



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 08.01.24

CONTENTS:

	Page
Economic Development	3
Planning	7
Water Services	11
Roads & Transportation	14
Capital Housing	24
Capital Projects	29
Ukrainian Response Update	41
Corporate Activities	42
Housing	49
Community	55
Environment	62
Libraries/Arts/Archives	74
Fire Services	80
Finance	83

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub

Economic Development Department is currently in the process of appointing a consultant to assist with the preparation of an application to the Smart Regions (Enterprise Innovation) Scheme, under Stream 4 (Feasibility & Priming). Eighty percent funding is available up to a maximum of €200k. The application will cover preparation of advanced project plans for Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub. There is a rolling call for funding under the Smart Regions Scheme and it is intended that the outcome of the Stream 4 application will form the basis of a future Stream 1 application for capital funding.

Offshore Renewable Energy Hub

The potential economic benefits of the proposed Offshore Renewable Energy Hub in Rosslare moved a step closer with the announcement by Minister James Browne that GDG Engineering were awarded the contract for the concept design of the Hub. The commencement of the preliminary design phase of the ORE hub represents a crucial step in Rosslare Europort's commitment to advancing offshore wind energy and supporting marine infrastructure in the southeast region.

The event featured insights from experts in offshore wind energy, marine infrastructure, and design, offering a comprehensive overview of the project's significance and the project's potential economic benefits for the wider southeast area.

Tourism

Visit Wexford Marketing Campaign

The Visit Wexford marketing campaign was launched on the 6th December, 2023. The campaign is aimed at families, young and empty nester couples, solo travellers, and friends. The focus of the campaign in the new year is fresh start inspiration for cosy winter self-care stays, wellbeing breaks, outdoor adventure and unique Wexford experiences.

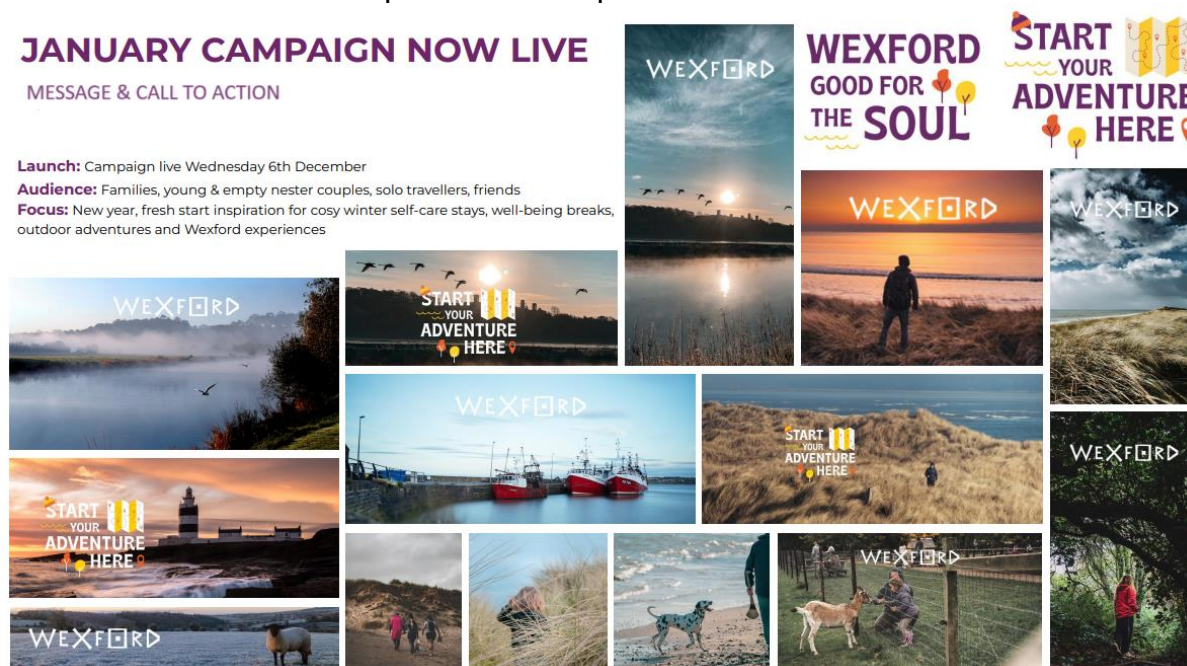
JANUARY CAMPAIGN NOW LIVE

MESSAGE & CALL TO ACTION

Launch: Campaign live Wednesday 6th December

Audience: Families, young & empty nester couples, solo travellers, friends

Focus: New year, fresh start inspiration for cosy winter self-care stays, well-being breaks, outdoor adventures and Wexford experiences



Tourism Ireland to launch 2024 Marketing Plans



Tourism Ireland will launch their 2024 Marketing Plans in Dublin on the 9th January in the Clayton Burlington Hotel. A plenary session will be followed by a number of breakout sessions with Tourism Ireland market teams and their Overseas Business Exchange (a workshop of one-to-one, pre-scheduled appointments with Tourism Ireland teams).



Failte Irelands latest tourism careers research

Failte Ireland's latest tourism careers research shows that vacancies in the industry continue to fall and that recruitment and retention has become less difficult, with almost 90% of workers seeing a long-term career in tourism and hospitality. This proves that measures undertaken by tourism businesses supported by Fáilte Ireland are making a positive impact.

Local Enterprise Office

Wexford Women in Network

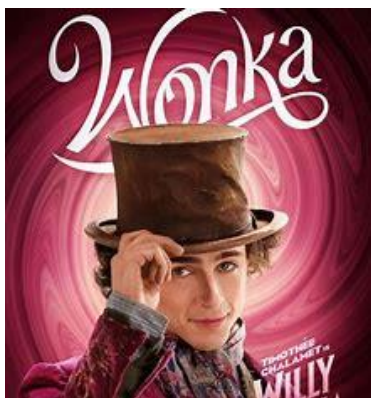


On Friday December 1st the Local Enterprise Office hosted their annual Wexford Women in Business Christmas Event at The Village at Wheelocks. Female led businesses from across the county attended the event sharing knowledge and networking.

Wheelocks and Naturally Cordial shared their business journey from start-up to growth and their plans around innovation and future-proofing their respective businesses. Gift donated by the network members were given to Wexford Women's Refuge.



Weaving Movie Magic in Wexford



LEO Wexford's client, Emblem Weavers, a local Wexford family business for over 60 years, have recently been involved in the magical world of movie making. Cloth woven and dyed in Wexford was used for the costumes of Timothée Chalamet in the new Wonka movie which opened in cinemas over Christmas.



Recently Emblem Weavers also made costume fabrics for The Nun II and The Banshees of Inisherin, dressing stars including Colin Farrel and Brendan Gleeson.

As part of the SLA with Enterprise Ireland, LEO Wexford is tasked with the delivery of key performance metrics. The results which include number of jobs created, delivery of key strategic priorities including digitalization, green for business, exports and LEAN will be available in January 2024. The team are currently working on the training programme for 2024 to support capability building in businesses and a full calendar will be available online in early January.

Regeneration Unit

The Unit consists of the Town Regeneration Officer, Vacant Homes Officer (Croi Conaithe) and an Assistant Staff Officer. Given the synergies between the roles of Vacant Homes Officer and Town Regeneration Officer it was decided to amalgamate both functions and create a Regeneration Unit within Wexford County Council. As we now have a more concentrated focus on Regeneration and vacancy activation through various Government programmes it was agreed to realign these roles into a new "Regeneration Unit"

This Unit will initially be focused on progressing Town Centre First objectives along with Vacant homes objectives with a strong focus on Regeneration within the County.

We are also looking at expanding the role of the Unit further to take on other functions around Regeneration. We are currently exploring what role the Regeneration Unit can take in assisting with the development of the Nighttime Economy in the County.

Town Centre First

Both New Ross and Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plans are now complete, and the New Ross pathfinder Town plan has now been forwarded to the DRCD. Both plans have been reviewed by the National Town Centre Office and positive feedback has been received on both.

The New Ross TCF Plan is now available at New Ross Library or in the Tholsel and also is available to view online on the Wexford County Council website under the regeneration Unit. The Enniscorthy Plan will be available to view on the same platform by early January 2024.

The Town Centre First teams are meeting monthly in both Enniscorthy and New Ross developing ideas and discussing how best to progress the interventions outlined in their respective plans.

Town Centre First plans are mentioned extensively in the recent RRDF fifth Call for Category 1 applications. With the completion of this plan, New Ross is now in a strong position for application along with projects that may have received RRDF Category 2 funding in the past. Discussion is ongoing at National Level on future Town Centre First plans for more Towns and Villages with details expected to emerge on this in the coming weeks.

Vacant Homes

To enhance awareness and support for owners of vacant/derelict properties and sites, the Regeneration Unit is planning a series of Roadshows scheduled for February/March 2024. These informative events will span the 5 Districts, aiming to raise awareness with the public about various grants and programmes tailored to address vacant and derelict properties, ultimately contributing to the reduction of Vacancy Levels in Co Wexford.

As part of our comprehensive outreach initiative, we are collaborating with the Planning and Economic Departments to craft a detailed brochure encompassing all essential information. This brochure will not only be distributed during the Roadshow events but will also be made available at our District offices. Additionally, it serves as the cornerstone for our Marketing Package, which will be strategically utilised across various media channels, including an update to our web pages to ensure seamless reflection of the available assistance.

Current Wexford Croi Conaithe Stats as at 18th December 2023.

Actions	Number
Applications Received	207
Approved	92
Refused	2
Awaiting Inspection	15
Awaiting Information from Applicant	98
Queries received via email to date	Over 2,300
Outstanding Queries	26

Ready to Build Funding Scheme

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 LA before the sale of the site but will not exceed €30,000 (being the max amount the Local Authority can claim from Dept 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 LG and Heritage.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 25th of November 2023 until the 15th of December 2023.

No. of valid applications	112
No. of invalid applications	10
Extension of Duration	3
Exempted Development Declaration	4

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2023 until the 15th of December 2023

No. of valid applications	1347
No. of invalid applications	181
Extension of Duration	29
Exempted Development Declaration	72

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 15th of December 2023

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2023	340
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2023	392
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 15/12/2023	49
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	79 days

Major Pre-Planning Data 2023 (up to 15th December 2023)

- Meetings Held **60** No.
- Proposed Commercial Development **61,952** sqm. approx.
- Total No. of proposed Housing Units **809** units approx.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 25th November 2023 to 15th December 2023 as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website on 19th September 2023.
- **31** property inspections/visits conducted.
- **6** properties entered onto the Derelict Site Register - Section 8(7) Notice.
- **6** Section 8(2) Notices issued and posted on properties.
- **8** Section 11 Notices issued and posted on properties.
- **11** Section 22(1) Notices issued – Notice of site valuation for levies to be charged.
- **5** files closed (1 Dangerous Structure file and 6 Derelict Site files)
- **4** new Derelict Sites files opened.

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The Pre-draft Consultation Report and the Social Infrastructure Audit were presented to the Members of Wexford Borough District at a meeting held on Monday, the 20th of November.

The Pre-draft Consultation Report provides an overview of the public and other stakeholder consultation undertaken and a summary of the issues raised in the 73 submissions and observations that were received.

The Social Infrastructure Audit provides the evidence-base to identify where there is a current under provision of social infrastructure. The outputs of the audit will help to determine future social infrastructure requirements and assist in the spatial planning of the town including the implementation of the 10-minute town concept.

Work on the Infrastructural Assessment Report continues. This is a significant piece of work which requires a review of all lands in the plan area to determine if the lands are currently serviced or could be serviced during the plan period. The outputs of this assessment will be an important consideration in the land use zoning in the Draft LAP.

The Local Transport Plan is progressing well with the Baseline and Context Reports almost complete. Work has commenced on the Options Report.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also underway. The consultants have carried out their initial review and walk over of the town.

The tenders received for the Urban Design Strategy (including the Master Planning of the S.E.T.U/Ballynagee area) and the Rainwater Management Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy are currently being evaluated.

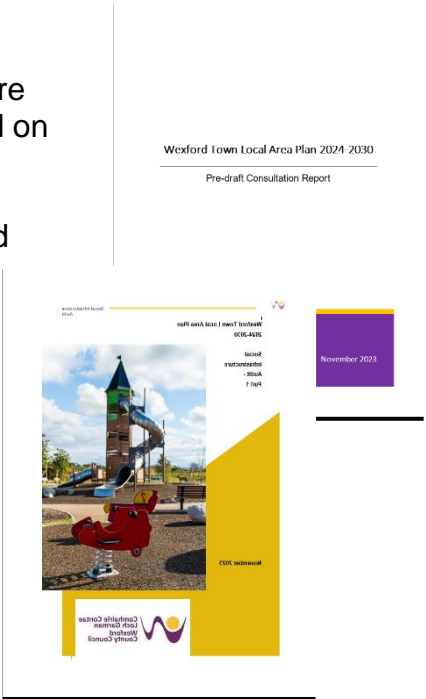
Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Local Transport Plan for the LAP.

