



ANYONE FOR SQUASH? page 5



JUNK KOUTURE page 8



GREEN PARTY page 17

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Tuesday 19th February 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

GARDAI RAID KWETB

The offices of the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) were raided last week by Gardaí; there were also a number of other locations raided, believed to be premises associated with a former senior executive and his family.

Five Wicklow county councillors serve on the KWETB board and Independent councillor Jim Ruttle was its chairman until recently.

In a statement Gardaí said: "The Garda National Economic Crime Bureau, with the assistance of detectives attached to the Kildare Division conducted a number of searches of premises in the Kildare area in relation to an ongoing investigation into certain matters."

The Garda raid follows on from the publication the previous day of an audit by the Comptroller and

Auditor General on the financial statements of KWETB for the year-end 2015. The audit found that poor contract management practice contributed to additional costs of €483,000 regarding the construction of Arklow Community College.

The audit also "identified concerns about procurement, project cost overruns and propriety matters". It also found "expenditure by KWETB in 2015 at a five-star hotel and golf resort appears excessive, with no evidence of any attempts to achieve value for money

for the service procured".

The audit also found weaknesses in KWETB's procurement processes, where contracts were awarded to a firm with connections to the then chief executive. These connections were not disclosed, according to the C&AG.

KWETB also rented an industrial property in 2015 which was subsequently partially licensed to the same firm connected to the then chief executive. "There was inadequate documentation of the licensing arrangements - rent and service costs



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were only paid to KWETB after concerns were raised by the audit," said the C&AG.

KWETB also disposed of a van in January 2017, but received no payment until after audit queries were raised. In addition, a full year's motor tax was paid by KWETB just before the disposal occurred.

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board repeatedly broke public contract rules and indulged in "excessive" spending on five-star hotels, according to an audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The audit by the State's spending watchdog into the KWETB found that some suppliers received contracts from the organisation even though information

existed that cast doubt over their qualifications.

In January 2017, the State audit team requested documentation from KWETB about contracts awarded to 22 suppliers, but received sufficient information on just 10 of the contracts. Four of them raised "significant concerns".

The number of breaches cast doubt on the "overall integrity" of the organisation's procurement practices, including the use of truncated deadlines, the failure to impose minimum qualifying standards and lack of a paperwork trail. The findings were accepted by the current KWETB chief executive, Dr Deirdre Keyes.

Continues on Page 3

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European Union European Regional Development Fund



Pictured: Michal and Fiona Mravinac with Adam and Isabelle Gilmore-Mravinac at Bray Sailing Club celebrating the Club's success at the at the Irish Sailing Associations Annual Awards recently.

Soup and Sandwiches

A lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served up in the Swann Hall, St. Patrick's Church, Greystones on Tuesday, 19th February from 12.30 until 2.00. Everyone welcome. Do come and enjoy the homemade goodies and a large choice of soups and sandwiches. Suggested donation of €5 for local charities.

The next Holy Rosary Soup & Sandwiches lunch is on Wednesday 27th February from 12.15 to 2pm in Kilian House Family Centre, next to the church in Greystones. Everyone is most welcome to come along and enjoy good home-made soup and sandwiches, tea/coffee and cake in a friendly atmosphere. The suggested donation is €5. All proceeds are given to local charities.

Getting Active in Wicklow Town

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership presents 'Getting Active in Wicklow Town', a talk by Sports Development Officer Denise O'Shea, in Wicklow Library on Thursday 21st February, 7pm.

Volunteers wanted for AlzPals

Volunteers are needed for AlzPals, a befriending service which supports people with dementia who are living at home. Full free training is provided with Garda vetting, reference checks, support and ongoing mentoring. Closing date for enquiries is March 8th. If you have a couple of hours a week to spare, and live in Co. Wicklow, please contact Wicklow Dementia Support on 089 4286928 or wicklowsd@gmail.com.

Wicklow Historical Society

On Monday February 18th Chris Power will present his lecture 'The Battle of Arklow 1798' to the Society at 8 p.m. in the De La Salle Parish Centre, beside St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town. Chris Power is the son of well-known historian Pat Power, and has recently published a book on 1798 with specific interest in the importance of the Battle of Arklow as the beginning of the end of the Rebellion. All are welcome to attend.

Raynaud's & Scleroderma support group

Cold hands, cold feet? You may have Raynaud's syndrome. The North Wicklow/South Dublin support group will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 25th at 7.30 pm at the Wilton Hotel, Southern Cross Road, Bray (opposite Killruddery Estate). All welcome. Information and support given in a friendly, informal atmosphere. For further information Ph: Michèle on 086 3424106.

HELP ARKLOW BECOME 'IRELAND'S TIDIEST TOWN'

Arklow has just been nominated for the award of Ireland's Tidiest Town and Arklow Tidy Towns is asking for YOUR help.

The award is an all-Ireland initiative between eight towns/villages from the south and six from the north of Ireland.

Arklow were nominated by the Department of Rural and Community Development in conjunction with Supervalua Tidy Towns based on last years entry to the Tidy Towns

Competition.

It is judged secretly on a day in May 2019 with no application form required.

The Tidy Towns group is asking everyone in Arklow to get involved.

Pick up a piece of litter a day, tidy your front garden, plant a tree or maybe paint your wall/gate.

If possible send them

in your before and after photos

If you have time, get involved with the Tidy Towns committee who have a wide range of projects on the go.

Arklow will be judged under several criteria; Presentation of Buildings; Appearance of Approach Roads and Streets and Public Areas, Presentation of Natural Environment; Presentation of Immediate Residential Areas; Tidiness; Comprehensiveness; General Impression.

Glen of the Downs Garden Centre

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The Maritime History of Bray

Brian White, chairman of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, will be the presenter for the Thursday February 21st meeting of the Bray Cualann Historical Society in the Royal Hotel, Bray, at 8pm, at which he will present his illustrated lecture 'The Maritime History of Bray, County Wicklow' - all welcome, admission €5.

Brian's lecture will cover the history of the five harbours of Bray, will include stories of smugglers, trace the development of the esplanade and the Marine Promenade and the three Towers, and reveal how a church spire in the town played an important role in calculating pilotage fees for Dublin Port. Other items which will be covered in this presentation will be the role of the Coastguard Station in Bray and various maritime clubs and societies including Bray Sailing Club, Bray Rowing Club, Bray Swimming Club, Bray Cove Swimming Club, Fishermen and Anglers of Bray, and Sea Scouting.

Oral History Project

Kilmacanogue History Society wish to announce the Launch of their Oral History Project on Tuesday 19th February in The Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, in the Boardroom at 8pm.

"Since KHS was founded in 1997 we have gained some recognition for our monthly History Talks and our catchment area now appears to have become: South County Dublin, Arklow, Bray, Enniskerry, Roundwood, Greystones, and Wicklow Town. Our latest initiative is the formation of an 'Oral History Research Group' with the aim of developing a resource for recording and archiving the memories of living people.

"Not just the rich and famous but also the everyday memories of everyday people. We believe that these memories are important and if they are not recorded, they will disappear forever. With support from the Heritage Office of the Wicklow County Council, as part of the Creative Wicklow Scheme we have begun Training our Research Team and also recording some 'voices' of Kilmacanogue and its environs. Please come to our Project Launch and bring some friends who might share our interest."

FUNDamental Movement Programme for Children with Dyspraxia

The Dyspraxia Association of Ireland supported by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will be running a six-week Fundamental Movement Programme for Children with Dyspraxia in Bray.

The six-week programme will cater for primary school children based in the Wicklow and South Dublin areas.

Early intervention is vital to ensure that children with Dyspraxia develop the fundamental movement and organisational skills that they need to carry out daily activities.

Dyspraxia is defined as a chronic disability that affects coordination. It is also known as developmental coordination disorder. 2-6% of people have dyspraxia.

Four times as many males than females have it. It is sometimes called 'clumsy child syndrome'.

An Information night about the programme and setting up a Dyspraxia/DCD support group for Wicklow and South Dublin will be held on 25th February at 7.30 pm in St Andrews Church Hall (opp. Molloy's), Bray.

If you would like to attend please register at info@dyspraxia.ie or 01 8747085.



Horror author Chris Rush and Tina Barcoe are pictured at the launch of Rush's book, '13 Dead', at Wicklow Gaol recently.

MAY BE TOO LATE TO SAVE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

It "may be too late" to prevent the imminent closure of the Cottage Home family support service in Shankill, which serves South-Dublin and South-East Wicklow area, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Catherine Zappone acknowledged last week.

The Cottage Home Child and Family Services provide progressive care and support, which meets the needs of children, young people and families in times of vulnerability and crisis. The service provides intervention and support services for 50 vulnerable families, to keep them out of residential care and foster care.

It's understood that a funding shortage of €400,000 makes it likely that the service will have to close by April.

Responding to a Parliamentary question from Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett, Minister Zappone said "Tusla has informed me that it does

not have any additional funding to support this service. The cottage home is located in the Tusla Dublin, South-Dublin, and South-East Wicklow area. Tusla has fully committed its funds for family support services in this area. As a result, there is no funding available to fund the Cottage Home family support service, which has never received funding from Tusla. However, Tusla funds the residential service run by this organisation. In 2018, Tusla funding for the Cottage Home's residential service came to a total of €1.6 million. Tusla has advised that it is currently commission-

ing plan for services in the area."

Minister Zappone said that Tusla had examined "a number of options to source funding for this service while maintaining existing funded services, but has been unsuccessful to date. Tusla will work with the Cottage Home to ensure it can provide the required alternative services to children and families."

Deputy Boyd Barrett said "I just do not understand this. Hundreds of millions of euro have been wasted on the National Children's Hospital, and we are looking for €400,000 to keep a service that we know works. Why would

it be allowed to close for the sake of €400,000? I cannot believe €400,000 cannot be found."

Minister Zappone explained that "€400,000 is significant in the context of the budget that Tusla has to provide services for families and children in various regions."

She said that to give them €400,000 would mean that same amount "would have to be taken from some other services that no doubt are also doing a good job".

She added that "there may be a possibility to save it, although I am aware it may be too late for the service and I deeply regret that."



Pictured: Ian Walsh and Flor O'Driscoll at Bray Sailing Club celebrating the Club's success at the Irish Sailing Associations Annual Awards recently. See story on page 17.

