chat about their work also.

The Edible Towns Project- A Talk by Susanna D'Ascenzi

This talk was part of the Wexford Environmental Network Talk Series at Gorey Library. The Edible Towns Project aims to encourage people to grow vegetables, fruit, trees, and flowers for pollinators in local places that need to have some life brought back to them. The talk included how to start an edible garden and an overview of how the project is progressing the sites at Gorey Educate Together NS, Gorey Heritage Orchard, Scoil Naomh Maodhog primary school in Ferns and the Chamber of Commerce car park in Street Hill, Wexford Town. This series will continue on the second Tuesday of the month from April- August 2024.

A “Library of Things” – Circular Economy

A **biodiversity kit** is available to borrow from Wexford Library. The kit can be borrowed for up to three weeks and is free to borrow with a library membership card.

The **Home Energy Saving Kit** is available to borrow for two weeks with a library membership card. **Digital Radon Monitors** are currently available free to library members in all five library branches in the county.

Health and Well Being

HIAYL: Menopause and Me

In this webinar in Bunclody Library health care professionals from the HSE outlined some evidence-based practices to make living with the menopause easier.

Wexford Branch presented **The Nature Walker Application: Tintern Trails**. With Anna Flynn – Wexford Sports Active. The Nature Walker Application provides a 360-degree immersive experience of Tintern Abbey, Co. Wexford. Activator Poles continued to be demonstrated and lent from Wexford libraries over the month.

Decade of Centenaries

On Thursday, 6th June at 7.00pm Wexford Branch held **Industry and Policy in Independent Ireland, 1922-1972**: with a specific focus on the south-east with Professor Frank Barry. The talk charted the evolution of Irish industry and individual industrial sectors from the foundation of the state to the eve of EEC accession and identifies for the first time the largest employers in operation at key dates throughout the period. This talk was funded by Decade of Centenaries Programme.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

Adult Events

Literature

On Tuesday the 4th of June Wexford Branch hosted an interview with Wexford author Eoin Colfer, in conversation with Tom Mooney, about the influence of Billy Roche on his work. To celebrate the professional revival of A Handful of Stars at Wexford Arts Centre, Billy Roche joined the conversation.

'Sipping Martinis Under Mount Leinster'- A Poetry Reading with Dr. Derek Coyle took place in Gorey Library.

Reachability – Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) funded literacy club.

Kilcannon Reachability hub was successful in attaining ALL funding to start a literacy club for their learners. The club held their first meeting in Enniscorthy Library during June. They plan to meet weekly for 26 weeks in the library and be supported by the services and large book stock available.

Wexford Library Reading Group

A new Wexford Library Reading Group will run from Thursday 13th June – 15th August at 11.00am, helping adults beginning their reading journey through English to find the joy of reading. Facilitated by library staff this is a group for adults who want to build their reading confidence and meet new people. The group will read a different short story every week from the NALA published books ‘Legends’ and ‘Voices’.

Children’s Services

Cruinniú na nÓg Saturday 15th May

Ireland is the first, and *only*, country in the world to have a national day of free creativity for children and young people under eighteen. **Cruinniú na nÓg** is a flagship initiative of the **Creative Ireland Programme’s Creative Youth Plan** to enable the creative potential of children and young people under 18. All Wexford Library Branches had a full day of free events in the library for ages 0-18, under this year’s theme, The Nature Games. The events focused on this theme, developing video games around climate action and change. Every aspect of game development was covered across all the locations, with music development, story development, game design and more.

Summer Stars 2024

Summer stars was launched on Monday June 17th. Summer Stars is an exciting reading-based programme which is available free of charge to children across the country. Children are invited to register for the adventure and encouraged to enjoy and keep reading books during the summer holidays. All participants are given a Summer Stars Reading Card to track their own progress and a library reward stamp will be added to their reading card at the library after each book is read. There will be rewards along the way, all children who participate receive their own Summer Stars certificate. Many events for children will also be held in the library during the summer. The Reading Adventure is free to join, and all are welcome.