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 15th of December 2023 are as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Live Cases | 360 |
| • Cases Opened from 1 st January 2023 | 230 |
| • Cases Closed from 1 st January 2023 | 203 |



Planning CSO Returns 2023

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

Month	Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	One-off Houses
January	50	3	26
February	15	1	17
March	154	30	33
April	156	89	16
May	65	30	26
June	6	2	25
July	155	16	22
August	14	22	28
September	12	9	19
October	4	9	21
TOTAL	631	211	233

* Figures to 31 October 2023

- 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.

Planning Enforcement – Short-Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 15th of December 2023 are as follows: -

- Live Cases **11 (2020 - 2023)**
- Cases Opened since 1st January 2023 **3**
- Cases Closed since 1st January 2023 **12**
- Inspections Carried out **4**

Building Control (25th November 2023 – 15th December 2023)

- Validated Commencement Notices: **08**
- Number of Building Control Inspections: **27**
- Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: **16**

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2023 up to and including 15th of December 2023, totals **91**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	12	1	0	11	0
Gorey	29	1	3	22	3
New Ross	9	0	0	9	0
Wexford	24	1	3	19	1
Rosslare	17	0	1	15	1
2023 Totals	91	3	7	76	5

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	75
Major Pre-Planning (from 1st January 2023)	12

Access Items

Disability Inclusion Strategy

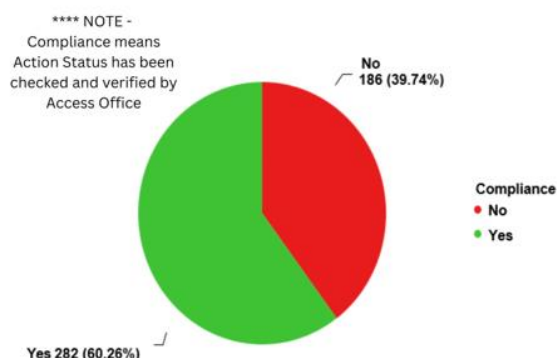
The three-year term of Wexford County Council's Disability Inclusion Strategy has come to an end.

The snapshot collated on June 26th 2023 reveals the level of activity and compliance over the lifetime of the strategy.

Organisation Summary

31	282	60.26%
Total Departments across the Organisation	Total Compliant Actions across the Organisation	Overall Compliance across the Organisation
217	251	468
Total Key Actions across the organisation	Total Other Actions across the organisation	Total Actions across the organisation

Overall Actions across the Organisation by Compliance



Details on compliance levels and outstanding actions for individual Departments will be presented to the Executive Team at their next meeting.

The development of the Power BI reporting App in conjunction with the ICT Department, over a year period, enabled this effective method of reporting on WCC activity for applicable actions under the National Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Purple Lights and Have Your Say Survey

On the 3rd of December 2023 celebrations for UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities in the form of lighting up significant landmarks in each of the Districts, was a great success not only in raising awareness for disabilities but also for launching our Survey for which submissions continue to be received.

The submissions will be collated early in January 2024 to inform the next stages and approached to consultation and drafting of the work programme for Access for All into 2024.



Water Services Monthly Report

1. Rural Water Programme



1. Rural Water



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

➤ Kilanerin GWS

- 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.
- Communication has been received from the Dept. regarding reallocate funding to nitrate monitoring.
- Group Scheme Committee is in discussions with Employer's Representative TJ O'Connor's and Contractor EPS regarding obtaining a detailed quotation for the proposed nitrate monitor installation at the WTP.
- GWS received a quotation from EPS for the full installation of the Nitrate Removal System. This shall be submitted as part of the next MARWP submissions. WCC has asked the GWS to confirm with EPS as to whether the nitrate monitor can be installed prior to the main nitrate removal system. If so, these works could potentially be carried out under this MARWP cycle.

Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation

➤ Blackstairs GWS

- There has been little movement on the proposed works as the scheme lost their manager and had some issues at the plant, they have had an interim manager in place.
- Acting Senior Engineer WCC facilitated on recent interview board, new manager to be appointed 1st December 2023
 - **Storage Tank** - Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants.
 - A report has been provided and assessed.
 - Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution.
 - GWS have reviewed and discussed at committee and have confirmed they are agreeable to recommended option.
 - Currently engaging suppliers and contractors regarding obtaining a quotation for the installation of a bypass with prv.
 - **Reservoir Bypass** -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.
 - A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.
 - Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Dept. have approved request for increased funding. ○ The Group Scheme, Employer's Representative (TJ O'Connor's) and contractor (EPS) have all been informed of the Department's decision and are progressing with the proposed works. <p>➤ Kilanerin GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulk Meter Installation – Project completed.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<p>➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</p> <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. ○ Update given to Dept. on progress to date. ○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000. ○ Amendments were made to scope of SI and project re-tendered; submission closes 2nd June. ○ SI re-tender completed; 3 submissions received are currently being reviewed. ○ IGSL Ltd awarded contract ○ ROL submission progressing by IGSL and submission to the RMO imminent. ○ In tandem, Archaeological investigations have been carried out at both proposed pumping stations sites. ○ Archaeologist is satisfied all in order and that no further involvement by Archaeologists on the project is expected. Received no issues. ○ WCC have engaged with contractor requesting a detailed programme of works, among other items.
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme. ○ WCC staff attended the NFGWS annual conference in September. Principal Officer from the Dept. assured us that an announcement would be made shortly.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<p>➤ Individual Well Grants</p> <p>➤ CLO attended workshop with members of the Dept in September. Dept were seeking input for the updates to measure 8 in the new round of MARWP.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are hopeful following our input that grant amounts will be increased for water treatment and new supplies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 10 new well grant applications were registered in December 2023. ○ 28 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €52,800. ○ 22 inspections carried out in December. ○ Workflow prototype has been developed to final stage – due to staff shortages IT have not been able to finalise yet.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<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. ○ Awaiting further details in the new year.
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 applications received to date on revised grant, 3 paid, 4 approved, 1 awaiting further documents.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Ground Investigation on-site works have been completed on all lands where permission for access was granted by the landowners. Outstanding ground investigation on-site works will recommence in spring 2024. Laboratory testing is ongoing.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- Archaeological Geophysical Surveys are near completion.
- Additional Topographical Surveys are near completion.
- The design of the development is being updated considering the revised TII Service Area Policy 2023 and Climate Action Plan 2023. Park and ride facility in the vicinity of the Duncannon Road Roundabout is being utilised as a part of the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Project.
- Departures from standard applications are being dealt with by the Project Team.
- Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.
- Slaney Bridge Options Report is near completion and will be submitting the recommended most appropriate bridge type over the River Slaney.

- Preparation of the Periodic Report in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding is near completion.
- Transportation & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee was presented with the progress of the scheme at the meeting held on 12th December 2023 and was received positively by the Committee members.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

- Website update in relation to the approval of Planning Application by the Bord is finalised and was published on 15th December 2023.
- Project Team is finalising the Phase 4 deliverables and processes and is intending to seek TII's approval to progress to the Phase 5 in early January 2024.
- Transportation & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee was presented with the progress of the scheme at the meeting held on 12th December 2023 and was received positively by the Committee members.

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 to be completed subject to weather conditions.
- N30 Ballymackesy – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €23,000)
 - Retexturing Works completed on two sections.
 - One short section in Clonroche and a 950m section at Ballymackesy.
- N30 Tominearly – N30 Tominearly
 - Feasibility and Options report approved by TII.
 - Works will proceed in early 2024 subject to funding.

2023 Pavement Schemes

- N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 2_- (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)
 - This scheme has been tendered and awarded. Construction is expected to commence in early 2024.
- N25 Orristown to Ashfield Cross Pavement Scheme - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)
 - This scheme is being designed at present with expected tender in December and construction to commence in Q2 2024.
- HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly Pavement Scheme – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost is €1,000,000).
 - This has been tendered, the contractor has been appointed, construction expected in March 2024.

2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations

Wexford County Council has applied for additional maintenance funding from TII in 2023.

This includes a section on the N30 at Moneytucker, which has been tendered with construction expected to be completed in Quarter 4 2023.

Wexford County Council secured additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11 and N25.

Verge and hedge cutting is completed on sections of the N11 and N25. A section of the M11 at Scurlocksbus roundabout and the Frankfort junction were included and completed.

A Fencing Retrofit contract was completed at Moyeady on the N80 in November 2023.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since 25 December 2021. A preliminary meeting was held with the consultant on site in January.

A topographical survey was carried out in November.

A design report is due in the first quarter of 2024.

Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

- R772 Tinnock to Gorey (1.4km)
- R723 Rosbercon (0.8km).

Funding of €500,000 was received for the R772 Tinnock scheme, amounting to 50% of the scheme. A consultant has been appointed to look at the possibility of including a cycle facility as part of the scheme.

The funding was allocated to the R723 Rosbercon and the scheme was tendered and awarded. Works are due to commence in January 2024.

VRS Maintenance 2023

This contract commenced in 2023. To date 15 locations on the N11, N80 and N25 are complete under Planned Maintenance. One location was completed as an emergency replacement on the N11.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 14 February 2023 to be €22,811,650. This allocation included €1,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage and €1,500,000 for the Deeps Bridge remediation works. The Deeps Bridge allocation was increased to €2,500,000 in October. The strengthening programme received an additional €822,816 allocation in July and a further €365,500 in December 2023.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2023 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 25 January 2023 at Bucks Bridge, Ballindaggan.

The 2023 strengthening programme was 100% complete with 92km strengthened.

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in Enniscorthy District at Tomanoo, on the 12 June.

The 2023 surface dressing programme was 100% complete with 114km surface dressed.

Community Involvement Schemes

€502,650 was allocated in 2023 for 7 roads.

All 7 roads are complete of total length 7km.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Wexford County Council was allocated €610,000 to repair 17 bridges in 2023.

All bridges were completed.

Christmas Day 2021 - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. It is hoped work will commence works in Q2/Q3 of 2024.

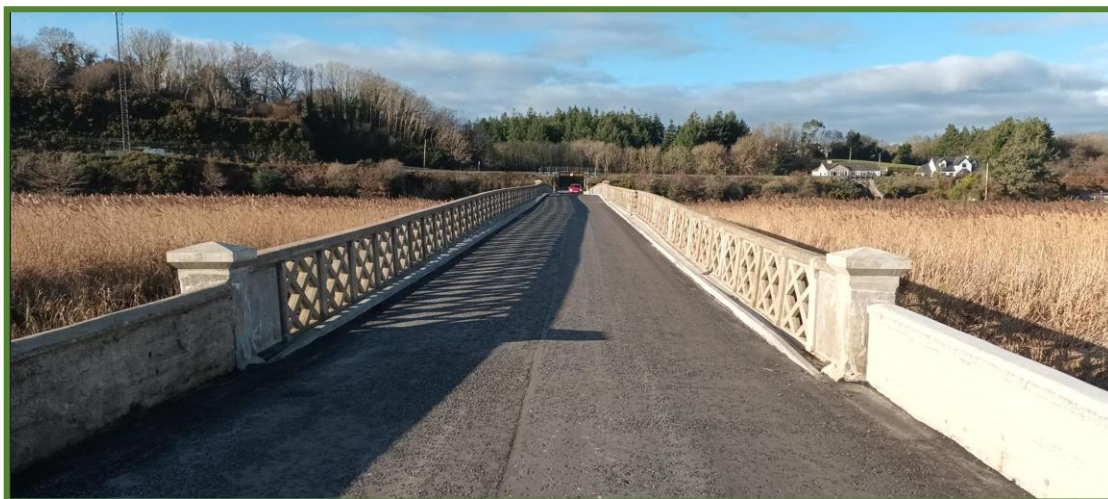
Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March 2021.

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. All concrete and steel repairs are complete. There was a substantial increase in the number repairs required. This increased the project construction time. The road was opened on the 1 December 2023.

Storm Babet/Ciaran Exceptional Severe Weather Recoupment 2023

A total of €174,163.75 was received from to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the recoupment of costs associated with the clean up across the 5 Municipal Districts in the aftermath of storms Babet/Ciaran.



Deeps Bridge picture dated 1 December 2023. Road opened 1 December 2023

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Wexford County Council was allocated €682,000 for 15 projects in 2023. All projects are nearing completion.

Local Improvement Schemes

€411,705 was allocated to County Wexford in Round 1, 2023. A second allocation of €619,230 was received 28 July bringing the total to €1,030,9354 for 2023. All 21 lanes have been resurfaced.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance commenced the 16 October 2023 and will continue to 30 April 2024. There have been 14 salt treatments to date.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL

(Unchanged from previous report)

Newtown Road (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

The sod turning on the Newtown Road Cycle Scheme took place on the 7th of November followed immediately by construction commencing on site. The project is being constructed by Glas Civil Engineering contractors. The expected duration of the construction phase will be nine months. The project will result in the delivery of protected cycle paths and footpath upgrades on both sides of the road from the Maldron Hotel to the Racecourse on Newtown Road.