GARDAI RAID KWETB

Continued from Page 1

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the ex CEO of Kildare Wicklow Educational Training Board Sean Ashe and the ex Chairperson of the KWETB Board Wicklow Councillor Jim Ruttle to fully cooperate with the ongoing investigations into KWETB.

Deputy Brady said "The long-awaited publication of this report follows intense scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee back in November 2017 where the former Chief Executive and Chairperson were in attendance to account for financial statements. At that meeting of PAC both Sean Ashe and Cllr Jim Ruttle refused to answer questions put to them in relation to the accounts of the KWETB. I welcome the raids carried out by the Gardaí as part of the serious investigation and I hope that anyone with information will fully cooperate with the investigation.

"The report published this week identifies serious shortcomings in the procurement of capital projects, project overruns and propriety matters. The audit report for 2015 shows that hundreds of thousands of Euros were spent without the proper checks and balances being in place.

"As a board member of the KWETB Cllr Nicola Lawless welcomed the report as

she has been questioning and challenging the executive on this but has been denied answers to the many questions she put forward around this whole saga."

Cllr Lawless said "There are still unanswered questions about why the then Chair and Vice Chair of the board engaged legal advice on behalf of the board and then withheld this information from the board. Why the then CE took out a 25-year lease on Civic Block E in Bray and then informed the board after the fact which is now going to have huge financial implications on the KWETB. Who signed off on the tenders, there are many questions I have asked but have not got satisfactory answers or have just led to more questions. I am demanding a full investigation into these matters and others including the 2016 and 2017 accounts that they are forensically looked at."

KWETB board member, Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy (Kildare councillor) who has been to the forefront in demanding answers told *Wicklow Times* "the C&AG has confirmed my concerns that 'the board did not effectively challenge the executive (management) during the period under review'. The period under review is 2015 but 2016 has yet to be audited. Unfortunately from my experience, both before and since the departure of the former chief executive, the board culture remains largely the same. The failure to effec-

tively challenge the executive persists. Board members who do ask questions continue to be denied answers to those questions, important questions that have not been answered by any of these reports include; who are the landlords of properties from whom the KWETB are leasing units/properties;

who has signing authority for leases/licenses, contracts, expenses, and; why did the former Chair, Vice-Chair of the board engage legal advice on behalf of the board, then subsequently with-hold that legal advice from the board.

"This board's term is finished in May - three

months away. And despite reports and a long agenda to get through there appears to be no urgency on the part of the board to meet. There is still time, if the Chair and a majority of board members were so inclined, to step up to the plate and demand answers to questions from the executive and from fellow

members of the board. It's not too late for the board to act 'effectively'.

"That would require a series of meetings scheduled by the Chair between now and May to get through important items, some of which are listed but languishing at the bottom of the agenda, for months now."

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Pictured: Ross Turner and Margurite Murray attended the Valentine's Mass at St. Mary and Peter's Church, Arklow.

'WE'VE ONLY BUILT ONE HOUSE FROM 2007 TO 2018 IN ARKLOW'

Additional steps are needed to address the rapidly worsening delays in the delivery of housing in Co. Wicklow, Fianna Fáil Housing Spokesperson Pat Casey TD said.

Last year Wicklow County Council delivered 28 housing units across three schemes, falling short of the target of 45 units, due to delays with the development of Delaney Park in Arklow. However, the Council is still hopeful of exceeding the Government's target for the county of 1,225 housing units between 2015 and 2021.

Data received by Deputy Casey has confirmed that the completion rate for reaching a final decision on a planning application within the 18-week statutory timeframe has fallen from 79% in 2016 to 64% in 2017 to 38% of cases currently up to the end of October 2018.

Deputy Casey stated, "Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, An Bord Pleanála has a statutory objective to determine planning appeals within 18 weeks. However we are witnessing rapidly escalating delays with the legal timeframe completion rate collapsing by half over the past two years. This

is despite government promises on additional resources being enough to meet the increased workload on the organisation.

"I have raised this issue in the Dáil with the Minister as the mounting delays are becoming more and

more evident. I have been contacted by several builders in Wicklow about undue delays that are frustrating their plans to put bricks and mortar in the ground. These lengthening delays are hiking up costs for builders and preventing badly needed homes from being delivered. This, in the midst of a national housing crisis throughout Wicklow, is unacceptable.

"There are a number of quick measures that the Minister should take to address delays. He should quickly move to expand the number of board members and reduce the quorum for decisions on smaller developments in order to expedite decision making. Additional staff and resources should also

be rolled out quickly in order to ensure An Bord Pleanála is fully equipped to undertake its role in addressing the housing crisis," concluded Casey.

It's understood that the delay to Delaney Park is due to difficulties between the Council and the contractor over the quality of the workmanship. It is hoped they will be delivered by September. Responding to the delay, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said "Delaney Park started in 2007. They were to be finished in

November, as I remember. I'm shocked by this date of September. We have 820 on the council housing list in the area.

We've only built one house from 2007 to 2018 in Arklow. We've people on the housing



Pat Casey, TD

list since 2003, that's 16 years, we've people on the list waiting on houses who are now possibly going to be homeless. How can it take 21 months to finish 17 houses? I don't build, but I'd do it quicker myself with a few lads off the street. It's a bloody disgrace and that company should never be brought into this county again."

Cllr Fitzgerald was speaking at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council where an update was given to Councillors on the Housing Capital Programme, outlining that the Council's aim is to have delivered 1,327 units between 2015 and 2021.

The council hopes to

commence two schemes (480 units) over this year and 2020, the majority of these from rapid build and traditional build. The Council is currently trying to expedite the re-tendering of the FCA Hall in Wicklow Town and Kilmantin Place in Bray. It's understood that the contractor for the eight units at FCA Hall pulled out, while the contractor for the four units at Kilmantin Place informed the Council they were not in a position to continue the works.

"We were slow to get off the tracks," said Senior Council Engineer Breege Kilkenny regarding the Council's delivery of housing. But, she said, "If we get projects up and running, we will exceed Government targets by over 100 units, that's a huge amount of activity over a number of years."

Regarding a site for a housing development in Shillelagh which is dependent on Irish Water, Ms Kilkenny said "we are submitting it for stage one, basically in order to put pressure on Irish Water to put in the infrastructure that's required there. At the moment, that's the one thing that's holding that back, we don't have sufficient waste water disposal."

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Council plans affordable, social and private houses on sites in Greystones & Kilcoole

The Council is applying for planning permission on sites at Lott Lane, Kilcoole and by Three Trout Stream in Greystones to build 150 and 160 houses respectively.

Cllr Derek Mitchell explained "This is to be split into approximately 65 Social, 55 Affordable and 200 private ones in order to provide a good social mix. I especially welcome providing affordable houses as this has not been done in Wicklow for some years. Planning submissions should be sent to the Council

by the 2nd April by 12.00 pm.

"The Greystones houses will be well back from the Stream to allow for a path to be put in at some stage along the stream. The sites are complex to develop and it will be some time before prices or details of the Affordable houses are available."



Cllr. Derek Mitchell

PLANS TO BUILD A NOT FOR PROFIT SQUASH CLUB IN GREYSTONES

Last week in the Wicklow Times there was an ad seeking land to build a squash court in Greystones and this week we spoke to Rory Gillen, the man behind the venture.

Rory was a co-founder of Merriion Capital Group with several other business people in 1999 and, when the business was successfully sold in 2006 he set up his own financial advisory business originally located in Greystones, GillenMarkets.

Rory, who has lived in facilities in Greystones for some time. He has been aware since moving to Greystones that there are no fit-for-purpose squash courts between Leopardstown and Enniscorthy and strongly believes that there is a place and latent demand for Squash court facilities in the town and in partic-

ular when you have someone like Denis Gilevskiy who has no-where locally to practise and has to travel daily to Squash clubs in Ranelagh or Leopardstown. When land is identified and purchased, Rory would be behind its implementation, its design and build and the club's internal administration structure. He would be using one of the world's leading innovators in the design and build of the club. The plan would primarily be to promote the game of squash at both a junior level (up to the age of 19) and senior level (adults) while encouraging and sustaining a steady growth in the number of young people playing squash, to also include disadvantaged children, alongside encouraging personal sporting development, through a structured programme of coaching. Children and adults alike will be encouraged to play for fitness and fun or perhaps reach a maximum achievement at club level, and hopefully lead through to senior squash and possible representational level.

According to US Forbes Magazine, Squash is the fittest sport in the world, is drugs free and comes ahead of rowing, rock climbing and swimming, amongst many other sports for its level of fitness and health benefits. To play squash all you need is a racket, training shoes and access to a squash court, which makes it accessible and affordable to most people, regardless of economic circumstances. While the lack of squash court facilities at schools level means that most people come across the sport as adults or from their parents, more modern squash facilities is what is needed to grow participation in this incredible sport.

Greystones has an estimated population of over 18,000 and the infrastructure is continually growing. There are approximately 5,000 children attending twelve schools (primary/senior) within the Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany regions and the fact that there are no fit-for-purpose squash court facilities between Leopardstown and Enniscorthy suggests that there is strong latent demand for modern squash courts facilities in Greystones. It is well documented that greater choice in sporting facilities attracts more children into sport. This is a non-for-profit initiative with in-built plans for disadvantaged children. All the project needs is access to 1-2 acres, for which the promoter will pay the market price either to the Wicklow County Council - which has excess idle land in suitable locations - or private land owners.



Bray squash player Denis Gilevskiy

Greystones since 1995, has played squash all his life and is passionate about the game. He is ex-chairman and current treasurer of Irish Squash, the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of squash in Ireland, which is officially recognised as such by Sport Ireland & Sport NI. He sponsors several squash players including Denis Gilevskiy from Bray who won the U13s British Open Champion and most recently Jan 2019 he achieved second in the U15s British Squash Open.

Rory has had a goal of setting up Squash court

When land is identified and purchased, Rory would be behind its implementation, its design and build and the club's internal administration structure. He would be using one of the world's leading innovators in the design and build of the club. The plan would primarily be to promote the game of squash at both a junior level (up to the age of 19) and senior level (adults) while

Greystones has an estimated population of over 18,000 and the infrastructure is continually growing. There are approximately 5,000 children attending twelve schools



Greystones Cancer Support wish to thank the staff and parents at Knockeevin Montessori and Nature School. The school has two locations, Church Road, Greystones and Kindlestown Hill, Delgany. Each year, the school does an annual fundraiser and Greystones Cancer Support was chosen this year for their event and €1,696.00 was raised. Pictured are Maeve Murtagh and Laura Gray from Knockeevin Montessori, Amanda Emmet Booth, Mary O'Neill and Eileen Horan from GCS, and children from Knockeevin Montessori and Nature School

Lions Club quiz nights winners

The winners in the Wicklow Lions Club quiz in Chester Beaty's in Ashford were; Pat Sheehy Declan McInerney, Ray St John and Stephen Doherty.