Library staff visited local schools to promote the reading adventure and schools also visited some libraries for a tour and to hear all about Sumer Stars 2024.

My Little Library Book Bag

The Little Library Bag initiative was launched on June 21st nationwide. The ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. All children starting primary school in September 2024 are invited to visit their local public library to collect a bag with a story book for them to keep. They also get a special library card wallet to keep their library card safe.

The Big Dig Archaeology event Saturday 29th June.

Wexford Branch hosted six creative and hands-on learning sessions for younger generations with The School of Irish Archaeology. A replica ‘Viking House’ and excavation site allowed children and young adults to explore the Viking world through a simulated archaeological dig. Wexford Branch also held a Viking History Presentation for Primary Schools and a Norman History Presentation for Primary Schools which Kennedy Park primary school attended.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 39 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of six researchers visited the Archive during June. Research topics included family history research through the registers and roll books for Ballindaggin National School (1894-1914); family history research through the registers for the Model School, Enniscorthy (1867-1906); burials in Rathnure cemetery during the years 1934-1990 for a local parish journal article; research through extant postcards and photographs on Enniscorthy town's streetscape through the 19th to early 20th century.

Digitisation

Ten additional volumes from the series of Enniscorthy Poor Law Union minute books (October 1901 – July 1907) were uploaded to the Archive's website during the month where they are now freely available for online research. The remaining nine volumes from this extensive collection are in the process of being digitised.

The Archive has facilitated the Soroptimists' Wexford Society for the past six months with a display on The Street in County Hall, Carricklawn. The society's large album featuring images and documentation from the first 50 years of International Soroptimists' Wexford was recently deposited in the Archive for digitisation purposes. This will now ensure that a permanent digital record (and surrogate copy) of this important record is available.

Outreach

The Archive contributed an article to the *History Ireland* magazine in June for the forthcoming September/October issue. Titled 'The John Ivory Endowed School, New Ross', the article provides an overview of the school which was endowed in 1713 and had a long history until its eventual closure in 1943.

The Local Government Archivists and Records Managers group has secured a permanent slot in the magazine's 'History in the News' section since 2020 which allows members of the group to publicise archival material from their holdings.

The Archivist participated in the 226th anniversary of 1798 over the weekend of 21-23 June by delivering a talk at its summer school in the 1798 Centre, Enniscorthy on 'Showcasing 1798 – a look at key documents, art, textiles and artefacts relating to the period from collections in Wexford County Archive'. The presentation was accompanied by a display from the Archive of recently acquired items of 1798 interest.

ARTS

Open Calls and Artists Bursaries June 2024

1. Culture Night Open Call 2024

Culture Night is an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity, and the arts. Closing date for receipt of submissions of interest was Friday June 14th, 2024 @ 5:00 pm. There were 44 applications and decisions will be made early July.

2. Commemorations Bursary 2024

Wexford County Council invited applications in May for an Artists Bursary focused on the themes of commemoration and funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport,

and Media. This one artist bursary will offer the opportunity to support and invest in new work developed by a professional artist in any art form based in County Wexford. This opportunity closed on the 17th of June. 8 applications were received. There will be a panel and selection process and the successful applicant will be notified in early July.

3. Visual Artist Ireland Artist and Curator Café

The Arts Office have partnered with Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) on this exciting Artist and Curator Café – which aims to connect Wexford based artists with curators based in Ireland who represent a variety of curatorial and research interests. This event was free for Wexford based artists. It took place from 11am to 1pm on Thursday 27th June, over 30 artists from Wexford booked into this event.

4. 'Breaking the Patterns' Residency

Submissions opened in May 2024 for a three-month artist residency and work placement programme to support two Wexford based emerging visual artists in Lisbon, Portugal, which runs from Sept- Dec 2024. This residency is aimed at emerging visual artists and those experiencing barriers to participation in the arts. It is a new partnership with Capacity Ireland as part of a Creative Europe Project and funded through the Arts Council. Participating counties include Carlow, Wexford and Waterford and will culminate in a group exhibition for all participating artists across the three counties in Lisbon followed by a touring exhibition in Ireland in 2025. Applications close: 12th July 2024 at 4:00 pm

5. Wexford Local Writers selected for the Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme

Wexford Arts Office have partnered with the Irish Writers Centre's National Mentoring Programme again in 2024 by supporting two mentorships for Wexford based writers. Local writers, Adana Keane and Ryan Murphy have been selected for 2024. After a national call out, 39 writers have been selected from a total of 416 applicants.