This first phase will be followed immediately by the second phase which will include the section from the Racecourse to the Hospital Junction with Newtown Road/Beechlawn/Clonard. This project has just been through a Section 38 process and was approved by the Elected members at the November meeting of the Borough of Wexford Municipal District. The final detail is now being drawn up in house and will go to tender shortly.

The third phase will be the junction outside Wexford General hospital – the junction of the Newtown Road with Carriglawn/Beechlawns to town, terminating at Wygram. This section of the route went to Section 38 earlier this year and received the approval of the Elected members. This will also be constructed in 2024 to ensure continuity from the Ring Road to town centre.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SRTS

Safe Routes to School – Construction outside **St. Mary's National School Rosslare** is well advanced resulting in reduced car parking in front of school, improvements to walking infrastructure and safe crossings of the public road, all with the aim of encouraging more walking to school and less car dependence.

Paddy McGee's contractors are currently on site and making good progress. The scheme has applied and granted funding for additional footpaths on the Coast Road in Rosslare to the value of €90,000 which, in addition to agreed works brings the project value to €136k.

Preconstruction



Fig.1 – Completed works prior to full road re-surfacing

Pre construction



Fig.2 – Junction tightening to 'The Haven' estate Rosslare.

WX/21/0015 Safe Routes to School - Scoil Naomh Abbain, Adamstown National School – works are almost complete and a small ceremony to mark the completion of the project will take place on the 7th of December.

Significant improvements have been made to footpaths, reduction of parking to the front of school and introduction of pedestrian crossings.

The scheme has benefitted from substantial support from local stakeholders which has allowed the project scope to expand.

An initial allocation of €80k has progressed and a projected spend of €400k will complete the works.

Planting has been added to newly created green areas. Planting will assist in holding on to surface water run-off and releasing it slowly to the drainage network, thereby reducing flood risk in times of heavy rain.



Preconstruction



Fig.3 – Completed Adamstown SRTS works
Scoil Naomh. Abbáin, Adamstown – works outside front of school

St. Aidan's, Enniscorthy,

Safe Routes to School scheme is also well under way with works the school to enhance the environment for pedestrians, thereby encouraging more walking to school. A new zebra crossing and installed with new footpaths and junction tightening works ongoing. Many people live within walking distance of the school, and it is hoped that these safety measures will encourage less car dependence for short journeys and will lead to less congestion around the school zone.



Fig.4 – New footpaths next to St.Aidans School, Enniscorthy

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

The proposed cycle lane upgrade in **Roxborough** has now moved onto Preliminary design following approval from the NTA to develop the preferred option as part of the options assessment process.

A FWD (fall weight deflectometer) survey which tests the structural strength of the road is completed now which will inform the final design. Consultants DBFL are working with the Active Travel team to prepare documents to proceed to Part 8 planning towards the end of 2023.



Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy ABTA – Following a competitive tendering process, consultants Arup have been appointed to carry out the Enniscorthy Area Based Transport Assessment. A commencement meeting will take place imminently to kick start the project.

A Wexford Town ABTA is currently underway by Atkins Consulting Engineers and at Options Development stage. A cross departmental meeting with Wexford County Council was held in November to examine proposals and findings to date in the Options Development and Baseline reports as these will ultimately feed into the development of the Local Area Plan for Wexford.

The next stage of the process in early December is to form agreement and consensus as to what aspects of the Options Assessment shall be pursued from an Executive level. This is an important stage to give Atkins direction to further explore Options.

Active Travel aim to have a report ready for the members in Q1 2024.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 12,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

Design works are completed.

A plan will be put in place to upgrade the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years.

Lighting stock should be fully LED by the end of 2024.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting will be installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund in 2023.

- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey – infill along by GAA pitch. Lighting design completed with tender received.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – Lighting design complete and contractor appointed for works to complete works in January 2024.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove to regional road. Lighting design completed and contractor appointed for works to complete works in January 2024.
- Wexford Town – Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road. Contractor erected poles and completed civil works; lights are awaiting ESB connection.
- Wexford Town - Kennedy Park. Works were completed in early November.
- Ballymitty – civils and lights erected, ESB connection awaited.
- Redshire rd, Murrintown – Civils and lights erected, ESB connection awaited.

Other locations will follow further to consultations with Municipal District Engineers.


Work has commenced on 3 National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP) contracts across the country. This is leading to a delay in getting our Development Fund lighting contracts designed, tendered and completed.



Housing Supply



Capital Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings to Complete in 2023	23
Dwellings to Complete in 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025	70
Dwellings Funded to complete 2026	132
Dwellings to be funded in HFA	12
Dwellings in Design	246
Affordables	90

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
Rosetown Phase 1				
Glascanny	1	Wexford		TAP Dwelling complete June 22
Total	48			

Dwellings Under Construction to complete 2023				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Status	Comment
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction.	To complete 21 Dec 2023.
Whiterock Hill 22 Phase 1				
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.
			Womens Refuge 12, Maudlintown	
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction commenced June 23. To Complete Q3 2024. On Target.
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced April 23 To Complete Q3 2024

Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 Additional Unit (Unused community centre will be converted to a one bed bungalow) To Complete July 2024.
Ballyhine 8, Wexford				
Total	54			
Dwellings to complete in 2025				
Wexford Street	30	Gorey	Under Construction	Commenced on site July 23. Progressing to programme. To complete 2025.
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Stage 4 Approved	Contracts signed. Sod Turning Dec 14 th 2023. DB Contract.
Tagoat 18, Rosslare				
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 4	Letter of Acceptance issued. In contract. Commence on site Q1 24. DB Contract. Developer is currently on site undertaking their own site analysis to enable site start.



Creagh 22, Gorey

Total	70			
Funded Projects for delivery 2025 - 2026				
Francis Street	2	Wexford	SS Approved	Upload to eTenders on 19 th Dec 23 To Commence on site Q1 2024
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions and archaeological Inspections complete. Stage 3 and Tender in Q1 2024.
Rosbercon	50 +(est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Invasive Species removal complete. Site Investigations to commence Q1 24.To proceed as a DB contract.
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII lodged June 23. Prepare Stage 3 and tender documentation for submission in Q1 24. Delay as proposal is with An Bord Pleanala (ABP) re EIAR. Cost Plan prepared, awaiting ABP decision.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Combined Stages	Bundle A for 2 projects. –Monomolin and Ballygillane. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding application. Part VIII to be approved Jan 2024. Funding for Bundle A to submit Q1 24
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Combined Stages	Bundle A as above. Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding Q1 24
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Combined Stages	Bundle B for 2 projects. – Grogans Road and Adamstown. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Part VIII submitted Dec 23. Funding application Q2 2024
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Combined Stages	Bundle B as above. Part VIII submitted Dec 23. Funding application Q2 2024

Adamstown 3 New Ross		
TOTAL	132	

Projects to be submitted for funding under Housing for All Programme				
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Archaeology nearing completion. Other appointments will follow Archaeology report. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q1 2024
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. Part VIII decision Dec 2023 SS Submission Q1 2024
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Lodge Part VIII Application Q1 2024
TOTAL	12			

Projects in Design

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment
Clonard	42	Wexford	Pre Preparing 12 Dec 23. Part VIII Q1 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 35 social dwellings received. Assessment underway.
Creagh	24	Gorey	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Clear site and Pre Planning Q1 24
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Awaiting Final Brief
The Lyre	75 est	Enniscorthy	Preliminary master plan. Site Investigations and surveys in Q1 24.
Bunclody PPP	65	Enniscorthy	Part of Bundle 7. Team lead Dublin City Council
TOTAL	246		

Affordable Dwellings

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tenders received Sept 23. Tenders being assessed. Contract Q4 2023.
<p>Ramsfort Park 20, Gorey</p> <div>   </div>			
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 70 affordable units received Oct 23. Assessment underway.
TOTAL	90		

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 have requested further information from WCC in relation to the proposed development. This was submitted to ABP on 18th December 2023.

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 Q1 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 is currently on hold.

The part VIII for the proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site was approved by WCC in February 2023. Tenders for works were received on May 31st and have been assessed. Contract award is subject to confirmation of funding.

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 have been received and a contract awarded. The Changing Places completion is expected before the end of December.



1.4 John Street Building Regeneration Project, New Ross

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement and the CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are appointed and undertook a preplanning meeting for the building in February, with the Concept Design Report being presented to the New Ross MDC at the May meeting. Preliminary design is ongoing with Part 8 planned to commence in early 2024, subject to the outcome of a screening for appropriate assessment and Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment.

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.

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 on 6th November and subsequent site visit took place on 22nd November where the Consultants met with the Manager and Board of Hook Heritage and representatives from Irish Lights and Fáilte Ireland. A Preliminary Research report has been compiled in December 2023 and the Preliminary design for the Interpretive and Concept Design of the project is expected in Q1 2024.

The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be issued in Q1 2024 as part of the framework created for architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects. It is expected that the preliminary design will be completed in 2024 and submitted to ABP in Q2 2025.



New Ross Tourism Project

Tenders for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience have been received and a contract awarded to EPIC Design, who have completed the detailed design for the development. The works have been procured and contracts will be awarded in early January 2024. Installation and fit out works on this project are planned to be completed by Q2 2024.

Tenders for the Interpretive and exhibition design of the Norman Visitor Centre have been completed and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Preliminary Design on this will begin in the coming weeks.

A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment now complete. Tenders will be invited from shortlisted candidates in December for the Norman Centre project, with award of contract anticipated in Q1 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 will now progress to detailed design and then to tendering for a works contractor with the aim of commencing works on-site in September 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 as part of the Wexford Town to Rosslare greenway project.

1.8 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Co 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. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022. It is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is likely to happen in Q3 2025.

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works that have been carried out over the past two years by Irish Rail. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024, with an expected Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.



Route Options with Viewing Points for bird surveys.

1.9 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

The initial phase 1 works were completed in September 2022 (enhancement and improvement of the footpath streetscape, enhanced gateways and pedestrian safety).

An application for further funding was submitted to the NTA, in conjunction with the Roads & Transportation Section, for the active travel elements of the masterplan. No funding was forthcoming for 2023.

1.10 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.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd. is appointed to carry out the marine and land-based surveys and boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the May 2022 and the site investigation work is complete.

Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited. An application to the Marine Foreshore Dept., was submitted in December 2022, for permission to carry out benthic grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted.

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in Q2 2024.

1.11 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.

1.12 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 and it is intended to retender the project in January 2024.

1.13 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.

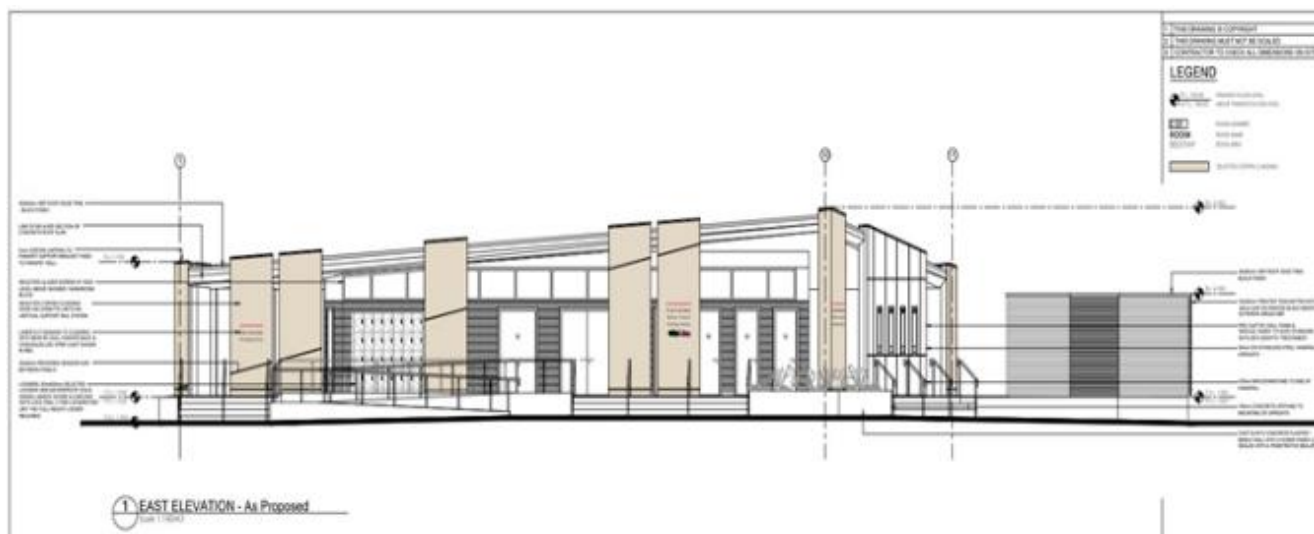
Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site, following confirmation of €100,000 in grant funding through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023. Completion is expected in January 2024.