In second place were; Eilis Nolan, Angela Nolan, Kathleen Wooley, and Stephen Wooley. "Sincere thanks to all the winning teams who kindly donate their winnings to their chosen charities," said Wicklow Lions. Each week the quiz which supports up to twenty local charities will continue until March when the Grand Final will take place in Wicklow Golf Club.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF PART XI OF THE PLANNING ACTS 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES:

To construct 166 no. mixed tenure units (social, affordable and private – approx 60%-70% private and remaining 30%-40% social/affordable) and all associated works at Killincarrig Townland, Greystones, Co Wicklow. The accommodation shall consist of the following:

- 15 x 1 Bed Apartments
- 7 x 2 Bed Duplex Apartments
- 54 x 2 Bed Houses
- 64 x 3 Bed Houses
- 26 x 4 Bed Houses

Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Housing Authority at Wicklow County Council, Council Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow and Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, during opening hours from 9.00am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays, for a period between Friday 15th February, 2019 to Friday 15th March, 2019.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable developments of the area in which the developments would be situated may be made in writing to David Porter, Administrative Officer, Housing Section of Wicklow County Council on or before 12pm Tuesday 2nd April, 2019. Submissions may also be made by email via the following address: part8@wicklowcoco.ie

Further information generally is available by contacting the Housing Directorate, Wicklow County Council, directly on 0404 20120. Details of the Part 8 process will also be available on www.wicklow.ie

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF PART XI OF THE PLANNING ACTS 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES:

To construct 156 no. mixed tenure units (social, affordable and private – approx 60%-70% private and remaining 30%-40% social/affordable) and all associated works at Lott Lane (Townland of Ballydonarea), Kilcoole, Co Wicklow. The accommodation shall consist of the following:

- 14 x 1 Bed Apartments
- 4 x 2 Bed Duplex Apartments
- 50 x 2 Bed Houses
- 66 x 3 Bed Houses
- 22 x 4 Bed Houses

Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Housing Authority at Wicklow County Council, Council Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow and Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, during opening hours from 9.00am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays, for a period between Friday 15th February, 2019 to Friday 15th March, 2019.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable developments of the area in which the developments would be situated may be made in writing to David Porter, Administrative Officer, Housing Section of Wicklow County Council on or before 12pm Tuesday 2nd April, 2019. Submissions may also be made by email via the following address: part8@wicklowcoco.ie

Further information generally is available by contacting the Housing Directorate, Wicklow County Council, directly on 0404 20120. Details of the Part 8 process will also be available on www.wicklow.ie

SUNNY SITE SOUGHT IN GREYSTONES

FOR BUNGALOW OR DORMER BUNGALOW BY PRIVATE PURCHASER.

Advertisers are pensioners, cash purchasers and the future occupiers. Site will ideally be within 10 minute walk of Greystones Dart Station.

A site with Planning permission would be preferred, but one likely to get planning permission will also be of interest.

Property owners or estate agents only considered please.

All communications treated in strictest confidence by advertiser.

To initiate contact please email

privatehomeownergreystones@gmail.com



Pictured: Emma Groves, Sanne Fennema and Eleanor Hayes at Bray Sailing Club celebrating the Club's success at the at the recent Irish Sailing Associations Annual Awards.

'Five year council housing list suspension draconian & unnecessary'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has described a proposed five-year suspension from the council housing list for a second refusal as "draconian and unnecessary".

Deputy Brady has urged Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy to withdraw the proposal.

Speaking last Wednesday Deputy Brady said "It has been reported in this morning's newspapers that Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy is proposing a five-year

suspension from the Council housing list for applicants who refuse two offers of accommodation. It is understood that this is one of a number of measures being proposed in response to the homeless crisis.

"This move is draconian and unnecessary. I am urg-

ing the Minister to withdraw the proposal. Many Councils apply highly restrictive application criteria. This means that some offers may not meet the needs of the applicant despite being deemed 'reasonable' by the Council.

"The most common rea-

sons for refusal are distance from schools, public transport and extended family networks who provide important support such as free childcare. Other issues which can lead to refusals are high levels of anti-social behaviour and crime in some estates or the remoteness of a property in rural areas.

"A much better approach to the issue of efficient allocations is to introduce Choice Based Letting across all Councils. This is an on line allocation system in which applicants bid for properties. It provides the applicant with an element of control and choice while eliminating time wasted during the more traditional allocations process.

"Choice Based Letting has been in operation for many years in Councils such as South Dublin and should be the primary source of allocations across the state. I am also concerned at the prominence given to this story today. Refusals are not a major issue and are easily resolved within the existing policy framework. Yet it appears that the Ministers office has briefed this issue into a prominence that it does not deserve. Is the Minister seeking to distract from his own failings

by shifting blame for the homeless crisis onto vulnerable families?

"I would urge him to publish whatever evidence he has to support the imposition of such a draconian sanction and to allow a full debate of the issue in the Oireachtas Housing Committee before any decision is taken at cabinet."

Sinn Féin representative for the Bray East area Grace McManus stated "At first glance, it might seem like people should jump at the chance of any and all accommodation. But what we need to remember is that people awaiting housing are in vulnerable points in their lives, and with vulnerability comes specific needs and requirements.

"When we take a moment we realise that nobody rejects an opportunity to get what they need to improve their lives. This is about respecting the agency of people and recognising they know what they need best. This is also about holding a mirror up to local authorities and scrutinising the accommodation offered. Refusal is not taken lightly and may indicate properties are not up to a liveable standard. This is not acceptable in a socially just society that truly cares for those experiencing homelessness."

'GOOD NEWS FOR SMALL BUSINESS'

The rates revaluation process for Co. Wicklow is in its final stages and a certificate of a proposed new valuation will be issued to every rate payer in the county in March.

A new valuation list is expected in time for the Council's budget meeting in November. There are 4,500 businesses that are rateable within the county. At this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Sylvester Bourke said the revaluation would be "good news for small business".

The process has already been completed in counties such as Carlow and Longford, where over half of rate players have seen a reduction of rates as a result.

"I think that small retailers will be delighted with this, because they've seen more and more business eroded by the big supermarkets -- it will give them a big reduction," said Cllr Bourke. "It will be good news for small business and people who are struggling."

Cllr Joe Behan echoed the concerns people have about the process: "There's no doubt small retailers and business holders are very concerned about this process, and they're very concerned about the impact it will have on business and their ability to employ people," he said. "I certainly wouldn't underestimate the worry that people have about this. There's a huge amount of anxiety about the process."

The revaluation is based on rental information, trading data and construction costs. It is part of a national programme to 'modernise the rateable valuation of all commercial and industrial property'. It does not apply to residential property or agricultural lands.

It is being carried out by the rates evaluation office, an independent office under the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, and consists of a redistribution of the liability for rates across the various rate payers in the county.

"It is important to note the council's overall rates doesn't change, but the individual amount paid by individual rate payers will or may change depending on their particular circumstances," John O'Sullivan,

Commissioner of Valuation, told councillors at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

"In effect, we're revisiting every property in the county with a view to assessing its modern valuation. As things stand right now the rates for businesses in Wicklow, are based on the market conditions that prevailed 30 years ago, and a revaluation will change that." He emphasised that "it is not a money-making exercise for the council whatsoever".

Terry Fahey from the Valuation Office explained that "No town in Wicklow has remained the same in the last 30 years, some areas would have improved, some would have dis-improved and what we're trying to do is to reflect those changes."

The valuations Office is to establish walk-in clinics across Wicklow's five municipal districts, where constituents will have the opportunity to meet the valuers responsible for the valuations in the area. "They may not like the outcome but they will get a human face-to-face interaction with someone who will explain in detail the process," said Mr Fahey.

Once the valuation certificate is issued, a rate payer will have 40 days in which to make representation if they wish to appeal it.

"These are proposal valuations so they're not cast in stone or anything like it, and there's an informal process to address any issues which might come to light," said Mr O'Sullivan. "We encourage people to make representation to us if they're dissatisfied with the valuation."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "the issue of rates is a really important one for us as a council, we need to recognise the demographics of a lot of commercial premises are changing in light of on-line shopping and the move

to the bigger shopping centres. I think at some stage there needs to be a complete analysis of how we do rates and how it funds our council activities."

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*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHTAIN

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2019

Applications are now invited from interested parties for Local Improvement Scheme 2019 for eligible private roads.

The closing date for applications is the 13th of March 2019.

Application Forms and details are available on Wicklow County Council's website: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Roads-Transport/Forms> or by contacting

Wicklow County Council,
Transportation, Water & Emergency Services,
County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow.

Tel: 0404 20100 Ext. 2515
e-mail: roadtrans@wicklowcoco.ie

RIVERWALK CAFÉ FLYING THE FLAG FOR WICKLOW

There was great excitement in Croke Park on Saturday, 9th February when Wicklow Town's Marine House, Riverwalk Cafe, Culinary Entrepreneurship Programme was announced winner of the Best Education/Training Initiative at the All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2019.

Located in the Wicklow Enterprise Park, the Riverwalk Café programme offers students of the Culinary Entrepreneurship Programme an opportunity to bring their classroom studies to life, immersed in the real world workings of a busy cafe open to the public.

The aim of the programme is to provide learners with the professional skills required to work in the Hospitality Industry or open their own business. KWETB Marine House was also nominated and

shortlisted for Best Educational Building on the night.

Marine House was opened in 2017 to provide a centre of excellence providing training facilities to the Irish Hospitality industry. They have firmly positioned themselves as a centre of excellence in Hospitality Training.

Now in their 13th year, the 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA celebrate community and councils working together. They provide

a great opportunity to highlight the work done within our communities, to reward our unsung heroes and recognise the phenomenal contribution they've made to our lives as well as acknowledge achievements from local Community and County Councils, partnerships and projects that enhance our everyday lives.

It was an extraordinary year for entries with over 150 nominations received. Following an in-depth judging process over 100 projects nationwide from 22 counties

were shortlisted across 25 categories.

