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FASHION SHOW
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WATER REFILLS
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Tuesday 26th February 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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IS WICKLOW BEING IGNORED?

WICKLOW RECEIVED THE LOWEST NUMBER OF IDA SITE VISITS OF ANY COUNTY IN 2018

There were a total of 607 IDA site visits nationwide last year, but only one of them was to County Wicklow. Counties such as Louth, Kildare and Meath received 20, 8, and 6 visits respectively.

The figures were released by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation following a parliamentary question from Fianna Fail Cork TD Billy Kelleher.

Responding to the figures, Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind) told *Wicklow Times* that he didn't think Wicklow was being "treated fairly".

Cllr Fortune is now calling on the IDA to explain why Wicklow is not getting investment.

He is also calling on the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to immediately invite the IDA to Wicklow to meet the members and executives of the council.

Cllr Fortune said "We have good roads which are linked to a road network which can easily take you to any part of Ireland and which are close to airport and shipping. We have good infrastructure and a good educated workforce, yet

we get only the odd visit from the IDA and nothing happens. We are practically, in industrial and job terms, a suburb of Dublin, but we are not treated in a similar way to Kildare, Meath or Louth which could also be classed as suburbs of Dublin."

Cllr Fortune says he questioned IDA representatives, when they attended a meeting of Wicklow County Council last year, as to why nothing happens as a result



Pictured: Lucy and Eoin Harmon at the launch of the Kilmacanogue History Society's Oral History Project in the Glenview Hotel.

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of their visits and suggested to them that they were only 'going through the motions'. Cllr Fortune believes that Wicklow and what it has to offer is "not being sold properly".

"The IDA is not selling Wicklow hard enough," he said. "They have to really sell the county and Wicklow's TDs have to start cracking the whip to make it happen. This requires urgent attention."

Cllr Fortune pointed to the IDA site in Greystones, which has been waiting for over 30 years for development, as "a good example of the lack of action".

Cllr Gerry Walsh (FF) expressed disappointment with the figures but said he was hopeful of an announcement being made by the IDA soon

regarding the site in Greystones.

Cllr Walsh, who is Chairperson of the Wicklow Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee, told *Wicklow Times*: "While I'm initially disappointed with the statistics as they relate to Wicklow, I believe that the figures do not reflect the behind the scenes contacts that have been taking place between the Council, the IDA and prospective client companies. I am very hopeful that the IDA and the County Council will be in a position to announce positive news on the site in Greystones in the near future."

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Pictured are the members of 'Dance Talent Kids'

Local dance troupe appear on 'Ireland's Got Talent'

A dance troupe called 'Dance Talent Kids', whose members all hail from Wicklow and Dublin, recently competed in 'Ireland's Got Talent' and performed a Strictly Come Dancing-style routine. They are a latin and ballroom dancing group and some of their members have been dancing since they were three years old.

The group regularly compete in latin dance competitions and ballroom dance competitions in Ireland, the UK and around the world.

They created their 'Strictly'-style dance routine especially for their appearance on the show. Usually the members of the group compete in couples-only-routine competitions, so a group performance will be a new challenge for them.

They have said that they applied for 'Ireland's Got Talent' because they believe that they have an unusually strong, natural-talent for dance, for their age.

They have said that they would like to show the 'Ireland's Got Talent' judges, and the country, what they can do.

Two of the group's members have previously competed together numerous times: Eva

Rose-Kane (8) from Bray, and Dovidas Staneviciusn (7).

They have been partners for a year and have won lots of prizes in that time. Dovidas travels a lot for competitions and has recently been to Holland and Athens to compete.

They have said that Denise is their favourite judge on 'Ireland's Got Talent' and that they loved competing on the show.

What's Happening...

First Saturday Book Sale

On Saturday 2nd the March First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place between 10am and 1pm in the Shankill Old Folks Centre, Lower Road, Shankill. Donations of books, which must be in a good and clean condition, other than school/text books, will be accepted on that day. Photographs and memorial cards found in donated books can be collected at the book sale.

Guided Meditation

A Guided Meditation session will take place in Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Boghall Road, Bray, between 7 pm and 8 pm on the last Tuesday of the month, Tuesday 26th. There is no fee to attend (donation box available to cover for renting the premises). Just come along, have one hour for your wellbeing and relax into meditation. For more details ring or text Shideh on 0876710903 or Audra on 0879418941.

Old Dublin Society

The next meeting of the Old Dublin Society takes place at 6pm on Wednesday February 27th in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, at which Fergal McCabe will present his lecture 'Down with Dublin - Frank Gibney and the Role of the Capital in the Vision of the Nation's City.' All welcome - admission free.