1.14 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.

The tender for the enabling works package was published to etenders in December 2023, these works are expected to commence on-site in March 2024. The tender for the main building is awaiting Failte Ireland approval and is expected to be published to e-tenders in January 2024, with works commencing on-site in April 2024.



1.15 Adoration Convent Wexford

Part VIII 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 has been approved by GSU and preliminary design and associated survey works are underway. It is intended to tender out these works out in Q2 2024 with works to commence in Q4 2024.



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.

The tender to procure design consultants to complete The South East Greenway was published to e-tenders in December 2023, with a consultant to be appointed in February 2024.

The process to procure replacement technical advisors for all remaining components of the Southeast greenway project has commenced.

The first priority for this technical advisor will be for Lot 4 – Mount Elliot. It is planned to issue this service contract for tender in November.

Faite Ireland have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG. Faite Ireland arranged a public consultation meeting on the South East Greenway on 22/11/23, which was well attended by the public across counties Kilkenny & Wexford



2.2 Trinity Wharf

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glás Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works commenced on site in late February. The sod turning took place on site on 2nd March with Minister Darragh O'Brien and elected representatives. Works are ongoing on site with completion expected in January 2024.

Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The preferred tenderer is identified, and the standstill period has expired. The formal appointment of the design services consultant is imminent.



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.



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. Completion is expected in January 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. The Part VIII was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting. A further Part 8 submission has been made 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 is ongoing for the provision of the temporary performance structure at the site. Initial tender submissions were received in late December.



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 commenced and tender assessment is underway. Phase 1 works anticipated to commence onsite in Q1 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.

Flood Defence Scheme – 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 Q1 2024.

Phase 1 - New River Slaney Bridge - It is intended to obtain planning consent for the construction of the new bridge as phase 1 of the flood defence scheme. This phase will include the construction of a new road bridge south of the town, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a replacement pedestrian bridge. The baseline data for this phase is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024. The planning application is to be submitted in Q1 2025.

4.2 Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for engineering and environmental services for the Wexford Town & Environs contract was signed by WCC and Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd on 23rd March. A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will be fully funded.

Wexford County Council, OPW, Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer and the sub consultant NIRAS completed a coastal walk over along the Quay, railway tracks (from the RNLI station to Carcur), RNLI Station, Ferrybank, The Heritage Park and Ferrycarrig Hotel.

Following the Steering Group meeting on the 13th Dec the Public Consultation was held in Clayton Whites Hotel. Posters of the scheme were on display, brochures and questionnaires were available for all who attended. Public participation was lower than expected however, some good information was collected.

The website for the scheme is google indexed and it is hosted by the OPW at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/wexford/home/>

With agreement of the OPW survey work will be carried out in the Heritage Park to investigate the flooding issues in the park. A budget of €5,000 has been allocated for this work. A scope of survey works has been agreed and this is to commence in Jan 24.

In order to assist with modelling of flooding events, a water level gauge and a rain gauge are to be installed in the Bishopswater attenuation pond. A flow gauge will also be installed in the Horse River at the rear of the St Joseph's Community centre and a second rain gauge will be installed in Coolcots Reservoir. These gauges are to be installed by the OPW. A number of other monitoring sites are to be identified and agreed in the New Year. Information continues to be shared between the Council and the consultant.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

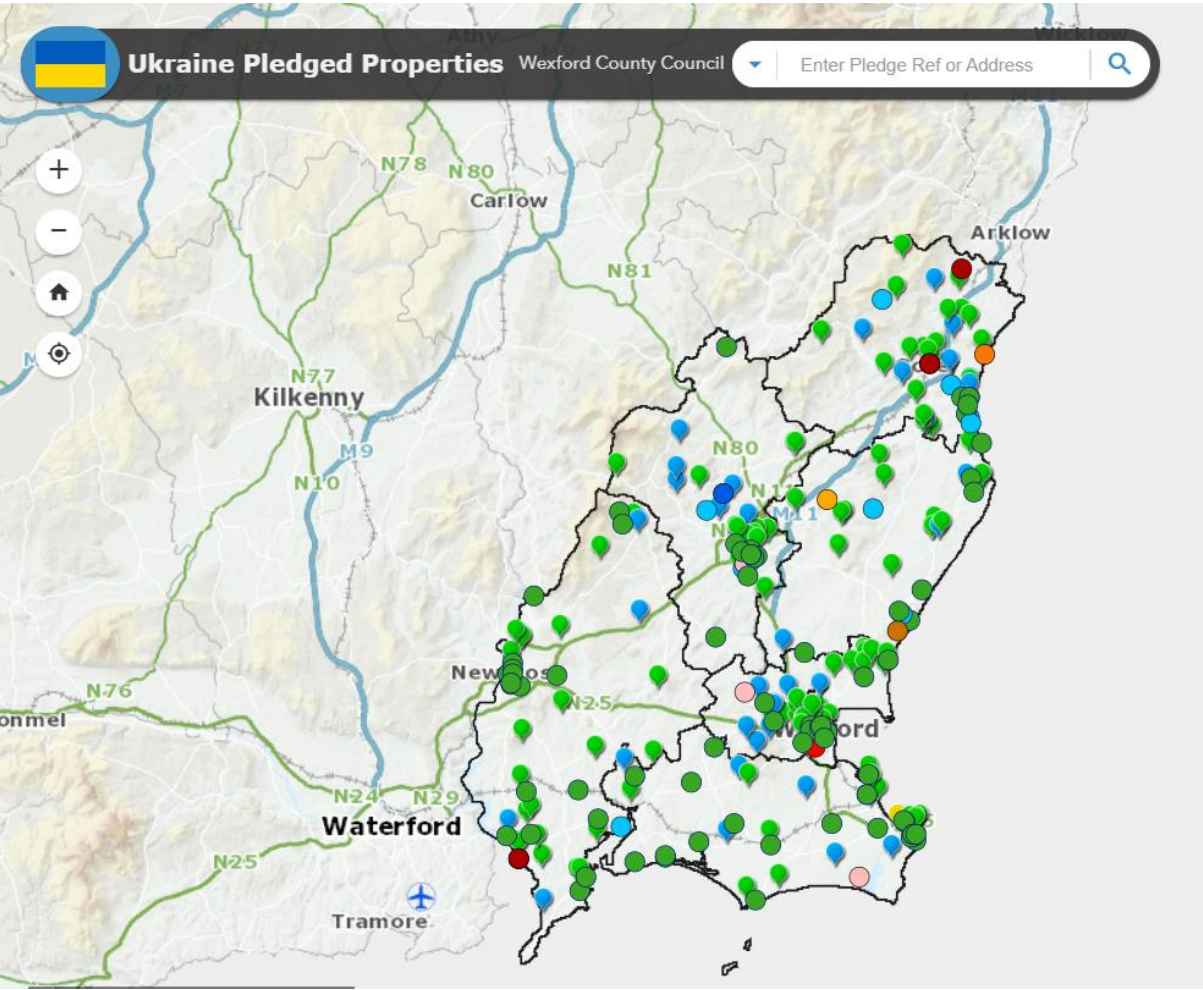
Accommodation

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	177	609
Irish Red Cross	57	193

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 14/12/23 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

Below is an infographic showing the location of both Offer a Home and Irish Red Cross pledged properties currently housing Ukrainian people (BOPT's) in Wexford.



Integration Support Forum

The Integration Support Forum (formerly Ukraine Community Response Forum) will meet Q1 of 2024. It was agreed that the next meeting of the forum would be in person with a facilitated session(s) to consider the revised remit.

Local Authority Integration Team

The LAIT Co-ordinator Ms Stephanie Warner and support worker Ms. Pauline Gallaher commenced employment in Wexford County Council on Monday December 18th. The second support worker Mr John Caulfield, Social Care Worker, Wexford County Council will join the team shortly.

The team will prepare an initial report on their work for members of the Council in Q1 2024.

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Letters of consent issued for the following properties:

Address	Eircode	Occupancy	Completion Date
Unity Square, Roches Road, Wexford	Y35CX25	57	December 2024
22 Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	Y21CD50	15	May 2024
Borrmount Lodge, Enniscorthy	Y21VP8A	37	April 2024
1 & 2 Michael Street	Y35AD62	19	April 2024
94/96/98 South Main Street, Wexford	Y35H220	58	September 2024
Templeshannon House, Enniscorthy	Y21HK18	15	March 2024
New Projects			
Ryland Road, Bunclody	Y21E7P0	21	April 2024

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	2
Customer Complaint	4
Ombudsman Complaint	4
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	0
Total	11

PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

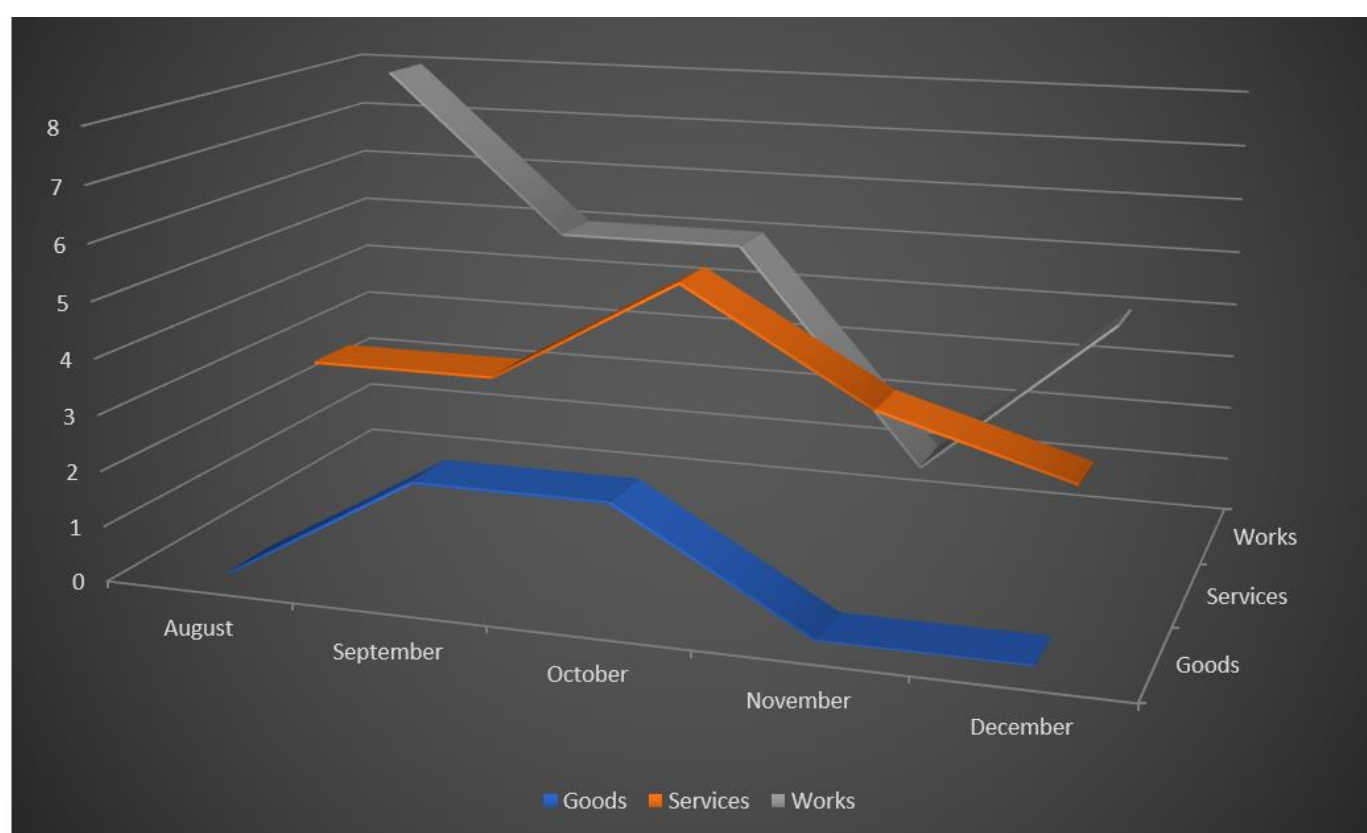
Tenders from 1st December 2023 to 31st December 2023