The Culinary Entrepreneurship Programme is now enrolling for a new intake of students in Marine House Wicklow and a new café programme in Arklow. If you are interested in joining this award-winning initiative please contact trainingcourses@kwetb.ie or Phone 0404 53958.



Pictured is the winning team from the Marine House River Walk Cafe accepting their prize for Best Education/Training Initiative at the All Ireland Community & Council Awards in Croke Park.

Greystones has lowest commercial vacancy rate in Ireland

Greystones at 6.1% had the lowest commercial vacancy rate in Ireland according to the latest GeoView Commercial Vacancy Rates Report, published by GeoDirectory last week.

Overall, Co. Wicklow's vacancy rate was 12.2% in Q4 2018, down 0.2pp compared to the same period in 2017. The national commercial vacancy rate has fallen slightly from 13.3% in Q4 2017 to 13.2% in Q4 2018. Out of the total stock of 211,610 commercial properties in the State, 27,951 were vacant as of Q4 2018.

Wicklow's commercial vacancy rate was lower than Leinster's vacancy rate of 12.4%. Arklow at 19% had the highest commercial vacancy rate in the county, while 12.3% of the commercial properties in Wicklow are involved in the accommodation and food services sector.

The report reveals that Dublin and the surrounding counties of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow, account for 33.2% of all commercial properties in the country. In contrast, the five counties in Connacht accounted for only 13.6% of the national stock.

The GeoView Commercial Vacancy Rates Report for Q4 2018 focuses on the Accommodation and Food Services sector. This sector includes restaurants, event catering & food services, beverage serving activities, hotels and other forms of short-term accommodation.

The report shows that there was a total of 22,996 units in this sector in Q4 2018, representing 13.7% of the overall total of commercial stock with a NACE code.

In Wicklow, 12.3% of commercial properties are involved in the accommodation and food services sector.

Speaking about the GeoView Commercial

Vacancy Rates Report for Q4 2018, Dara Keogh, CEO of GeoDirectory said: "Even though the commercial vacancy rate dropped slightly in the past year, the report shows a continuing east-west divide in terms of commercial activity in Ireland. The Greater Dublin Area is dominating the rest of the country, with a third of all commercial units in the

country located in just four counties. The importance of tourism to the west coast is also evident, with the highest proportion of Accommodation and Food Service units located in this region. Depending on the outcome of Brexit, the economy of this region may be vulnerable to fluctuating currency exchange rates and potentially fewer visitors from the UK."

Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory added, "Our data highlights that the gap between those counties with higher provincial vacancy rates and those with the lowest, is widening. This is demonstrated when we analyse the data for Leinster, which had the lowest vacancy rate, and Connacht, which had the

highest vacancy rate and see that the gap between the two provinces has grown by 0.4 percentage points. This analysis shows us that improvements in commercial activity continue to be concentrated on the east coast of Ireland. A rebalancing of this activity requires Government to urgently progress the delivery of Project 2040."



Marine House, Wicklow

'Public health guidelines needed for children's online gaming'

Social Democrats Spokesperson for Children Councillor Jennifer Whitmore has called for new public health guidelines for children playing computer games and a review of how some 'loot boxes' and in-game purchases target children.

Speaking recently on Safer Internet Day, Cllr Whitmore said "Research today by Cyber Safe Ireland shows that more than one in four children are playing online games designed for over 18-years-olds, and 40 per cent of children aged between eight and 10 years were actively talking to strangers online in some capacity.

"These are worrying trends and as a parent of young children myself I know how hard it can be for parents to navigate and regulate their children's online activities.

"Parents need to be better equipped to engage with their children about their online habits, and clear public health guidelines for the maximum length of time children should be spending playing computer games would at least offer some direction.

"We also need to review how loot boxes and some in-game purchases are targeted at children. This should include the extent to which these constitute gambling and whether or not these should be banned in games with certain age-ratings.

"The Social Democrats want to see a requirement for a new warning system on computer games sold over-the-counter to alert parents that the game includes in-game purchases and/or loot boxes."



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore



Rotary Club of Bray

TABLE QUIZ

Supporting homeless charity Five Loaves & Bray Rotary charities

Date: Tuesday 12th March @8pm sharp

Venue: The Wild Goose Pub, Main Street, Bray (Formerly Hollands)

Entry: Tables of 4 €40

Raffle + Great Spot prizes on the night

Further details 086 8091117



Shauna Connolly and Bridget Fagan are pictured at the launch of '13 Dead', by Wicklow horror author Chris Rush at Wicklow Gaol. Released last December, 13 Dead is Chris's fourth book. In Chris's own words "I would like to thank each and every person out there who has supported my work so far, I couldn't do any of this without them. I want to practically thank Tina Barcoe for helping me promote this launch and thanks to everyone at Wicklow Gaol for their help with the event. I have started working on my fifth book, which I am hoping to release later this year."

RENTS RISE 9.5%

Rents were on average 9.5% higher in Co. Wicklow in the fourth quarter of 2018 than a year previously according to the latest quarterly Rental Report by Daft.ie. The average advertised rent is now €1,375, up 78% from its lowest point.

Rents rose nationwide by an average of 9.8% in the year to December 2018. While this marks another record high in national average rents, the rate of increase is the slowest in almost three years. The average monthly rent nationwide during the final quarter of 2018 was €1,347. This is €317 per month higher than the previous peak in 2008 and over €600 higher than the low seen in late 2011. In Dublin, the increase in rents in the year to December 2018 was 8.8% and rents in the capital are now 37%, or almost €540 a month or €6,500 a year, higher than their previous peak a

little over a decade ago. Rents continue to rise more rapidly in Ireland's other cities. In Limerick and Waterford cities, rents were 16% and 16.7% higher than a year previously, respectively. Galway saw its rents increase by 13.1% over the course of the year, while in Cork city, rents rose by 11.4%. Outside the five main cities, rents rose by an average of 10.4%.

The slight easing in inflation comes as availability shows slight signs of improvement. There were 3,641 properties available to rent nationwide on January 1st. This marks an 11% improve-

ment on the same date in 2018 and is only the second time - together with February 2017 - that stock on the market improved at a double-digit rate. The improvement in availability is led by Dublin (up 18% year-on-year on January 1st) but was seen in all parts of the country.

Commenting on the report, Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin and author of the Daft Report, said: "A rare improvement in availability of rental accommodation at year-end has meant a slight easing in rental inflation. This underscores the importance of additional supply in solving the

problems of the rental sector, which have been on-going for nearly eight years. Construction of new homes remains focused on one-offs and estate housing, while the overwhelming need is for apartments, in particular for renters. It remains to be seen, therefore, whether the modest improvement in conditions over recent months continues."

Martin Clancy from Daft.ie said: "Demand in the rental market remains very, very high with over 1,000 property searches now taking place every minute on Daft.ie."

Asgard Theatre Arklow opening soon

Arklow Music and Arts (AMA) are delighted to announce the imminent arrival of their very own Asgard Theatre in the coming weeks.

Though the town does not yet possess the venue, AMA said that work is progressing at a very steady pace on what will soon become a black box theatre.

In keeping with Arklow's maritime heritage, they looked no further than the Asgard when seeking a name for the venue.

AIMS spokesperson Colm Moules says "Black box theatre, a relatively recent innovation, is an increasingly popular model for accommodating the arts, with its flexible nature very much one of its charms. Members of AMA have travelled around Ireland and viewed a number of similar ventures, speaking to those involved and taking guidance on what would best suit our own needs here in Arklow.

"We asked the community of Arklow, primarily the business community, seeking potential venues for such usage; resulting in two businesses generously offering their premise. As a result, we are delighted to be in position to announce the imminent arrival and opening of The Asgard Theatre, located above The Harbour Bar on Lower Main Street. Asgard Theatre 2 will hopefully commence a little later in 2019, but for now, we need to focus on the former."

Wicklow a key part of Regional Enterprise Plan

County Wicklow is part of a major new Regional Enterprise Plan to drive growth across the Mid-East. There is particular emphasis on screen content and the movie sector in Wicklow.

The Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan is one of nine such Plans launched recently by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Heather Humphreys TD.

The development of the Mid-East Plan was overseen by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, working with stakeholders from the Mid-East region including counties Meath, Kildare and Wicklow through a committee chaired by Mr Eamonn Sinnott, Vice President and General Manager of Intel Ireland.

The Mid-East Plan identifies four Strategic Objectives, with actions to: Develop the Region as a hub for the screen content creation sector; Create a network of innovative co-working spaces; Build an ecosystem framework to support the agri-food sector; and Ensure the availability of

skills and talent to realise the Mid-East's future economic potential and address upskilling requirements.

Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, added: "The development of the Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus will result in the provision of specialised and customised, sector specific business supports for start-ups and established businesses in the content creation/film sector. This initiative will promote growth, job creation and internationalisation and also position Ireland as a global leader in content creation leading to a strong regional screen enterprise ecosystem."

Launching the Plan, the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Heather Humphreys TD, said:

"The Regional Enterprise Plan for the Mid-East that I am launching today sets out a number of key strategic areas where regional stakeholders working together will provide a basis for future enterprise development and job creation that is sustainable in the longer term."

She added: "I am pleased to note that jobs growth has been strong in all regions, including the Mid-East, since we launched our first regional jobs plans in early 2015. There are 32,200 more people at work in the Mid-East today, and the unemployment rate has reduced from 9.6 percent down to 5.8 percent."

Highlighting Brexit, the Minister said that notwithstanding this huge success "it is clear that there are new challenges emerging for enterprises in the external environ-

ment. Through this Regional Enterprise Plan, the region can adopt a leadership position through driving initiatives from the ground-up."

The Regional Enterprise Plans are two-year focused plans to end in 2020 and they are also "live" documents, with the expectation that new initiatives can be taken on during their operation by the regional stakeholders working together.

The actions set out in the Regional Enterprise Plans include timelines for delivery, with responsibility allocated to the relevant parties. The intention is that each Plan will be monitored at regional level to ensure local responsibility for delivery, with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation overseeing the process and progress at the national level.



L/R - Christine Flood, Wicklow County Council; Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development, Damien English TD; Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD; Cllr Pat Vance, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council; Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD; Programme Manager, Conor Sweeney; Minister for Rural & Community Development, Michael Ring TD; Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow schools through to Junk Kouture final

A number of winning designs from schools in Bray, Arklow, Kilcoole, Wicklow Town and Dunlavin are through to the regional finals of this year's Junk Kouture competition, taking place next month.