Wexford County Arts Office funds the literary mentorships along with the Arts Council of Ireland to guarantee that the best applicant from the county is selected. Their support ensures that the chosen mentees receive this potentially life-changing support free of charge. It is also an investment in the long-term literary reputation of the region.

Festivals June 2024

The Jazz at Johnstown Festival 2024 was sponsored by the Arts Office Small Arts Festival Grant Scheme 2024. Over 30 musicians took part in this, the fourth annual Jazz at Johnstown Festival. This is the biggest outdoor jazz festival in the Southeast and was held from Friday, June 28 to Sunday, June 30.

Wexford Youth Film

Wexford Youth Film is an initiative focused on engaging young people in film making in Wexford. Funded by the Arts Department, it takes place in St Michaels Theatre, New Ross and is a free weekly class for young people aged between 12 – 18.

Wexford Youth Film are also offering free summer filmmaking workshops focusing on Super8 Film lead by Therese Dalton the first of which took place from the 17th – 21st of June in New Ross, St Michaels Theatre. There are two more in July at Gorey School of Art and in August in St Michaels Theatre, New Ross.

Music Generation Wexford

This is an ongoing partnership between Wexford County council, WWETB and Music Generation which supports performance music education countywide for young people in 25 schools and a variety of youth work contexts.

Yellow Bellows

The Yellow Bellows singing group are run by musician educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford who meet every Friday from 4.30pm-6pm in the Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy.

Cruinniú na nÓg Night Games

Yellow Bellows Performed at Cruinniú na nÓg's Night Games in Whites Hotel Wexford on 15th June. The evening facilitated creativity for teenagers through interactive gaming, art, circus performance and breakdancing for all those involved to take part.

Cruinniú na Óg Songs of Seedlings Workshop

This operatic Climate Action Workshop took place at the National Opera House on the 15th of June. Led by Elizabeth Stuttard and Aileen Donohoe with piano accompaniment by Eithne Corrigan, alongside young people, the workshop revisited the songs from Music Generation Wexford's Seedlings A Climate Opera from last July.

Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Festival

Yellow Bellows performed at the Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Festival on 2nd June. Led by musician educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford.

Screen Wexford

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

June Crew Networking Morning

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. The event 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. It took place on Friday the 28th June in New Ross.

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE)

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

Residency Award with Cow House Studios

Creative Places Enniscorthy Award in partnership Cow House Studios offered four individual residency awards for four locally based artists to stay at Cow House Studios over one week each during the month of August 2024. The deadline was 6th June 2024.

Creative Places Enniscorthy Connections Series – Cow House Studios

On the 14th of June, 60 participating artists, stakeholders and community representatives attended the Cow House Studios where there were talks from Frank Abruzzese and Rosie O'Gorman, the founders of Cow House Studios, Karla Sanchez and Oisín O'Connell from BlackBird Culture Lab and Julianna Doyle founder of Place Evolution Studio and Shop.

The Nature Games – Cruinniú na nÓg Wexford 2024

Entitled *The Nature Games* this year's Wexford Cruinniú na nÓg (a free day of creativity for young people) took place across county Wexford on 15th June. Centring on the themes of gaming and climate action, over 50 free events were organised for children and young people aged 0-18. Through the gaming workshops, partnerships with Galway Game Jam and Imirt (the national representative body for games and gaming) were developed. This builds the foundation for linking Wexford with the Roadmap for Creative Digital Industries released by Creative Ireland earlier this year. Creative Ireland Wexford plans to invest in a programme of game jams in 2025. Over 600 children and young people took part in The Nature Games.