No. of Tenders Uploaded

Type	
Goods	0
Services	2
Works	4
TOTAL	6
Total Estimated Value	€2,580,000

No. of Tenders Received

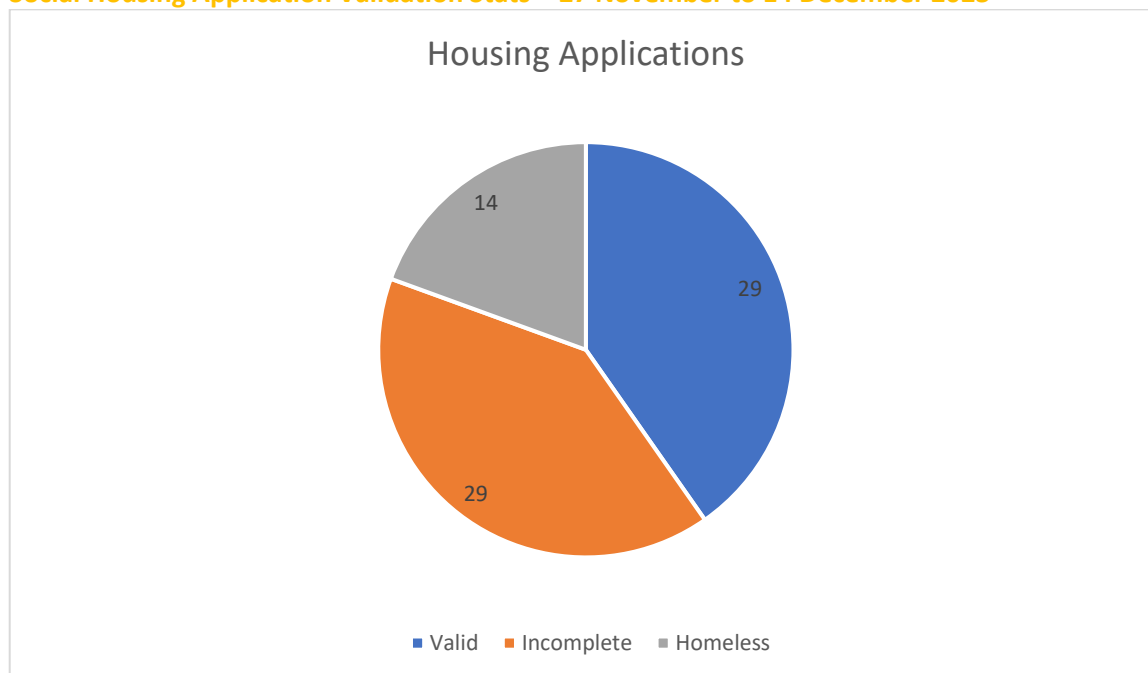
TOTAL	13
--------------	-----------



CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 27 November to 14 December 2023

Area	27 November to 14 December 2023
Phone Calls	2776
Environmental Complaints	179
Change of Circumstances	10
Housing Validation	72
Quick Calls	2034
Roads Fault Log	27
Emails (Received & Sent)	1514
Web Updates / Consultations	44
Newspaper Adverts	28

Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 27 November to 14 December 2023



Members Portal Queries by Section – 27 November to 14 December 2023

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Customer Service	1	2	3
Environment	0	1	1
Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	2	2
Housing	16	37	53
Planning	0	2	2
Roads	0	2	2
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	3	2	5
Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD	3	3	6
Roads – Rosslare MD	1	4	5
Roads – Wexford MD	2	1	3
TOTAL	26	56	82

COMMUNICATIONS

Top Performing Posts

Recruitment



6.2K views

SICAP CoSigning



1520 Impressions

Christmas Markets - Enniscorthy



1K views

Top Performing Posts

Christmas Markets - Enniscorthy



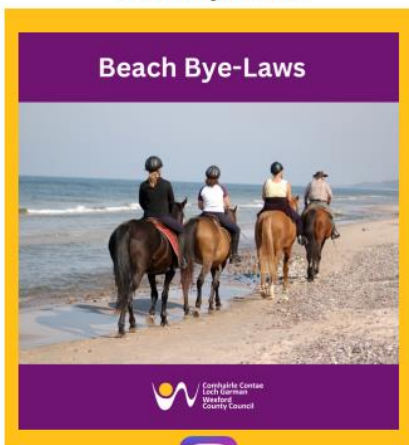
5.4K views

Temp Road Closure - Map Alert






1183 impressions

Beach Bye-Laws



901 Views

Monthly Social Media Stats

	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	30,452	7,440	8,155	71	34
	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	1,951	301	2858	41	36
	IMPRESSIONS	PAGE FOLLOWERS	NEW FOLLOWERS		
	40.5K	14,317	0		

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

- Road Safety at Christmas Post
- Beach Bye Laws
- SICAP - Co Signing
- Recruitment
- Christmas Opening Hours
- Sod Turning - Tagoat
- My Waste
- Retained Fire Fighter Recruitment Video
- Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP)
- Award - Tomhaggard Clean Coasts
- Have Your Say - Orchard Peace Park
- Christmas Market - Enniscorthy
- UN National Day for Persons with Disabilities
- Adoption of 2024 Budget
- Shop Window Competition - Enniscorthy
- Litter Prosecutions
- Library Ireland Week
- Virtual Dementia Tour Bus



Monthly Engagements

TYPES OF QUERIES RECEIVED.

@wexfordcoco can you take a look at the loose manhole in the swan area?
It's making a racket everytime a car drives directly over it.



@wexfordcoco water out in school street area wexford town, is something being worked on?

9:39 AM · Dec 19, 2023 · 22 Views



Wexford County Council @wexfordcoco · Dec 19
Hi Matt you will need to contact @IrishWater. Their number is 1800 278 278. Thanks.

Press Releases

1 - 22 December 2023

01-Dec-23 Wexford County Council celebrates UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities ACCESS
05-Dec-23 Special Meeting of Wexford Co Co (re Former GSH proposed use as IPAS Centre) CORPORATE
05-Dec-23 WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTS €164.2M BUDGET FOR 2024 CORPORATE
11-Dec-23 Safe Route to School Scheme opened at Adamstown National School ACTIVE TRAVEL
11-Dec-23 Enniscorthy Municipal District Christmas Market Officially Launched ENNISCORTHY MD
12-Dec-23 Wexford County Council Statement re unfounded allegations by E Buttle SER against Tom Enright CE CORPORATE
12-Dec-23 Directors of Service Statement re unfounded allegations by E Buttle SER against Tom Enright CE CORPORATE
14-Dec-23 Wexford County Council Host Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards Ceremony COMMUNITY
14-Dec-23 Sod turned on 18 unit social housing development in Tagoat. ROSSLARE MD/HOUSING
20-Dec-23 Wexford County Council Publishes 2023 Gender Pay Gap Report Corporate
21-Dec-23 The Rocks, Maudlintown, planted as part of The 100 Million Tree Project. ENVIRONMENT
22-Dec-23 Enniscorthy Municipal District Christmas Window Display Winner Announced ENNISCORTHY MD
22-Dec-23 County Council Rewards Christmas Creativity ... ENVIRONMENT

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexford-county-council-press-releases-2023>

Press Queries

1 - 21 December 2023

10 Press Queries received in December.

Queries:

- Markets in Enniscorthy
- Just 1 Life
- Allegations re CE by SER
- Prayers at Council meetings
- Retention permissions granted
- Tenant in Situ
- Planning Application

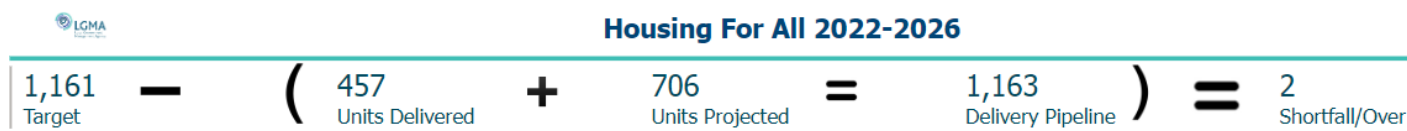
7 responses issued.



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,161 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below.



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

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

Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. The next Expression of Interest opens on 3rd January 2024 and runs until 9th February, 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.

Project Address	No of Units	Unit Profile	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cross St., New Ross	2	2 x 2-bed	New Ross	Delivered Q4 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross 2 (includes 1 Part V)	13	3 x 2-bed 10 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	2	2 x 2-bed	Wexford	Delivered Q4 2023
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	3 x 2-bed 7 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delivered Q4 2023
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	8 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2 4	2 x 2-bed 4 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	2 units Delivered Q4 2023 An EOI was submitted for an additional 4 units which delivered Q4 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder 29 units to deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024

Mangan, Hollyfort	2	2 x 3-Bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To Deliver Q3 2024
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	164			

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	4 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q1 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd	12	6 x 3-bed 6 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	6 delivered Q4 2023, 2 to deliver Q1 2024, 2 to Deliver Q4 2024 2 to Deliver Q1 2025
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 x 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	4 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units Delivered Q3 2023 2 units to deliver Q1 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered Q4 2022, 2 units to be delivered Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 x 2-bed 2 x 2-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units to deliver Q2 2024 2 units to Deliver Q1 2025
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	2 x 3-bed 7 x 3-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. To deliver on phased basis from Q1 2024.
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delays on site To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	62			

Approved Housing Body Delivery

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
	Cluid			
Bridgemeanows, Enniscorthy	12	10 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2023
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q2 2025
Tobar Mhuire Place, Gorey	5	5 x 2 bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q3 2023

Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	86	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q2 2026
Beechfield, Clonard	50	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q2 2025
Tuath				
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	12 x 2-bed 12 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Delivered Q2 2023
Ramstown, Gorey	74	10 x 1-bed 25 x 2-bed 33 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Phase 2 - 20 units Delivered Q3 2023. Remainder 24 units to deliver Q2 2024. An additional 6 units will also deliver Q2 2024
Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)				
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	2 x 1-bed 14 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed 2 x 4 bed	Wexford	17 units delivered Q2 2023. 21 units delivered Q3 2023.
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	19 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delivered Q4 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q1 2024
TOTAL	386			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 473 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	99
Gorey	121
New Ross	41
Rosslare	76
Wexford	136
Total	473

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 18th December 2023:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 st – 18 th December 2023)	98	74	110	105	67	454
Repair Requests Year to Date	1650	1114	1751	1781	1122	7418
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 18 th December 2023)	80	62	90	85	42	359
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	1274	868	1265	1323	793	5523

CLOSED Repair Requests (1 st – 18 th December 2023)	72	36	86	73	37	304
CLOSED Repairs Requests Year to Date	1140	676	1174	1133	736	4859

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.

Of all targets, the Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 37 properties in 2022. We propose to complete the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value the grant funded works planned for completion in 2023 will exceed €3.1 million.

The following table shows the status of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program to date.

Status update January to December 2023	No of Properties
Properties completed	150
Works Ongoing/awarded	63
Tender Stage	22
Total	235
<i>Tender Preparation /Survey Stage (2024 programme)</i>	124

Properties currently at survey stage will be tendered and awarded in first half of 2024 to allow us to deliver in line with department objectives and have work in progress and completed in 2024. We are currently approaching candidate properties for our 2024 program with surveys to commence in Q4 2023 continuing in 2024.

Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Status update January to October 2023	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	In Progress Circa 80% complete
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – Windows and Doors	In Progress Circa 80% complete
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	Contract awarded Survey in Progress Works to commence 2024
Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford District 1offs	Contract awarded Works to commence 2024
Doors Only Tender – Countywide	Tender Preparation Works to commence 1H 2024

Affordable Housing

Housing Agency Conference December 2023

Members of the Affordable Housing and Housing Capital Delivery Team attended the ‘Housing Agency Conference 2023’ in Trinity College. The event, which was hosted by The Housing Agency, working in association with the Land Development Agency (LDA) and the Geary Institute. The theme “Land for Affordable Housing” and the management of land to produce affordable housing options as a central issue facing the housing sector in Ireland.

The conference included an opening address from Minister for Housing, Mr. Daragh O’Brien TD, and expert panellists from across the sector, discussing solutions and programmes that will help manage Irelands land resources to further support the delivery of social and affordable housing.



(Panel members included members from the Housing Agency, IBEC, Tuath Housing , LGMA, NESCC)

Ramsfort Park – Affordable Housing Fund.

Following submission of an application for funding under the Affordable Housing Fund, we are currently waiting assessment and approval from the DHLGH team for support-funding for the proposed housing scheme at Ramsfort Park, Gorey Co. Wexford.



(The pilot scheme includes 20 No. affordable houses at Ramsfort Park (Radharc na Beannóige), Gorey, Co. Wexford).

Choice Based Letting

Wexford County Council introduced Choice Based Letting in August 2023. All applicants approved for social housing supports including approved transfer applicants received a login to the system. To date there has been significant positive interest. The following table shows the number of properties advertised on the Choice Based Letting website, to **15/12/23**, together with Number of Views & Expressions of Interest.