'Pukka up and kiss me!', designed by Faith Molloy from East Glendalough School. Faith says "My dress is made using Pukka tea tags and packets and it is not just a piece of fabulous fashion: it is a symbol that everyone is unique and multicolored. We each have different flavors and spices which make us totally tea-riffic!"

The Wicklow Town finalist is 'Pukka up and kiss me' from East Glendalough School.

From Arklow the finalists are: Mermaid Attack (St. Mary's College); The Last Straw (St. Mary's College); Queen of Roses (St. Mary's College); Sugar Rush (Glenart College); Starry Night (Gaelcholaiste na Mara).

The Bray regional finalists are: Royal Ice Cream (Woodlands Academy); Nature Vs Pollution (Loreto); Less Success More Stress (St. Kilian's).

From Kilcoole the finalists are: I Can't Be Bought and Pulp Fashion, both from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann.

The finalist from Dunlavin is Golden Eagle (St. Kevin's Community College).

You can vote for your favourite team or design on app.junkkouture.com.

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL PHARMACIST



Community pharmacists and their staff play a vital role in the primary healthcare system in Ireland. Pharmacists are committed to delivering a quality, accessible, personal and professional service that puts the patient first.

Many people believe that a pharmacist's job is just to dispense medicines. However, your local pharmacist does a great deal more than meets the eye.

Your pharmacist is a healthcare professional who can assist you with your health concerns quickly. They can offer you information about treatments, explanations on medication interac-

tions and much more. They will also guide you to other health professionals or community services, if required.

Ask your pharmacist about the services they provide. In the future, the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) hopes that the role of the pharmacist will expand even further. For example, a Pharmacy-based Minor Ailment Scheme would

allow medical card patients to receive treatment for common illnesses free of charge directly from their local community pharmacy in a timely manner and without the need for a visit to the GP.

A New Medicines Service would help people who are prescribed a new medicine for certain long-term conditions to

manage their condition and to improve their medication adherence through providing clinical support at the outset of taking new medication. A pilot carried out by the IPU showed that adherence increased from 37% to 77% after the intervention and support of a community pharmacist.



'Urgent progress needed on resourcing healthcare in the community'

The Government faces increasing and often competing demands from across the healthcare industry. In the face of these pressures the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) has urged the Government to remain focussed on their primary care objectives and to deliver new and efficient ways to treat patients in their communities.

There are over 1,800 community pharmacies nationwide and the range of services they provide could be significantly enhanced. However, according to the IPU, the Government has consistently failed to progress a series of common-sense proposals, creating missed opportunities for patients and the system as whole.

Darragh O'Loughlin, Secretary General of the IPU said "Community Pharmacy is the most



accessible part of our healthcare system, with four out of five members of the public visiting a pharmacy at least once a month. It is clear that our patients want to avail of more services from the convenience of their local pharmacy, but a lack of action from Government is consistently preventing us from doing so. Crucially, there are many people currently being treated by GPs, who could be treated in pharmacies. GP practices are already under severe pressure, with many reportedly unable to take on new patients. With GPs overwhelmed, it makes absolute sense to expand the scope of services provided by community pharmacists, which will reduce the burden on this overstretched part of the healthcare system."

Services which the IPU recommend rolling out to Irish Pharmacies include:

Minor Ailment Scheme: This scheme would enable medical card patients receive treatment for common illnesses such as hay fever, migraine or skin conditions free of charge direct from their local pharmacy. Currently medical card patients are required to visit a GP and obtain a prescription for treatments ordinarily available over the counter. Implementing this scheme prevent the

requirement for up to 950,000 GP consultations each year.

New Medicine Service: A structured pharmacy-led monitoring service for patients on newly prescribed medications for long term illnesses including COPD and Type 2 Diabetes. A pilot in Ireland has already shown this improves 'optimal adherence' to medications and could bring savings to the health system.

Chronic Disease Management: Envisaged as a collaborative initia-

tive between GPs, Pharmacists and other healthcare providers this scheme would see pharmacists monitor important health indicators and refer any concerns to GPs. A pharmacy-based blood pressure management service could for example save the state €1.36bn over 30 years.

"Irish pharmacists are ready, willing and waiting to enhance the levels of care they provide," said Darragh O'Loughlin. "Unfortunately, time and

again, despite all the successful pilots and studies, community pharmacists' positive intentions and desire to help patients is left to gather dust on a shelf."

"There is a stark contrast with the range of services that can be provided in pharmacies in other countries such as the UK, Canada and New Zealand, in comparison to here in Ireland. If the Government is serious about delivering primary care in the community they can no longer afford

to ignore these proposals, which have the potential to ease so many of the bottlenecks which currently frustrate patients and frontline workers in the health system."

Darragh O'Loughlin concluded that, "The time is right to optimise our delivery of primary care by providing appropriate convenient, accessible and cost-effective healthcare through pharmacies in communities throughout the country. Patients cannot afford to wait."

Adrian + Dunne
pharmacy

Call into any of our branches to speak with a pharmacist

40-41 Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
t: 0402 32456

Unit 2-3 Mount Usher Court, Ashford, Co. Wicklow
t: 0404 49729

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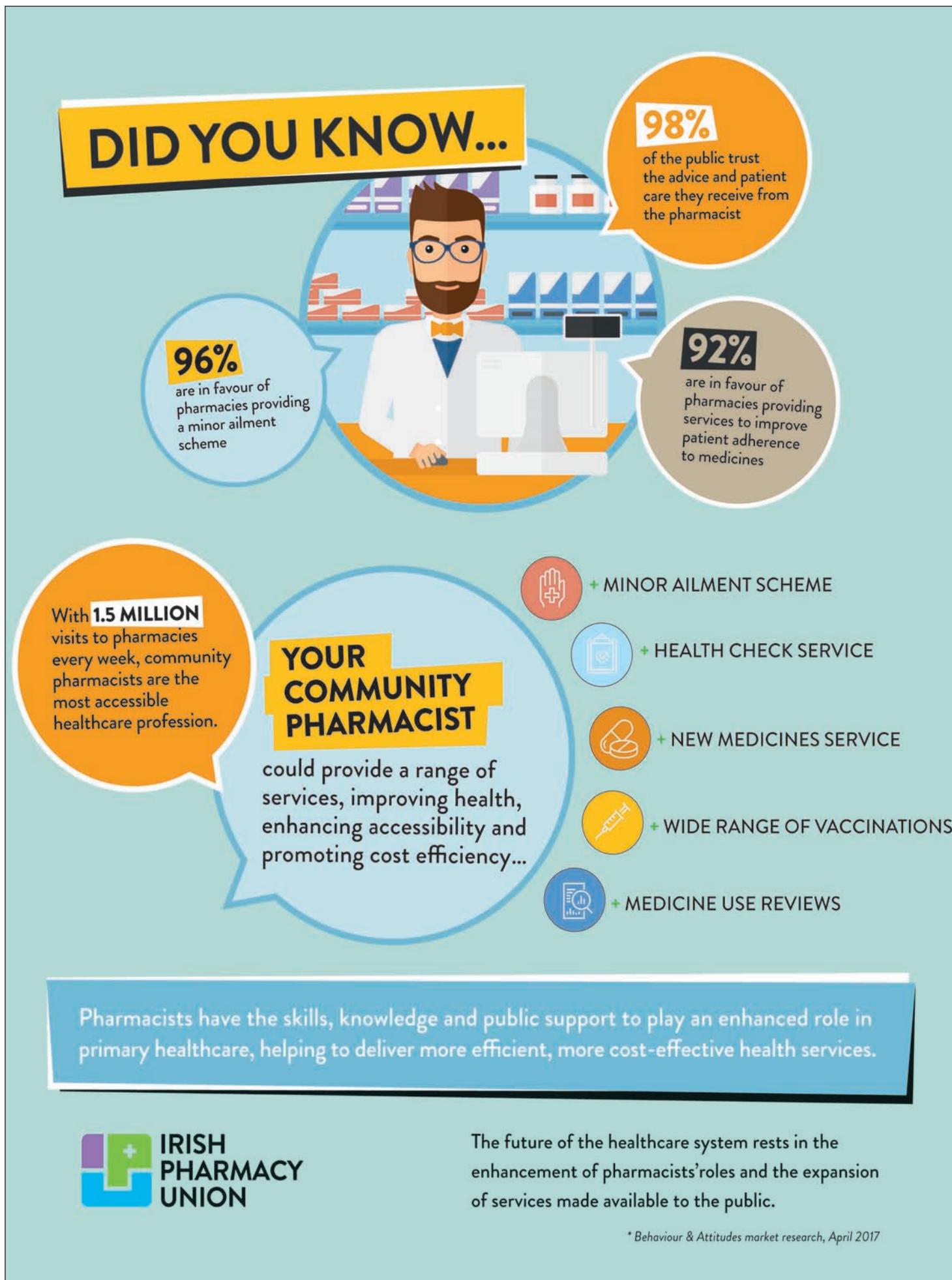
Charlesland Shopping Centre
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Tel: 01 2870724

*Note Blood Sugar Test by appointments only.

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL PHARMACIST



'The most accessible part of the healthcare system'



Community pharmacies are the most accessible part of the healthcare system with pharmacies situated in nearly every town and village throughout the county. They are also the most visited health service provider with 78 million visits made to pharmacies every year representing 17 visits for every man, woman and child in the country. There are 1.5 million visits to pharmacies every week.

The public not only visit pharmacies to fill a prescription but also to seek advice on medicine/health issues or to purchase toiletries and cosmetics.

The role of the pharmacist has changed significantly over the years with more pharmacies providing healthcare services as well as dispensing medicines. As healthcare professionals, and the most accessible part of the healthcare system, many pharmacies provide a significant number of services to patients including the flu vaccination, an emergency hormonal contraception service, smoking cessation services, blood pressure monitoring, cholesterol measurements, diabetes management and much more.

Pharmacists can also advise patients on: How to treat minor ailments, such as coughs, colds, stomach upsets and hay fever; How to manage chronic illnesses, including diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease; Lifestyle concerns including weight management.

Pharmacists supply medicines every day to patients. It is a normal pharmacy activity with pharmacists providing advice and recommendations regarding these medications.