Shared Island Funding

In the lead up to Cruinniú na nÓg, ten teenagers in Wexford and ten teenagers in Belfast came together via video conferencing technology to develop five video games in two days. Funding for this event was awarded by the Shared Island Fund, promoting cross-border communication and sense of shared issues through community.

Southend Singers

The Southend Family Resource Centre has worked with a group of retired men and women to develop the Southend Singers project. The project offers older people in the area an opportunity to come together for an informal and fun activity, while raising confidence and self-esteem. Aiming to foster and develop positive perceptions about what being an older member of the community means, the project harnesses the affirmative act of collective singing to build recognition for long lives that have contributed to the community spirit of Maudlintown.

The group took part in a public performance at the Southend Family Resource Centre Street Festival in Maudlintown, Wexford town, on Friday 28th June.

FIRE SERVICES

Wexford Fire Service Report May 2024

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls May 2024	Calls to date 2024	Calls to this period 2023
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	0 / 2 (2)	27	48
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	0 / 3 (3)	17	23
Caravan/Mobile Home	2	4	0
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	1	0
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	1	4
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	0	1
School	0	0	3
Other Institution	0	1	1
Factory	0	2	2
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	3	8
Shop/Supermarket	1	3	0
Office	0	0	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	3	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	1	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	0	0	0
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	14	34	22
Unoccupied Building	1	3	0
Agriculture Business	0	2	5
Forest/Bog/Grass	4	13	29
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	4	1
Outdoor Storage	0	1	4
Outdoor Rubbish	6	20	9
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	5	14	3
Gas/Chemicals	0	0	3
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	8	23	14
Other rescue	13	31	28
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	1	3	2
Road traffic accident	23	81	72
Water pumping/flooding	0	3	1

Incident Type	Calls May 2024	Calls to date 2024	Calls to this period 2023
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	19	93	113
Malicious	0	0	2
Total	102	388	399

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	11	4	7	5	0	27
Other Fire in House	5	6	4	2	0	17
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	0	2	2	0	4
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	0	1	0	0	1
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0
School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Institution	0	1	0	0	0	1
Factory	0	0	2	0	0	2
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	0	2	1	0	3
Shop/Supermarket	0	1	1	1	0	3
Office	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	2	0	1	0	3
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	1	0	1
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petrol Station - Garage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	9	11	7	4	3	34
Unoccupied Building	1	0	0	1	1	3
Agriculture Business	0	0	0	2	0	2
Forest/Bog/Grass	2	5	3	0	3	13
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1	1	0	1	1	4
Outdoor Storage	0	0	0	1	0	1
Outdoor Rubbish	3	4	9	3	1	20

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	8	0	4	2	0	14
Gas/Chemicals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	8	4	3	5	3	23
Other rescue	10	9	5	6	1	31
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	1	0	1	1	0	3
Road traffic accident	26	19	22	9	5	81
Water pumping/flooding	1	0	2	0	0	3
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	36	13	24	15	5	93
Malicious	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	122	80	99	64	23	388

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in May 2024:	19
Number of Applications received to date:	93
Number of Applications to this period 2023:	62

Finance:

Budget 2025

Preliminary work will commence in the coming weeks on the preparation of the 2025 budget.

Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, states that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022 provided updated requirements for local authorities who may wish to vary their local property tax rates for a specified period, in accordance with section 20 of the Act. The regulations also require a local authority to engage in public consultation for a period of at least 30 days, which will be facilitated during July/August.

It is expected that the Budget Working Group will meet at the end of September to discuss the LPT and other budgetary matters with a decision required on the Local Adjustment Factor at the full Council meeting in October.

Audit of Accounts 2023

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, it is expected that the Local Government Auditor will formally commence the Audit of Wexford County Council Accounts for 2023 shortly.

Audit Committee

The first meeting of the new Audit Committee is provisionally scheduled for the 18th September at which the election of the Chairperson for the full five years will be agreed.

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.

**Eddie Taaffe,
Chief Executive.**