Municipal District	Number of Properties Advertised	Properties Available for Allocation	Number of Views	Number of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	12	20	6788	873
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	14	17	8466	1490
New Ross	10	10	5322	540
Rosslare	8	8	2800	325
Wexford	10	16	6617	1365
TOTAL	54	71	29993	4593

As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 71 properties were available for allocation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Joint Policing Committee Meeting

A joint meeting of the Wicklow and Wexford Joint Policing Committees took place on the 7th December 2023. This joint meeting was attended by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, who took questions from the committees. Matters discussed during this meeting:

- Quarterly crime figures and trends, as outlined in the Chief Superintendent's Report
- Proposed changes to the operating model in the Wicklow / Wexford Garda Division, as outlined by the Garda Commissioner



Left to right: Cllr. Michael Whelan, Chair, Wexford JPC; Chief Superintendent Derek Hughes, An Garda Síochána; Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Commissioner Drew Harris, An Garda Síochána; Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services, Wexford County Council; Cllr. Gerry Walsh, Chair, Wicklow JPC

Framework Agreement signed for Social Inclusion Contracts and SICAP

The tender process for the new 5-year Framework Agreement for Social Inclusion is now complete with the contract signing with the successful tenderer, Wexford Local Development took place on 19th December 2023. This will see a framework agreement being put in place between WCC and WLD for a period of 5 years which allows Social Inclusion contracts up to a combined value of €15.5 million be awarded to WLD over the term of the contract. SICAP is an excellent service to the people of Wexford providing much needed social inclusion and community services to disadvantaged communities and individuals in need. The new SICAP programme will begin on 1st January 2023.



Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan is nearing completion and will be presented to the various committees for approval in January 2024.



LEADER Programme



A new LEADER programme is set to commence in the new year. Wexford Local Development's LDS (Local Development Strategy) for the new LEADER programme was accepted by Pobal and will be implemented by WLD with a new Local Action Group (LAG) being put in place in 2024 for approval of LEADER funding. This will operate under a Memorandum of Understanding with Wexford Co. Council and include members of WCC as part of the new Local Action Group who are tasked with approving funding applications and related LEADER activities. The current LEADER programme (2014-2022) will continue in parallel for a time until the remaining claims are paid and the programme is closed out.

2014 – 2022 LEADER Project Claims

From the 29/11/2023 to 14/12/2023 the Article 48 team processed **2** claims in December under the 2014 – 2022 LEADER Programme.

The value of these claims was **€98,885.34** which will support **2** enterprises throughout County Wexford. These claims can be broken down as follows:

Payment Processed:

Tennant Consulting t/a IOAC.ie	€15,187.50
Wexford Cable Industries – Cable Cutting Equip	€83,697.84

Community Recognition Fund

The first Claim was processed with the Department of Rural and Community Development in November 2023 a total of €240K claimed to date. Another €165K projected to be claimed in January 2024.

Total of 30% of fund spend projected by end of January. Target of 70% of fund spend projected by end Q1 2024. Fund closes October 2024. Most high value projects in the Municipal Districts are currently in the tender stage or yet to start; with some not scheduled to commence until early 2024, due to onsite issues or requirements for further funding.



Projects supported (amounts this period):

- **The Killinick Project** – bus shelter, road tarmacadam and public realm improvements (€15,150.00)
- **Templeshannon Community and Childcare Ltd.** – heating upgrade to existing upgrade (€38,308.00)
- **Ferndale Park, Wexford** - new MUGA at Ferndale Park (€67,320.00)
- **Duncannon AFC** – redevelopment of club grounds (€25,000.00)
- **Access 2000** – energy improvements to building (€5,000.00)
- **Fethard Community Development Association St. Mary's Hall** – improvements to community centre (€5,000.00)

Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2023 Hosted in Wexford



The national Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards took place in Wexford on 30th November in Clayton Whites Hotel.



Wexford was nominated and shortlisted in two categories this year. The first was in the “Age Friendly Environment Award” category. **“Playful spaces for all”** is a collaboration with the local community of Our Lady’s Island in conjunction with Wexford County Council’s “Age Friendly”, “Access”, “Healthy Wexford” and “Active Travel” sections to enhance the playfulness of the area across the generations to ensure age friendly and intergenerational opportunities through development of playful spaces that can be used simultaneously by all ages and abilities.

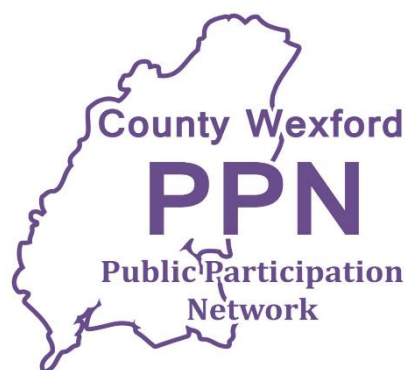
In the Age Friendly “Active and Healthy Ageing Award” category, Sports Active Wexford’s **“Strong and Steady”** project which is a structured exercise program for the older generation was also shortlisted. This program is aimed at vulnerable older adults who have a fear of falling and a result let this fear affect them in their day-to-day activities. It is a collaboration with between the Physiotherapist team in Wexford Integrated Care Team for Older People and Sports Active.

PPN

December Overview

PPN Workshops

Wexford PPN hosted a free workshop on Grant Writing with Yvonne Byrne, at the New Ross Youth Centre. The training was well attended and the PPN has already booked an online session of the same workshop for the new year. Another free workshop was hosted by the PPN on Social Media use for communities. This training was delivered by Denise Whitmore from the Social Media Dept and took place at Knockingall Community Centre, Piercestown.





Grant Writing Workshop with Yvonne Byrne

PPN Plenary Meeting

The Winter AGM took place at Oylegate Community Centre. Exhibitor included Clann Credo, Enniscorthy Credit Union, BHP Insurance and Healthy Wexford. The PPN's Strategic Plan and Climate Action Thematic Groups were also officially launched on the night.



Plenary Meeting at Oylegate Community Centre

PPN Updates

- 450 Community Groups now registered with the PPN.
- Vacant PPN Representative roles due to be advertised soon.

Healthy Wexford

An expression of interest from Community Groups to host **Meet Your Neighbour** events Jan-Mar 2024 has been issued by Healthy Wexford, via social media and through Wexford PPN.

Groups are asked to express an interest by email to annette.dupuy@wexfordcoco.ie by 12th January 2024.



Following the success of the pilot **'Happy to Chat' Café** initiative rolled out in Summer 2023, the initiative is now extended with local businesses and organisations, community cafes and meeting spaces encouraged to get involved.

To join the organisation simply get in touch with our Healthy County Coordinator – Annette.dupuy@wexfordcoco.ie or 053-9196525

Healthy Wexford were delighted to be part of the team who worked on the Playful Spaces for All Project at Our Lady's Island which was shortlisted for an Age Friendly Award, under the Environment category.

While the project was not chosen as the winning entry it was great to see the project highlighted nationally and to be in such esteemed company.



Our Healthy County Coordinator recently represented Healthy Wexford at the Child Health Regional Conference, held in Kilkenny on 30th November. The event featured work from across the region and provided an expo opportunity for Healthy Wexford along with regional colleagues and our Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer.

Our Healthy Wexford Coordinator also had the opportunity to expo and engage with local communities at the recent Wexford PPN Plenary Meeting in Oylegate, while through the Health & Wellbeing Committee at Wexford GAA our 'Not Around Us' initiative was highlighted at the recent GAA

Convention on 11th December.

Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP)

Enniscorthy Interagency Group meeting

Enniscorthy Interagency Group held their second meeting in Enniscorthy on 23rd November with very good attendance from a range of agencies. Membership includes Council representatives from Enniscorthy Municipal District, Community, Planning, Active Travel, Housing and Climate Action as well as agencies including An Garda Síochána, HSE, WWETB, Wexford Local Development, FDYS, Schools, Tusla and Approved Housing Bodies.

It was agreed at the meeting to carry out place standard audits focusing on 2 housing estates, Forgelands and Gimont Ave in January. Representatives from this group as well as members of these local communities will be involved with targeted community development work to take place in advance of this.

SHCP projects present to regional HSE Child Health conference

The HSE's South East Child Health Conference 'Sharing the Learning across the South East' was held in Kilkenny on 30th November and was attended by just under 100 people including health professionals from right across the South East. The Conference was a great opportunity for all those working in child health in statutory, voluntary and community agencies across the region to showcase their work and share good practice and learnings.

We were delighted to be invited to present on two of our seed funded Slaintecare Healthy Communities projects at the conference namely from the teachers and staff of the Loreto Secondary School on their Ark and Green Therapy projects and also a hard hitting presentation from Sharon Murphy who is the Family Home Liaison Officer at FAB Community Development Project in Coolcotts, Wexford on a parenting initiative running out there. SHCP and Healthy County colleagues also had an opportunity to discuss our work with a stand on the day.



Loreto Film documentary on US TV

Our SHCP seed funded project with the Loreto Secondary School in Wexford Town features on an American documentary and has been shown on US TV channel 'Nature on PBS'. See links below:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cyi1v60Rf5X/?igshid=MTc4MmM1Yml2Ng==>

https://youtu.be/ddmm77qiEBE?si=japuP0Tp_z3_qeHS (Loreto bit is at 9.30 minutes)

Retrofitting Pilot Project & Southend Family Resource Centre (FRC)

Southend FRC and Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Communities are a key partner in our retrofitting pilot project with Pamela O'Connor from the FRC part funded by SHCP. Thanks to Pamela work to date the following has been achieved in Maudlintown:

- 63 people have received assistance in applying for the 100% SEAI retrofitting grant
- 3 houses have had the full retrofit
- 5 houses are currently being assessed
- 15 houses have had external insulation work completed
- 10 homes have had monitors installed to take reading of before and after retrofit works
- Plans in the New Year for another community information focused on Individual or the One Stop Shop SEAI grants.

Edermine Rowing Club – boat building and education programme funded

Edermine Rowing Club have been successful in an application for SHCP funding of €15,000 which will be used for a new boat building intergenerational project for the club which will bring together the older and younger members to build a boat they will row in 2024. Funding will also be used to purchase 6 fully accessible rowing machines, 25 lifejackets, a new trailer and for Level 1 coaching for 9 younger members of the club.

Telehealth

Work has moved on to Phase 2 of the Telehealth project with our partners in the HSE, Age Friendly Ireland, Tunstall Emergency Response and South East Technological University. A meeting took place on 4th December with plans underway in Wexford to expand the rollout of the current SHCP project with the HSE's Wexford Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) which gives older people with mobility issues or memory loss a Pan Pan device which detects falls automatically and within seconds reports it to a 24 hour monitored call centre which will respond and detect GPS position if tracking enabled.

Enniscorthy Community Kitchen Pilot Project

WCC Community Section working in partnership with FDYS's Food and Nutrition Worker, Enniscorthy Fáilte and Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme are funding a community kitchen pilot project for Ukrianian families living in long term hotel accommodation. The project will be based in the kitchens in Templeshannon Community Centre and will run over 12 weeks. It will allow them to cook their own food with Food Cloud providing the food for this project.

Ferns Befriending Support

Since it was set up in 2019, Ferns Bfriendly have continued to provide a weekly friendly call to older members of the community in and around the Ferns area. This Christmas the Community Section are providing assistance to the group to enable their volunteers to call out to isolated members of the community with a small gift and also to provided funding to cover their costs in 2024.

New Fund Announced - The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP)

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) was announced on 6th December which will see capital funding amounting to €216,850.62 made available to Co. Wexford for community-based capital projects. This total amount is comprised of:

- **€180,708.85** capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- **€36,141.77** capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups.

Sports Active Wexford

Strong and Steady – Coolcotts

Strong and Steady Coolcotts, a falls prevention programme for older adults being run alongside HSE WEXICOP physiotherapists is ongoing in Coolcotts Community Centre. There are 5 older adults participating weekly in the 20-week programme, which will run up to the end of February 2024. Funded in conjunction with healthy Wexford through the Healthy Ireland Fund.



Woodlands for Health – Tintern

Woodlands for health – Tintern is a 12-week walking group catering for HSE mental health service users. It will run until the 12th December and re-start for a further 6-weeks in the new year.

Walking Rugby

Walking Rugby took place in Wexford and Gorey for Windmill Therapeutic Services, Ard Aobhinn and St. Aidan's Disability Services. A blitz will be held on Thursday 14th December in Astro Active. Participants: 29. 18 females and 11 males

IPA Badminton

The 8-week Integration badminton programme finished on December 5th. Total individuals signed up to Badminton Ireland membership: 36

Residential Nursing Home Exercise Classes

Our residential Nursing home exercise classes are continuing in conjunction with Age Friendly Wexford, which will finish on the 16th January 2024.

Safeguarding

14 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 210 participants. 5 x Safeguarding 2 Courses have been completed in 2023 with a total of 44 participants

Active Retirement Group -Scooch

13 women and 1 male from Taghmon Active Retirement Group participated in the Scooch taster on Thursday the 7th of December. Taghmon Active Retirement Group have their own Scooch set and aim to continue playing in the New Year.