Pharmacists are qualified to deal with a number of ailments including colds and flus; allergic rhinitis; cold sores; constipation; dermatitis and mild eczema; headache; heartburn; migraine; nausea and vomiting and pain, among other conditions. In the event that the patient requires additional treatment a pharma-

cist will always refer the patient to another healthcare professional including GPs.

All pharmacists have a consultation area where patients can talk to their pharmacist in private and discreetly. Community pharmacy is at the frontline, delivering a patient-focused health service.

Pharmacists are part of a continuum of care that is an essential part of our health service. In addition to the widely recognised role of dispensing medicines and advice, community pharmacists undertake a range of other primary healthcare roles. These include: cross-checking prescriptions to minimise the risk of adverse drug reaction; providing detailed information and support on medicine use and management; promoting awareness of general health issues, e.g. diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure; promoting medical compliance, with favourable implications for patient outcomes; providing advisory services on minor health problems to the general public.

As the most accessible part of the healthcare system, open on average six days a week, pharmacies are available to provide healthcare information and advice to members of the public without the need for an appointment or the cost of a GP visit. Community pharmacies are constantly increasing their services and are seen by the public as being very good value for money, which was identified by 86% of the public to a recent Behaviour and Attitudes survey.

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Sherry FitzGerald Catherine O'Reilly

There was great news recently for Sherry FitzGerald's Wicklow office, owned and run by Catherine O'Reilly, as it was named the Countrywide Sherry FitzGerald Member of the Year 2019 at Sherry FitzGerald's annual conference in January, which took place in Lyrath Estate Hotel in Kilkenny.

Catherine's office was shortlisted among the top 3 and took the top prize home to Wicklow, a fantastic achievement given that there are 69 franchise members nationally. Speaking about the awards, Catherine said "The strength of the

Sherry FitzGerald network means there is no limit to what we can achieve. Fantastic speakers, a large array of exhibitors and over 500 staff from the Sherry FitzGerald Group, made it a most invigorating and informative day. Our

commitment to our customers and clients continues into 2019." Since opening in 2004, Sherry FitzGerald Catherine O'Reilly has been at the forefront of property transactions in the Wicklow area. Their focus in all negotiations is to take care of their clients and customers in equal measure. Located in a prominent position in the centre of Wicklow Town, Sherry

FitzGerald Catherine O'Reilly is well known and much respected within the business community. "While constantly striving to ensure the highest possible standards in all aspects of property sales and valuations, our professionalism, honesty and integrity ensure the needs of the client will always be our focus. At Sherry FitzGerald it's not just about property, it's about people."



Kate Nolan, Catherine O'Reilly, Anna Thornton, and Vivienne Kelly at the Sherry FitzGerald night in the Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town.

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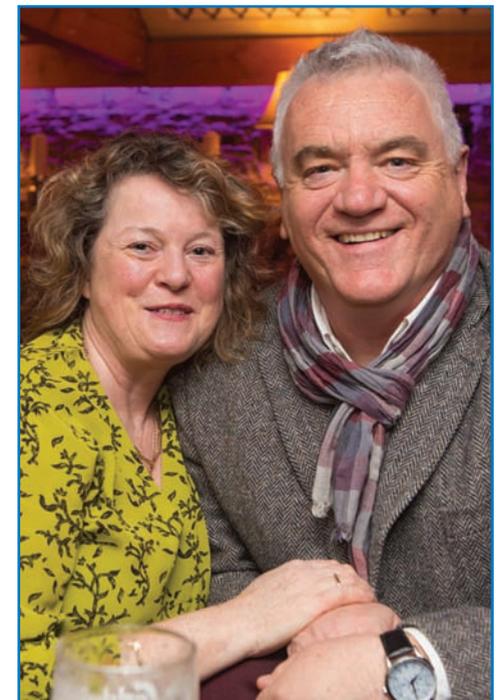
Burkeen Hall

Congratulations from Chris and Noel

Wicklow Cosy Homes 2015 Ltd.



Tom McGrath, Monica McGrath, Norma Copeland and Eugene Copeland at the Sherry FitzGerald celebration night in the Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town.



Carol and Derek Kelly at the Sherry FitzGerald celebration night in the Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town.

Congratulations to Catherine and all the team on your fantastic achievement

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Sherry FitzGerald Catherine O'Reilly



The Paddock, Dunganstown, Brittas Bay - €725,000

Wonderfully located on one of the prettiest roads in Wicklow, The Paddock is the ideal mix of country home charm and spacious family living space. With manicured gardens and a large paddock to the rear, there is space for a pony or even two. This gorgeous home, with its soft pink exterior and stylish interior, comes to the market in exceptional condition, with no detail overlooked and no expense spared to create a warm and cosy ambiance within this large detached home.

Set behind electric gates and within picture perfect gardens The Paddock is close to the well-known Myrtle Lodge and just a short distance from the glorious beaches at Brittas Bay. The equestrian facilities close by are sure to appeal to those looking for stabling or similar facilities and the abundance of country walks and treks through the surrounding countryside and the hills and beaches will appeal to many.

The Paddock offers versatile, wonderfully stylish accommodation which is bound to impress. With five bedrooms - four ensuite, well-proportioned living room, family room with sun-room off and a charming kitchen with large utility, the property is light filled throughout, enhancing the overall appeal of this home.

The finish and decor are tasteful throughout with soft colour palette, quality floor finishes and the current owners attention to detail is clearly evident.

The Paddock is set within landscaped gardens of approx. 0.6 acres and an additional paddock to the rear of 0.5 acres. The gardens are bordered by mature hedging and with many sheltered patio and outdoor dining areas and well-tended lawns.



2 Milton Villas, Wicklow Town - €450,000



2 Milton Villas effortlessly combines old world charm with a modern, tasteful twist and behind the period facade, lies a chic interior which is bound to impress !

The accommodation extends to approx. 120 sq.m. and offers original period features throughout including original floors and doors, ornate coving, centre rose and feature bay sash window with window seat, to name but a few.

Offering three double bedrooms, the Master suite enjoys views overlooking Wicklow Town, spacious well-appointed living-cum-dining room, kitchen with breakfast nook and a family bathroom.

To the rear is a fully enclosed private patio, a literal sun trap, that benefits from mature flowering plants and shrubs.

Milton Villas is a little known haven tucked away on Church Hill, this secluded cul de sac enjoys an enviable location just five minutes walk from Wicklow Main Street.



Dawn Cottage, Ballinahinch, Ashford - €395,000

A most enchanting 17th century thatched cottage which has been lovingly maintained and extended by its current owner. Situated on 1/3 of an acre, nestled among lush and mature greenery providing total privacy and seclusion yet a short walk from Ashford village and minutes from the M11 motorway.

This 104 sq.m. approx. 2 bedroomed cottage is a spacious and welcoming property with oodles of charm and features such as natural stone walls, deep window sills, attractive stone open fireplace and a perfectly maintained thatched roof. The cottage is further enhanced with a timber garden room, the ideal space to sit and enjoy a cup of tea in the beautiful garden.



Sherry FitzGerald

Catherine O'Reilly

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Congratulations on your award & best wishes from Joe & the team at

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The 9th Wicklow Woodland Beavers from Arklow joined their Beaver pack during their investiture on the 11th February. They are looking forward to plenty of adventures with fire and water. Looking port to starboard (left to right) are Zoe Mc Cann, Noah Mac Donald, Dylan Ward, Siofra Kavanagh, Kalim Byrne, and Naoise Dempsey.

Arklow flood relief scheme 'will not be impacted by children's hospital overrun'

The €24 million allocation for the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme will not be impacted on by the cost overrun of the national children's hospital, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe said.

Minister Donohoe was responding to a Parliamentary Question from Laois-Offaly Fianna Fail TD Barry Cowen.

Wicklow County Council is currently progressing the flood relief measures for the Avoca River in Arklow with funding from the Office of Public Works (OPW). Consultants have been commissioned to undertake engineering

and environmental studies. An environmental impact report is currently being prepared and once completed a planning application will be sought from An Bord Pleanála.

Minister Donohoe said "With regards to implications arising from the National Children's Hospital project, the Government is currently considering how the

additional cost pressures will be accommodated within the multi-year envelope, with a minimum of disruption to the planned rollout and delivery of important infrastructure projects under 'Project Ireland 2040'.

"For 2019, the Capital allocation for Ireland 2040 has increased by €1,325 million, or just over 22% above the 2018 allocation."

West Wicklow 'for more than gravel extraction'

Planners at Wicklow County Council recently decided to reject a planning application by Kilsaran Concrete for a new sand and gravel extraction pit at Dunlavin.

The decision follows submissions by local residents to highlight concerns about the impact that a new quarry would have on the area, including the potential ecological damage; noise from the activity and machinery on site; dirt and dust raised by trucks; and the influx of additional traffic onto the substandard roads in the area.

Social Democrats candidate in West Wicklow Dave McGinn says the council's decision is a significant symbolic move, "in particular because it points to the 'increased industrialised feel' which the quarry activities conspire to create, in a region otherwise so rich in history and culture, and endowed with dramatic landscapes, stunning lakes, and natural woodlands."

Speaking about his

views on facilitating industry in the West Wicklow area, Mr McGinn said,

"Blessington and the broader region has changed significantly in recent years, with many people moving out to settle and to start a family. The proximity to Dublin and the availability of public transport options makes it a viable area for commuters to live. The 2002 Census recorded the population of Blessington as 2,509; the Wicklow County Development Plan projects that the population will be 7,500 by 2022.

"So with the population continuing to grow, we must consider how we are to facilitate the development of local industry in a sustainable way, with due regard for the needs of the community, and the quality of life of its commuters.

In order to achieve this, and to allow the region to develop for other activities, we must first stop seeing its raison d'être as to facilitate mineral extraction at the expense of its aesthetic and ecological assets.

"The Blessington Local Area Plan (2013-2019) includes a number of sensible proposals for the region, among them the aim 'to facilitate an increase in the number of jobs in Blessington and to bring jobs closer to where people live'. The Plan also proposes to improve the retail experience in the town by providing better connectivity between the main street and town centre, more pedestrian-friendly pathways, and more inviting public parks/civic spaces, which collectively are expected to provide for, 'a more vibrant, viable and cohe-

sive Town Core.' There is also obviously a huge opportunity to develop the tourism capabilities of the region by extending the Blessington greenway and better connecting the town to the nearby Glen Ding woods. This would establish West Wicklow as a very significant destination for outdoor activities.

"This is all predicated on the required resources being provided so that the region can develop in a sustainable way, including bins, litter wardens, additional Garda resources, and better transport infrastructure. And it also depends on the council's continued vigilance in making planning decisions which aim to preserve the character and the aesthetic quality of West Wicklow - rather than facilitate the encroachment of the 'industrialised feel' of heavy industry."

Casey and Martin call for certainty on Blessington Building Projects

Fianna Fáil Leader Micheál Martin TD and local TD Pat Casey have called on the Fine Gael Government to ensure that the Blessington Community College school building project and the long awaited E-Greenway will not be cut as a result of Fine Gael's Children's Hospital cost overrun.

Pat Casey brought Fianna Fáil Leader to meet with Blessington Community Forum and Blessington Community College to discuss their projects along with local candidates Patsy Glennon and John Mullen.

"As a result of Fine Gael's complete mismanagement of the Children's Hospital budget, plans are now being examined to cut capital budgets - a move not seen since the recession. Despite the protestations of Fine Gael that capital budgets are multi annual, this is clearly untrue. We are hardly even into a multi week situation in 2019 and building projects are already being paired back", said Deputy Casey. "The children of Ireland will be the ultimate losers as the fallout from the hospital overspend continues. They don't deserve to be hit with a double whammy via a cut to school building projects. This government is already falling behind on school buildings, with many new schools without permanent sites and other older buildings in a state of disrepair.

"It is essential that Minister Joe McHugh does not accept a cut to his school building budget. He must stand up for the children of this country. Unfortunately, the Children's Hospital debacle is likely to have ramifications beyond 2019. Minister McHugh must therefore get a multi annual commitment that his school building budget is ring-fenced and increased as necessary. A commitment not to cut in 2019 is not sufficient."

Micheál Martin TD also voiced his concern that "Blessington E-Greenway is a project that should have been delivered by Fine Gael in Government since 2014 and I and Pat Casey have long argued that this is a shovel ready project that is regionally important for West Wicklow and its emerging tourist product.

"I will be asking the relevant Ministers for certainty in relation to these vital and approved projects for Blessington. It is not acceptable that there is a shadow over capital spending in these areas due to overspending in other departments."



Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin TD was in Blessington recently to learn about concerns over the Blessington Greenway and school projects as a result of the overspend on the national Children's Hospital. Pictured are John Mullen, Pat Casey TD, Michael Martin TD, John horan, Patsy Glennon, and Jason Mulhall.

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Pictured at a Fianna F il Cumann meeting in Roundwood/Moneystown last week are local election candidates Anne Gregory and councillor Gail Dunne with Pat Casey TD and cumann members.

'THE KEY TO UNLOCKING WICKLOW'S POTENTIAL'

Last week the Government announced that ** 62 million of the  1 Billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is to be allocated to key National Park and Heritage development.**

Minister Harris confirmed that this first allocation of the fund created under Ireland 2040 will target the regeneration and development of our national parks and heritage infrastructure.

Speaking on the announcement, Minister Harris said: "The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund aims to revitalise rural Ireland by supporting self-sustaining projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000. This Fund is a clear demonstration of Project Ireland 2040 in

action and is further evidence of this Government's commitment to rural communities. These investments will have a transformative effect on many rural towns, villages and outlying areas in Co Wicklow.

"Part of the fund will specifically target the development of a International Mountain Biking Project at Ballinastoe. This flagship national project will develop international standard Mountain Biking Trails which will provide recreational, health and tourism bene-

fits. "Significantly, the fund through two streams will focus on the development of our National Park lands here in Co Wicklow. It will aid the implementation of the Tourism Interpretative Master Plan for Ireland's National Parks and Nature Reserves.

"These projects are ambitious and strategic in nature. The funding will transform communities in Co Wicklow by delivering projects in sectors such as tourism and recreation. It is also particularly appropriate,

with Brexit approaching, that we continue to strengthen the rural economy and support sustainable development. This funding will support job creation and encourage entrepreneurship. It also promotes balanced regional development and ensures that opportunity is shared across the whole country. Through the Project Ireland 2040 Funds and Regional Enterprise Plans we now have a range of sustainable supports available that can deliver for all citizens.

"The Rural Fund encourages joined-up thinking involving collaboration between Government Departments, Local Authorities, public bod-

ies, and rural stakeholders. The projects announced today will bring about real and tangible benefits for rural communities and the regions. The Fund will provide investment to support suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas which will deliver on the aims of Project Ireland 2040 and achieve sustainable economic and social development in these areas. The Fund is intended to deliver on one of the strategic outcomes of Project Ireland 2040 - strengthened rural economies and communities."

Lifeboat changes at Wicklow RNLI signal major investment in historic station

The RNLI is due to make a major investment in lifesaving on the east coast with huge changes coming to Wicklow RNLI.

The station currently has the honour of being the last RNLI station with a Tyne class lifeboat in service. A relief Shannon class lifeboat will soon be based at Wicklow, the lifeboat is the fastest and most technologically advanced in the fleet, and the current Tyne lifeboat will then be officially be taken off service. All of this is to facilitate a permanent Shannon class lifeboat, to be based at Wicklow in a few years' time.

The Shannon class lifeboat Jock and Annie Slater, due to arrive in Wicklow on Sunday 24th February at 2:30pm will be a 'relief' lifeboat as the Tyne class lifeboat Annie Blaker is coming to the end of her service. This lifeboat has been the busiest all-weather lifeboat in the history of the station, being involved in over 340 services, rescuing over 400 people. It will be a bitter-sweet time for the crew, station management and fundraisers with the arrival of the new and the departure of Annie.

The relief lifeboat, which will eventually be replaced by a permanent Shannon for Wicklow, will have a temporary berth at the South quay. Each lifeboat class has a unique slip to launch from and as the Shannon is very different to the Tyne class, this temporary mooring, near the station, will support it until Wicklow receives its permanent Shannon lifeboat. Work will need to be undertaken to support the exciting changes at Wicklow and this will be undertaken in full consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Commenting on the changes Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Des Davitt said, "The confidence displayed by the RNLI Council and Trustees, who have given the go-ahead for this major investment, is a testament to the service of all crew, committees and fundraising teams, past and present. History is in the making as the newest fastest state of the art lifeboat is about to arrive. Already our Coxswains and Mechanics have attended training in Poole and a crew from our station has been tasked with bringing the Shannon class lifeboat into Wicklow on Sunday 24th February where the rest of the crew will receive training from the Fleet Staff Coxswains.

"Over the next three years major work will be carried out on the station and slip to accommodate the arrival of our own Shannon in early 2022. None of this would be possible without the magnificent support of the people, businesses and organisations of Wicklow and environs. It is an exciting time for all involved and indeed for the people of Wicklow."



BIFE students - learning and giving back to the community

BIFE Nail Technician & Pharmacy & Retail Selling students put their talents to good use last week to raise money for the Five Loaves in Bray. The Students as part of their course have set up their own Nail Bar business.

The start-up has taken a number of weeks to set up but with excellent, planning and preparation the students have managed to create a unique and professional business, offering beautiful nail art and design.

The students have had to work with a small budget and had to consider set up costs for the business. It has been an amazing learning experience for them as they have had to meet deadlines, work with limited resources and still deliver the highest standards in Nail Art and Excellence in Customer Service and Retail Selling.



BIFE students raising funds for Five Loaves

The students have enjoyed the experience immensely having learned to work in a professional business environment while also giving back to the community.

The students would like to extend thanks to all of the local businesses that supported the event and provided wonderful gifts for the raffle.



Pictured: At the recent Baltinglass Municipal District meeting Councillor Tommy Cullen and Cllr Edwards Timmins proposed that the council look at constructing a walking path from the vicinity of Deerpark and the ring road to the Glending woods in Blessington. Cllr Timmins said "These woods are very popular for walkers. Currently people have to drive down the Naas Road and park off a busy road to access the woods. This path would allow direct access from people's homes by foot. We have allocated 2k each from our discretionary funding to look at putting this in place."



Pictured: Bray Sailing Club members celebrate their Irish Sailing Training Centre of the Year Award.

Bray Sailing Club Training Centre wins two prestigious national awards

Bray Sailing Club Training Centre won two prestigious national awards at the Irish Sailing Associations Annual Awards in the RDS on Friday 8th January.

Bray Sailing Club Training Centre was named National Training Centre of the Year for 2018 and Jack Hannon Senior Instructor at Bray Sailing Club Training Centre was awarded The National Inclusion Award.

Presenting the awards at the Annual Awards

Ceremony, attended by over 500 guests, ISA President Jack Roy said "The National Training Centre Award to Bray Sailing Club is in recognition of the outstanding achievements of its Training Centre during 2018."

He went on to say "in particular Bray SC has gone over and above

the call of duty with their endless volunteerism, enthusiasm and encouragement to get as many people as possible afloat. This season, numbers on the water have increased again. Everyone from the youngest member to the oldest has been getting involved and getting wet, and their fleet has

grown and adapted to cater for all levels and all abilities."

Speaking after the presentation a delighted Club Commodore, Boris Fennema, said "We were delighted last year to be nominated as East Coast Training Centre of the Year for 2017. To not only repeat that achievement again this year but to be honoured with the National Award is a truly amazing achievement for our small family club. The award recognises the effort put into our training courses for all ages both ashore and on the water. It is without doubt the product of many years hard work and commitment by our Training Centre Committee and Volunteers especially the outstanding efforts of our Instructors led by Senior Instructor Jack Hannon, supported by the club membership."

Boris continued "This marks the culmination of seven years hard work since we decided to really make sailing a sport for all social classes, ages and abilities. Through the generosity of our members and a range of grants we have purchased boats and equipment so that access to sail training is within the reach of everyone. We are

looking forward to growing our involvement in the local community and in particular our work with Bray Lakers."

Boris went on to say "All in Bray Sailing Club are thrilled that the leadership and commitment to inclusivity of our senior instructor, Jack Hannon, was recognised in he being awarded the National Inclusion Award which reads: 'Jack has been pivotal in building the relationship between Bray Lakers and Bray Sailing Club and developing the new programme ensuring people of all abilities get to enjoy sailing. As Senior Instructor, Jack has led by example and inspired a fantastic team of young instructors to do their Disability Training Course, help volunteer within the Club, as well as at the Watersport's Inclusion Games in Galway.'"