Residents of Kerlogue Nursing Home taking part in our Exercise Programme recently

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours –

Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023. The DAFM approved 25 projects under this scheme with total construction cost of €1.79m. A total of 24 of the 25 projects are now completed and claims to recoup funding were submitted to the DAFM in November 2023.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. This is the one project under the above BALAMI scheme that did not proceed due to planning and foreshore consent outstanding. If the BALAMI scheme is not extended beyond 2023, WCC will apply to progress this project under a separate funding stream once the statutory consents are in place.

Beaches –

Applications for 6 blue flag beaches, 2 blue flag marinas and 10 green coast beaches were submitted to An Taisce in November 2023. The awards will be announced by An Taisce in May 2024.

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works. Public convenience completed. Design and tender works for the access path are being finalised, with the works expected to go to tender in early 2024.

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 finalised. The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/>

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries. Public consultation day will be held later in Q1 2024.

Seaview, Kilmore: Preplanning application was submitted to Wexford CC Planning Dept in August 2023, with application for full planning permission to follow. Preplanning meeting was held with Planning Dept on 29th August. A planning application will be submitted in due course. Further correspondence was issued to OPW to progress the funding of the scheme.

Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

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	75% of Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	Universal Access Toilet (UAT) to open Monday 23 rd July, External shower installed, completion works include concrete pad for beach wheelchair shed
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 works now commenced.
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Septic Tank Inspections:

123 inspections under the National Inspection Plan were carried out in 2023. 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 have to be carried over till 2024. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2024 plus the 7 carried from 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 72 files have been closed during 2023 so far. 29 extensions of time were granted in 2023. There are currently 56 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 46 open for 2023, a total of 102 open cases.

Twenty-three applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date of which twenty have been processed/ have been sent for payment.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2023
2019	156	48	108	10	4
2020	111	38	73	6	4
2021	91	24	67	17	9
2022	139	50	89	14	27
2023	123	54	69	46	23

There are currently 14 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 3 of these are for hearing and 11 are currently for mention.

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. 2019-2022 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 must register before applying for the grant.

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 is in the process of finalising the new regulations, which will be published in the coming weeks. A circular and terms and conditions are also being finalised for local authorities.

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.

2. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 92 active Discharge Licences. Six applications have been received in 2023 to date. One of these have been formally granted, with three under review. Six discharge licences have been revoked in 2023 at present and a few more are under review.

3. Air Quality:

Vehicle Refinishers: At end of 2023, 61 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is now the largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues “On the Spot Fines” of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below.

Dry Cleaners: At end of 2023, 7 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. 1 dry Cleaners closed in 2023 and was removed from the register. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

Petrol Stations: At end of 2023, 79 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. Issued in 2023 (to 1 st Dec)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	20	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	14	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	N/A

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act 1987 (SOLID FUELS) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No 529 of 2022) was signed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Mr Eamon Ryan and came into effect on the 31st October 2022. Spot inspections have been carried out to ensure compliance with the 2022 Regulations.

Wexford are currently compiling a register of solid fuel supplier in County Wexford. Sampling of coal was carried out in November with 20 samples sent for analysis. A grant was received for the above work.

4. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 65 farm inspections undertaken because of pollution incidents or complaints, 30 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. 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 on 4 individuals where 2 of these farms were cross reported to DAFM.

A total of 85 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been assessed in 2023.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0
2023	46	19	2	0

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. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites November 2023	Recycling out (End November) 2022 (t)	Recycling out (End November) 2023 (t)
Glass bottles		3458	3302
Aluminium Cans		87	84
Total	108	3545	3386

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2022 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2023(t)	Recycling out Jan- Nov2022	Recycling out Jan - Nov 2023	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2022	Recycling out Jan-Nov 2023
Total Recycling out	543	568	598	602	797	738	470	459
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2308	3025	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Nov	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	63	68	111	115	107	134	79	80

4. Rapid Response Crew

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

Activity	<i>To end Nov 2022</i>	<i>Nov 2023</i>	<i>To end Nov 2023</i>	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	2,160	214	2,180	+0.9%
<i>Gorey *</i>		37		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		75		
<i>Wexford *</i>		47		
<i>New Ross*</i>		30		
<i>Rosslare</i>		25		
Total Bring Site Inspections	8,249	754	9,132	+10.7%
<i>Gorey</i>		160		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		187		
<i>Wexford</i>		225		
<i>New Ross</i>		115		
<i>Rosslare</i>		67		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	16,480	1,595	16,521	+0.2%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	598		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	1,097		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	5,155	852	7,660	+48.5%
<i>Gorey</i>		146		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		312		
<i>Wexford</i>		218		
<i>New Ross</i>		238		
<i>Rosslare</i>		12		

Other Works are as follows.

- 1- Beach and lifeguard work
- 2- Black spot checks
- 3- Town inspections every morning
- 4- Trails maintenance
- 5- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep

5. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have sufficient permitted facilities throughout the county, such as Clean Soil and Stone, construction and demolition sites, ATF's / End of Life Vehicles and Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council's website.

Altogether there are 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

6. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as submitted to the EPA on 28 February 2023. The 2023 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,597 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, Mercury etc.

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.
-

E LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2022	TOTAL FOR JAN-NOVEMBER 2023
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	229	200
Fines Paid in Full●	111	54
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	83	55
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	43	28
Legal Proceedings in Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	49	44
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€18,530.57	€9,303.00 litter / €3,375.00 Waste – total €12,678.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€5230	€6,160.00

* 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.

September 2023

One case adjourned for October 2023 for progress in relation to non-compliance with an Advisory Notice under the Water Services Act which was due for hearing. The Judge struck one case under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Act 2018.

October 2023

Two successful cases were heard in Wexford District Court under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2018, the council were awarded a fine of €300.00 and €100 in costs for one case and a fine of €250.00 and €50 in costs for the second case. Wexford County Council also had one successful litter fine whereby a fine of €160.00 was awarded.

November 2023

Wexford County Council obtained six prosecutions during hearings in November 2023. Two cases were successful under the Waste Presentation Bye Laws 2018 and four cases under the Litter Pollution Act. The Council were awarded a total of €1,050.00 in fines and €1,417.00 in costs.

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

Year	Litter free	Slightly litt	Moderately litt	Seriously litt	Grossly litt
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
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			566	

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 2009-2023(November)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2023	200	28	2143
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

F.CLIMATE ACTION

Preparation work on the development on the Local Authority Climate Action plan continued. All local authorities are required to prepare a plan under the “The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.” The plan incorporates both mitigation and adaptation measures and includes the development of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ). Enniscorthy is the Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford. The DZ will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. Minister Eamon Ryan requested Wexford County Council to commence its Climate Action plan on 24th February 2023 with 12 months to prepare, complete and fully adopt the plan.

The Plan will set an ambitious target of an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% and 50% energy efficiency by 2030. Wexford County Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing, facilitating and advocating others to meet their own targets.

The plan will come for adoption before the Council in February 2024.

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme funding scheme opened on 13th December to support and build low carbon communities across County Wexford. The fund is open to not-for-profit community groups and clubs. The closing date will be 6th March 2024.

Funding for 100% of the cost of a climate action project is available through this scheme, up to a maximum of €100,000. Project examples could be insulation of community buildings, solar panels, bicycle parking, rainwater harvesting, community gardens / allotments, etc.

Site meetings with interested groups are ongoing, with a total of 34 groups visited to date.

Further details on the programme are available [here](#)

G. 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 – Nov 2023
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	3993
Closed	4691	4863	5019	3452	3281
Closure Rate	99%	97%	97%	89%	82%

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	2020	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023 (February) – November)
Dogs collected	532	429	546	470
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117	108
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370	329
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51	33
Dog Fines	5	18	21	13

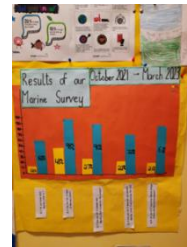
There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

To date in 2023 two horses has been seized.

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: Communication is ongoing with schools due to renew their green flag this academic year and renewal dates are being finalised. All renewal visits must be completed by March 2024. New applications for 1st green flag on Litter & Waste must be submitted to An Taisce by 8th December 2023.



School Workshops: Workshops for both primary and secondary schools are being organised for the 2023/2024 academic year. Workshops will cover topics on climate action, fast fashion, biodiversity, and waste management.

Fast Fashion workshops took place in October at Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge, Gorey Educate Together Secondary School and Loreto Secondary School, Wexford.

Workshops took place in November in Selskar College, Gorey Community School and St Peters College for the Rubbish Film Festival. The workshop for Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge will take place in January.

Christmas Decoration Competition: Closing date for receipt of decorations is Monday 4th December. All schools submit one decoration per category into the County Final. 171 decorations have been received and are displayed in the County Hall. Awards were presented by An Cathaoirleach on Thursday 21st December at 4.30 pm.


Picker Pal Programme: 10 primary schools will be funded to participate in the picker pal programme, Schools will be sent Picker Packs which will contain supplies, safety card, the Picker Pals reader Picker Power and the Picker Pals Funbook for every child.

Schools also receive teacher resource materials, ongoing teacher support, access to online interactive resources, 6 Picker Pals TV episodes links sent directly to all classrooms and access to all Picker Pals competitions and projects run throughout the 2023/24 academic year.



Trees for Wexford: 150 applications have been approved under the Trees for Wexford Scheme. Quotations have been sought for the supply and delivery of trees and saplings under the scheme. It is proposed that trees / saplings will be available for collection by all approved groups mid – late January.

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

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/11/23 – 30/11/23	60
	01/01/23 – 30/11/23	1016

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Community and Culture

Travelling Tales

Travelling tales a library initiated project was shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government in the Diversity & Inclusion category in 2023. Travelling Tales was a multi-generational, multi-disciplinary project, celebrating the voices of Traveller children in three schools in Co. Wexford. The project was based in schools that had a high percentage of Traveller children in attendance. The project was initiated by Wexford Public Library Service and supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Travelling Tales responded to some of the core principles of National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 such as “cultural identity, gender equality, and a positive culture of respect and protection for the cultural identity of Travellers across the education system”. School children who are members of the Traveller community worked with a professional writer and artist (Caroline and John Busher) to write and illustrate a book that is authentic and represents Traveller culture. The book contains stories and poems written in Gamin. This publication which has been widely distributed provides a platform for members of the Travelling community to see themselves, represented in stories and art.

The children also produced their own animation which explored the theme of HOME. The children made their own house/trailer using skills such as woodwork and textile-making. This animation explores key aspects of Traveller identity. This animation will increase awareness of the importance of literacy and libraries for all children. It helps to break down any barriers that exist to library use in the Travelling community. Finally, through textile and sewing workshops, the children created their own religious scapulars. These consist of two small (usually rectangular) pieces of cloth, a few inches in size, which bear religious images created by the children.

Library Ireland Week 3rd – 9th December

Library Ireland Week is an annual initiative of the Library Association of Ireland organized by a voluntary taskforce reporting into the Library Council of the Library Association of Ireland. In 2023, Library Ireland Week was again delivered in partnership with CILIP Ireland. Each year Library Ireland Week invites libraries across Ireland to host events, campaigns, activities or exhibitions to celebrate the annual theme. 2023's theme was Libraries are for Everyone. Wexford Libraries held

many and varied events to celebrate and promote Library Ireland Week. Library Ireland Week 2023 was supported by RTÉ Supporting the Arts.

My Open Library

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

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, use a public PC or laptop, use our printing services, use the internet, use the Wi-Fi and borrow and return items and collect requests.

Wexford Volunteer Centre Information Sessions

These sessions continued in libraries in early December.

Happy to Chat

“Happy to Chat” the new pilot initiative organised to increase social engagement and reduce loneliness and isolation in the community, continued in Wexford Branch and was introduced in Enniscorthy Library this month. People are free to sit and chat with each other at a specially designated table.

This project was supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries programme 2012-23, and by the Archive Services of Wexford and Wicklow County Councils.

Sensory Hour

Saturday afternoon from 4.00pm-5.00pm. Sensory Hour supports library users, both adults and children who have sensory and/or extra needs. It offers a calm and sensory friendly environment for children and their families.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Ukraine English Classes continued in Wexford Branch with Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine. Outreach to Ukrainian Families with Anna, a new weekly information help and guidance meeting with Ukrainian tutor Anna, also continued. New Ross Library continues its Outreach for Ukrainian Nationals. Gorey Library welcomed the Gorey Youth Needs Group to the library for Ukrainian Christmas Celebrations featuring St. Nikolas as a special guest.

Learning and Information

Heritage

Christmas Folklore with Michael Fortune, artist/folklorist

This talk in Bunclody Library looked at Christmas from a uniquely Irish perspective. Michael introduced those in attendance to first-hand source customs and traditions found around the country. **Between Art and Craft:** Gorey Library held this talk on keeping the tradition of textile art alive with Trish Middleton. **North Wexford Historical Society Talk: The Second World War off the Coast of Wexford**

This talk given by Dr. Michael Kennedy of the Royal Irish Academy was given in Gorey Library.