Bray Sailing Club has over 300 members ranging in age from 8 to their late 80s, offers training courses for adults and juniors in both cruisers and dinghies, as well as powerboat and VHF radio tuition. Details of the club's courses and events may be found at www.braysailingclub.ie

GREEN PARTY TO FIELD TWO CANDIDATES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Green Party in Wicklow plan to run two candidates in the upcoming local elections. Sitting Councillor Steven Matthews will run in the Bray East ward while new candidate Lourda Scott will run in Greystones Municipal District which takes in Delgany, Kilcoole and Newcastle.

Councillor Steven Matthews said he was delighted to receive the support of his party colleagues. "My key aims are to ensure that proper planning for Bray provides good quality well designed homes in the right locations and places for employment and business to thrive and that this is matched with good transport options and community gain. As we are again in the midst of another property boom cycle it is vital that we learn from mistakes of the past. I have worked continuously and consistently on road safety, traffic management and transport planning and will continue to do so if re-elected. We need safe walking and cycling routes to schools, work and our town centre, adequate parking facilities, better parks, playgrounds and family open spaces and all round protection of our natural environment.

"As a long serving active committee member of Bray Tidy Towns I have had the opportunity to work with many other community, voluntary and sporting groups in our



Cllr. Steven Matthews and Lourda Scott

work to keep our town clean an attractive. Our natural environment is precious and vulnerable and its protection is a fundamental requirement for our wellbeing."

Lourda Scott is a first-time candidate and decided to take the leap into Green politics after a meeting with Green Party Senator Grace O'Sullivan who she described as 'inspirational'. Lourda is well known in the north Wicklow area for her work with the Together for Yes campaign and her yoga and mindfulness classes. A qualified vet, Lourda decided on a change of direction after the birth of her third child. "I had been thinking about entering politics for a

while. After meeting with Grace I went on the Green Party website and quickly realised that all their policies were closely aligned with my views and beliefs." Lourda told *Wicklow Times* she would love to see an increased female presence on Wicklow County Council. "While there are councillors in Wicklow doing great work, I would love to see more women and some people from more diverse backgrounds representing the people of Wicklow. I strongly believe in community-led change and being part of a local government that values everyone in the community regardless of background."

Success and silverware for Bray athletes at the Leinster Indoor Track and Field Championships

It was a very successful weekend for local athletics club Bray Runners A.C at the Leinster juvenile Indoor Track and Field Championships held at the AIT Indoor Arena in Athlone. The standard at these championships is always very high and every Bray athlete did their club and community proud.

Gráinne O'Sullivan claimed silver medals in both the u16 girls 200m (26.72 seconds) and long jump (4.68m). It could have so easily been 3 medals - as she also finished 4th place in the 60m sprint final in an almost a dead heat with 2nd and 3rd places. Gráinne has been quite prolific at these championships, having won medals in 3 of the past 4 years.

Two of the club's younger athletes, Róisín Murray and James Foot both won individual medals in the u12s 600m, with both missing out on victory by just 1 second. Róisín won bronze (1:55) in the girls final, and James claimed silver in the boys final (1:42) - in a race where both 1st and 2nd places broke the previous championship record. Also on an exciting Sunday evening, a determined Charlie Geelon stormed to a silver medal in the 60 meters

hurdles final in a time of 10.70s. This was the first indoor Leinster hurdles medal ever won by a Bray Runners A.C. athlete.

Elsewhere, Anna Salavarría narrowly missed out on a medal of her own in claiming an excellent 4th place in the girls u12 high jump. Aoife Carter also jumped extremely well to finish 5th in a very strong u16 girls high jump field with a new personal best of 1.50m, which was just 3cm lower than the gold medal-winning jump.

These championships also saw a big breakthrough for Ferdia O'Sullivan, who qualified for the final and finished in 6th place in all 3 events he entered - the 60m, 60 metre hurdles, and long jump. Bobby More also qualified for both the 60m hurdles final and 600m final on the same evening. Elsewhere there were 800m final qualifications in their respective age

groups for Eleanor Foot (7th), Fionn Begely (9th), and Rían Anafi-Fitzgibbon (10th).

There were many other personal best performances by the other athletes competing, including Ella Maguire, Éile Kennedy, Hannah Kelly, Orla O'Callaghan, Kate Hanley, Catherine O'Neill, and Krippa Kissanthomas.

Those who did manage to make it into the top 4 in Leinster now get to represent the club in the prestigious national indoor track and field championships in 6 weeks' time, in events as diverse as the 60m, 200m, long jump, 60m hurdles, high jump, and 600m, so a big congratulations to all the Bray Runners A.C athletes.

The next major event for the club is the Leinster Indoor Relay Championships which take place at the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown on 3rd March.

All six west Wicklow councillors will contest local election

The West Wicklow representation on Wicklow County Council could well remain unchanged as it appears that all six sitting councillors will contest the upcoming local elections.

Both Fine Gael councillors Vincent Blake and Edward Timmins have been nominated and will attend their selection convention on the 25th of this month. It's not yet known if the party intends to put forward a third candidate, a tactic that is being employed this time around by Fianna Fail. Sitting Fianna Fail councillor Pat Doran will be joined on the ticket by community activist and parliamentary assistant to Deputy Pat Casey John Mullen from Tinahely and retired guard and barrister Patsy Glennon from Hollywood. Pat Casey TD described the ticket as "one of the strongest teams we have ever selected in this area which is known as West Wicklow with the addition of the South West rural area of Tinahely, Shillelagh and Carnew. All three bring a wealth of experience, commitment and talent and is a very healthy sign of Fianna Fail's continued growth in the county."

So far three Independent sitting councillors are expected to run, Cllrs Jim Ruttle, Tommy Cullen and former Sinn Fein councillor Gerry O'Neill. The Social Democrats are fielding a candidate in their first local election outing. Dave McGinn is a software developer and lives in Blessington Town. Sinn Fein announced as far back as 2017 that their local election candidate would be Aidan Kinsella. Kinsella has been a community rep for the party for the last number of years. Sinn Fein will be hoping to win back the seat in the Baltinglass electoral area that they lost when Cllr Gerry O'Neill was ousted from the party. It is thought that neither Labour nor the Greens will field candidates in the west.



Pictured are Ronan Murray and Jack Dunne who both received 3rd level bursaries to the value of €1000 at the Garden County GAA Sports Stars Awards which was held recently in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

SUCCESSFUL NIGHT FOR BRAY AT THE ALL IRELAND COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL AWARDS 2019

The Bray Air Display and the 'Summer in Bray' tourism initiative won Silver at The All Ireland Community and Council Awards which are presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA.

The awards which recognise and celebrate community and councils working together, took place on Saturday, February 9th at Croke Park Stadium in Dublin.

With RTÉ's Marty Morrissey at the helm as the evening's MC, the event recognised the cream of the crop of projects and initiatives from the communities and councils around Ireland.

Cllr. Pat Vance,

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District said "I'm really delighted that both the Bray Air Display and the 'Summer in Bray' tourism initiative have been honoured. To be recognised like this is a true testament to the team's hard work. It shows that Bray has a winning formula and is seen as making a significant contribution to Irish tourism. It is a real team effort and I would like to thank the

many contributors for their loyalty, support, enthusiasm, dedication and passion."

Bray was also short-listed in the 'Best Connected Council'- Communications and Digital Marketing category, and for the Multi-agency emergency response to the gorse fire on Bray Head in the Emergency Response Person/Team of the Year category.



Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District Pat Vance, and Bray District Administrator David Forde at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards

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CLASSIFIEDS

• Recruitment • Planning • Notices

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for (a) 142 sq.m rear, front and side extension with new roof to accommodate habitable space to 71 sq.m. dwelling (b) connection to existing waste water treatment system to EPA standards which currently serves adjoining property with new percolation area and revised boundaries to site (c) proposed new waste water treatment system to EPA standards on adjoining family property and associated works at Mullinaveigue, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for B. Doyle. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a single storey dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, revised entrance and associated works at Annacarter, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for C. McMullen. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION
 Sought for:
 1. Construction of New 3 Bed Two Storey Dwelling (218Msq) to land to rear of existing dwellings facing onto Ballyman Road, at Brookville, Ballyman Road, Enniskerry.
 2. New Foul & Surface Connections to existing sewers to facilitate new dwelling.
 3. All Associated Requisite ancillary site works at 'Brookville', Ballyman Road, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, A98 AV24. Signed: Aidan McGlinchey.
 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Marcus Hanbidge intend to apply for permission for erection of 521 sqm agriculture cattle storage shed with two slatted tanks, new farmyard, new entrance and lane off public road and associate works at Winetavern, Stratford on Staney, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Talla Breslin and Neil Tanner, seek retention permission for the construction of a single storey utility room (11 sqm) to the rear of dwelling at Ardara, Killarney Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, A98 H972.
 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Graham and Sharon Fitzpatrick, seek planning permission for construction of a first floor extension to the rear of the existing dwelling at No.1 Brickfield Cottages, Brickfield Lane, Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow A98 NX02.
 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We Padraic Hayden and Nicola Mitchell seek permission for a single storey dwelling with chimney, a 6 person Euro Bio Treatment unit & 50 linear meter of soil polishing filter, a new driveway and entrance onto the R117 using the existing entrance that now accesses a private road and ancillary works above and below ground to facilitate development at Monastery, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.
 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oonagh Duffy intends to apply for permission for development at a 0.206 ha site (2,060 sq m) at Kilcrouney, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of the construction of a part-single part-two storey three bedroom dwelling house (183 sq m) with wastewater treatment system and well, hard and soft landscaping, and all associated site development works above and below ground. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

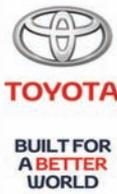
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Aiden Ward intend to apply for permission for a new dwelling, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance lane and associate works at Ballard, Trooperstown, Laragh, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Cullen Excavations Ltd. seek planning permission for: THE INSTALLATION OF A GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION WELL AND EXTENSION TO EXISTING SITE BOUNDARY FOR USE FOR THE STORAGE OF TOP SOIL at, KILMULLIN, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, CO. WICKLOW.
 This application is for development which is subject to a technical amendment to an existing waste management facility permit.
 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Newtownmountkenedy Primary Care Centre: Mountkenedy Town Centre, Newtownmountkenedy	February 28th 2019
Bray Health Centre: Civic Centre, Main Street	March 4th 2019
Wicklow Health Centre: Knockrobbin, Wicklow Town	March 6th 2019

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