Digital Literacy

The Digital help hub was held in Enniscorthy Library every second week in December. WWETB Tutors were available to help members of the public use their own devices (phone, tablet, laptop), get online and use apps. Tutors also gave guidance on how to fill in online forms, how to use egov.ie, mywelfare.ie, the National Childcare Scheme, Revenue, SUSI, Choice Based Letting for those on the housing list, and much more. Through the Digital Help Hub one to one training was also provided to the public on the second Thursday of the month in Wexford Branch. These will resume in January until May 2024. The Digital Help Hub is a free service, confidential and one-to-one. It is an initiative of the ALL Adult Literacy for Life national strategy. WWETB, WLD, and Wexford County Council Library Service have worked together to bring this initiative to County Wexford.

Age Action technology training for older members of the community continued in Wexford Branch. Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly classes for the over-55s facilitated by WWETB continued in New Ross Branch.

Windmill Therapy Unit continued to visit the IT Suite in Wexford Library for TTRS for adults. Reachability Group Castlebridge, a group of adult learners and tutors attended the IT Suite in Wexford Branch for classes over a six-week period.

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.

Age Friendly

Enniscorthy library has joined other Wexford libraries in receiving Library Age Friendly recognition status. The library is recognised as a place that enables all members of the community to enjoy the library by making it as user friendly as possible. As part of the consultation process members of Enniscorthy Retirement Association met with the library Age Friendly Champion and carried out a ‘How age friendly is your library checklist’.

Decade of Centenaries

Wicklow Gaol Comrades: A Civil War Autograph Book – Exhibition 15th – 22nd December in Enniscorthy Library

This innovative collaboration between the archive services of Wexford and Wicklow County Councils centres on a small autograph book (part of Wexford County Archive’s Civil War collection). It was owned by Patrick Fitzpatrick from Killealy, a member of North Wexford IRA’s flying column. He was imprisoned in Wicklow Gaol in late 1922, and following his escape and subsequent recapture, was interned again, mainly at Tintown Camp B, Co. Kildare until his release on 24 December 1923. The autograph book includes signatories of fellow internees from Fitzpatrick’s time in both places of detention.

Copies of the Wicklow Gaol Comrades books will be available for the duration of the exhibition.

Ireland and the League of Nations 1923 with Barry Lacey: In many libraries in December, Barry Lacey discussed the context surrounding the League of Nations, the Free State delegation who attended and what it meant for a country which had just come out of a bitter year-long civil war.

Children's Services

Family Time at Your Library

Family events and activities took place in all libraries during the month of December to support the involvement of the whole family in children's reading. **Family Time at your Library** activities are provided to engage family members in the enjoyment of reading and sharing stories. The **Family Time at your Library** events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

Wexford Branch held a Christmas themed drama workshop which used music, props, finger puppets and imagination to have fun in a world of make believe for the whole family. New Ross Library hosted Aaron Towers – The BFG, a lovely event based on Roald Dahl's book of the same name. Enniscorthy Library presented The Cool Food School Children's Christmas Workshop. There was a Storytime and Christmas Carols with Mrs Claus at New Ross Library. Gorey Library held a Christmas Craft Workshop and Rhyme and Sign Storytime with Clever Little Handies where participants learned to sign as they went with no previous experience necessary as a brief introduction to baby sign was given with instructions on how to do the Irish Sign Language (ISL) signs that were needed.

Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshops: Bunclody Branch delivered two Fighting Words creative writing workshops for the students of All Saints National School Carnew during December.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 38 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 3 researchers visited the Archive in December. Research topics included images of Rosslare Fort before its destruction in the 1920s; Church of Ireland death notices in the *Wexford Evening Post* (1820-25) and family history research through primary school registers for Ballindaggin National School (1880-1920).

A lecture by Myles Courtney at a New Ross Historical Society gathering in the town on 7 December centred on the recent discovery of a dedicated souvenir programme for the 150th anniversary of 1798 in 1948. The Crutched Friars were a religious order that had a priory in New Ross in the 13th century. In July 1947, Fr Engwirda became the first Crutched Friar to visit New Ross in nearly seven centuries. Myles Courtney was instrumental in encouraging the deposit of this historical gem in the county archive, which is already home to a significant range of collections relating to New Ross history and heritage, some of which have been digitised and made available online.

ARTS

Arts Office Directors Report – December 2023

'Heed' Exhibition by Soroptimists Wexford

Project was facilitated by Wexford Based artist Deidre Meehan Buttmer through Wexford Arts Office's Creative Community Scheme. It was part of the Global Orange the World in 16 Days of Activism campaign to raise awareness of gender based violence over 16 Days up to the 10th of December. Mayor John Hegarty, Minister James Browne and Deidre Buttmer opened the event.

Folklore of Wexford by Michael Fortune Book Launch

At Loch Garman Arms, Gorey on December 1st. This publication was produced by Michael Fortune with the support of the Arts Office of Wexford County Council under their 'Creative Communities Programme' and the North Wexford Historical Society.

Artlinks Bursaries 2024

The ArtLinks partners in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford local authorities announced that the Professional and Emerging ArtLinks Bursary Awards 2024 opened for submissions on 4th December 2023.

Bunclody Songbook Launch by Aileen Lambert

'O Were I At the Moss House' a song book by Aileen Lambert was launched at Bunclody Library. The book Features twenty-five songs all about Bunclody. The project was supported by Bunclody Festivals and The Arts Department as part of Creative Communities.

SETU BA Fine Art Student Exhibition

SETU BA Fine Art Students Exhibition 'Severance: Rise of the Beasts' opened on the 5th December until the 9th December at the Creative Hub in Wexford town.

Wexford Playwright selected for Six in the Attic and Virtual Attic with Irish Theatre Institute

Wexford playwright Hannah Mc Niven was selected to take part in Six in the Attic and Virtual Attic 2023/24. This is a yearlong artist development programme with the Irish Theatre Institute. Selection for the programme was made by an open call published in October. This year marks new partnerships with Wexford Arts Office, Galway City Arts Office, Leitrim Arts Office, Roscommon Arts Centre and Tipperary Arts Office. One artist from each of these counties was selected for SITA 2023/24.

Creative Communities Programme - Artists' Panel 2024

The open call closed on the 8th December. The Creative Communities Programme enables meaningful collaboration between artists from the panel and County Wexford based community groups for arts projects of one intensive week to six months in duration.

Creative Places Enniscorthy Coffee Morning at the Presentation Arts Centre

The coffee morning had a huge turnout with over 70 artists attending. The goal was to get local artists' thoughts on what is needed in the area for artists. The Creative Places Initiative is developed and funded by The Arts Council Ireland and will take place in Enniscorthy over the next few years with the support of Wexford Arts Office, Wexford Arts Centre and Presentation Arts Centre.

Wexford Widescreen Youth Film Festival 2023

This annual youth film festival took place on Saturday 9th of December in St Michael's Theatre, New Ross. It incorporated workshops, talks and film screenings. Wexford Arts Office attended the screening from the year of work by the students of The County Wexford Youth Film Project. The County Wexford Youth Film Project is funded by the Arts Department and St. Michael's Theatre. All filmmaking and animation workshops are free for teenagers across County Wexford.

County Wexford Youth Film 2024

St. Michael's Theatre in partnership with the Arts Office of Wexford County Council invited tenders from filmmakers for a three-year Contract of Services (Jan 2024 – Dec 2026) to facilitate and manage County Wexford Youth Film Programme (13-18 years) based in St Michael's Theatre in New Ross.

The deadline for receipt of tenders is 4.00 p.m. Friday 15th December 2023

Music Generation

Ongoing partnership between Wexford County Council and WWETB supporting performance music education of young people in primary, post primary and youth work contexts countywide.

Screen Wexford

New Voices 2022 Screening with Screen Wexford

Winners of the New Voices award from 2020 which was Funded by Arts office and Screen Wexford, screening was held at Wexford Arts Centre. Cathaoirleach John Fleming opened the event along with the Arts Officer. This included a short film by Leag O'Toole 'We Were There', a documentary by Andrew Kenny 'The Search for Maelruan' and a short animation by Joseph Orr 'Lucifer Is That You?'

Tue 5th & Wed 6th December: Screen Wexford coordinator Suzanne McKenzie, attended the FOCUS – Trade Show in London. 150+ expert speakers from film, TV, advertising, games and XR explored all the rapid developments in the screen industries. Screen Ireland had a stand and invited all the Film Offices to attend, each office got a set amount of time on the stand each day to promote their County.

Friday 22nd Dec Xmas Networking Coffee morning National Opera House- Festival Room 10am

Fundamentals in Funding: This workshop will run in January and will bring together personnel from Creative Ireland, The Arts Council, Screen Ireland and WCC Arts Department to talk about the strategies of applying for funding; what funding opportunities there are for 2024 and give help with written applications and verbal pitch help and suggestions.

CREATIVE IRELAND

The Enniscorthy Time Machine - Festival in a Van

Workshops for the Creative Ireland Wexford funded programme The Enniscorthy Time Machine began, held in Enniscorthy Library and led by writer Billy Roche. The Enniscorthy Time Machine invites two different generations of the town (15-16 year olds and over 55s) to creatively explore what makes Enniscorthy special. Participants will channel their thoughts and ideas through creative writing sessions, asking questions such as: what was it like to live in old versions of Enniscorthy; how could the town flourish in the future with changes made now? The younger age group are asked what would Enniscorthy look like if climate action is not taken; and what buildings and artefacts might still exist in 500 years? This project emphasises the importance that preservation and progressive action through creativity has to placemaking.

Wexford County Council and the Irish Architectural Foundation with the co-design team at Elements of Action and the support of Creative Ireland have been looking at ways to enhance the Orchard Peace Park in Enniscorthy and will deliver a vision with key short, medium and long term recommendations in Spring 2024. Consultation on the co-design process continued in December both in person and online.

FIRE SERVICES Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls November 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	4 (3/1)	60	62
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	7(0/7)	54	52
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	3	6
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	1	3
Flats (2) Privately Owned	0	7	4
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	2	0
School	0	3	0
Other Institution	1	3	3
Factory	1	4	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	11	4
Shop/Supermarket	0	2	3
Office	1	1	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	1	1	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	1
Restaurant	0	1	2
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	2	47	46
Unoccupied Building	0	2	7
Agriculture Business	0	6	4
Forest/Bog/Grass	0	46	112
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	5	12	22
Outdoor Storage	1	8	4
Outdoor Rubbish	0	33	40
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	5	13	11
Gas/Chemicals	1	7	4
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	1	1	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0
Machinery	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	1	35	46
Other rescue	8	81	66
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	7	7
Road traffic accident	14	160	170
Water pumping/flooding	1	16	21
Incident Type	Calls November 2023	Calls to date 2023	Calls to this period 2022
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	30	307	259
Malicious	3	5	1

Total	87	941	965
--------------	-----------	------------	------------

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	25	11	12	8	4	60
Other Fire in House	8	16	14	11	5	54
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	2	0	0	0	3
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	0	0	0	0	1
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	1	1	2	0	7
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	0	1	0	0	2
School	0	0	3	0	0	3
Other Institution	3	0	0	0	0	3
Factory	2	0	1	1	0	4
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	5	2	4	0	11
Shop/Supermarket	1	0	0	1	0	2
Office	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	1	0	0	1
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurant	0	0	1	0	0	1
Petrol Station - Garage	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	17	12	7	9	2	47
Unoccupied Building	1	0	1	0	0	2
Agriculture Business	1	3	1	0	1	6
Forest/Bog/Grass	11	13	7	5	10	46
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	5	1	1	4	1	12
Outdoor Storage	2	2	2	2	0	8
Outdoor Rubbish	16	3	8	5	1	33

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	4	4	4	1	0	13
Gas/Chemicals	4	2	1	0	0	7
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	5	7	13	9	1	35
Other rescue	33	16	22	9	1	81
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	3	1	3	0	0	7
Road traffic accident	48	39	41	23	9	160
Water pumping/flooding	8	4	3	1	0	16
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	118	62	73	40	14	307
Malicious	4	0	1	0	0	5
Total	326	204	226	136	49	941

Fire Safety Certificates

Fire Safety Certificate Applications	Number
Number of Applications received in November 2023:	11
Number of Applications received from 1 Jan 2023 to date:	163
Number of Applications to this period 2022:	119

Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2023

Work will be commencing on the preparation of the 2023 Accounts shortly once all transactions for 2023 have been updated to the financial management system. The preparation of the annual accounts will take a number of months to complete but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

Capital Programme 2024 – 2026

Work will now commence on the preparation of the next 3 Year Capital Programme, 2024 - 2026 and it is planned to have this ready for consideration of members in the first quarter of 2024.

Audit Committee/Audit

Following their meeting with the Local Government Auditor in December the Audit Committee will prepare their annual reports in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, for consideration by the Council. It is expected that the report will be included on the agenda for the February Meeting of the Council.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m to 31st December 2024.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**