North Wicklow Times readers wishing to join The Old Dublin Society, which covers the history of Dublin City and County including Shankill, can obtain a membership application form by post from James Scannell, Old Dublin Society PRO, 19 Hazelwood, Shankill, Dublin D18 ND 79 or by email from olddublinsociety@gmail.com or join at the February 27th meeting.

Delgany Thursday Group

The next outing for the Delgany Thursday Group will be to Dublin Castle on Thursday 7th March - leaving Christ Church, Delgany by coach at 1:30pm. The cost is €25 per person (includes coach, Castle tour, and scone with tea/coffee). To book, contact Noelen (086 8307644) or John (086 3566527).

Glendalough & District Development AGM

The annual AGM will be held in the Brockagh Resource Centre on Monday 4th of March at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

New North Wicklow disability group seeks members

A new community group of people with disabilities in the North Wicklow area is looking for local people with disabilities to join.

The group is called Disability Action Together Group North Wicklow. It will provide a space for people with a disability to network and have a strong voice in advocating for change on issues that affect them.

The group is being supported in its set-up by Disability Federation of Ireland's Community Development Worker, Pierce Richardson, and Bray Area Partnership staff via the SICAP programme.

The next meeting is on Monday 11th March from 11.00am-12.30pm in the Intreo Offices, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, and people with disabilities are welcome to drop in to find out more. For more information email piercerichardson@disability-federation.ie.

Simple steps to healthy eating

Are you willing to stand up in public and say you eat carbs?

Do you risk your friends and family firing a hose of cold water at you for publically eating a potato? Have you recently vowed to eat less meat in an effort to save the planet and all of humankind? Or have you stopped reading the food-related headlines because you really can't work out the good advice from the bad, the scare-mongering from the sensible?

If this describes you please know that you are not alone! Maija Tweeddale, registered Nutritional Therapist, will help you cut through the confusion by outlining 3 simple steps to healthy eating to give you the confidence that you can make good choices for the health of yourself and your loved ones.

The free talk takes place in Wicklow Public Library, Wicklow Town at 7pm on Thursday 28th February.

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Wicklow Tidy Towns - Sustainable Energy Community

Wicklow Tidy Towns are holding a public meeting on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 8pm in the Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

They are inviting all energy users to come along - householders, businesses, industries, sports clubs, educational establishments, public bodies and all interested parties.

The meeting will launch a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) for Wicklow Town and the surrounding area. The aim of an SEC is to get as many people as possible in the community to work together to develop a sustainable energy system for the area by reducing the amount of energy consumed, by using renewable energy where feasible and, as a result, reduce the carbon footprint of the town.

The SEC will have supports from Government and Public Bodies, will network with other SECs in the country and could, potentially, generate local jobs. The SEC, once up and running, will provide advice on energy efficiency, help with applying for grants and obtaining suitable contractors.

Delgany & District Horticultural Society Spring lecture

The Delgany and District Horticultural Society are having their Spring lecture on Tuesday 5th March in St. Patrick's Recreation Centre, Church Road, Greystones at 8.00pm.

The title of the lecture is "Memories of Gardening and Showing". The lecture will be given by Jim and Joan Gregg and should be of interest to all newcomers to Gardening.

Everyone is welcome and there will be a cup of tea afterwards with an opportunity to meet the lecturers.

The Society's Annual Daffodil Show will be held on Saturday 6th April 2019 in

the Old Schoolhouse Delgany between 3.00pm and 5.00pm. This show also features a floral art exhibition and classes for a variety of other plants. Teas are served during the show. Further details can be found on the web page Delganydhs.com.



Pictured: Ultan McKeon from QUINs Pharmacy in Bray welcomeing pharmacist John Walsh to the QUINs team. John was previously in Geoghegan's Pharmacy and is excited to be joining the expanding team at QUINs.

WICKLOW
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"STARTLING" KWETB REVELATIONS

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said that there were further startling revelations last week in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in relation to the KWETB.

The meeting took place following on from the report into the 2015 Accounts of the KWETB published by the C&AG the previous week.

Brady said: "The long-

awaited publication of the C&AG report followed 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. "Last week, a second meeting at the Public Accounts Committee took

place with officials from the Department of Education, the C&AG and representatives from the KWETB.

"Following questioning it was revealed that without any Board approval, the CEO and Vice Chairperson of the Board signed a 20 year lease on what is known as Block E in Bray Civic Centre for a rent of €5.72 million, with additional fit out costs due to exceed €3 million totalling €8.72 million.

"Even without Board knowledge or approval, rent has continued to be paid on that premises without any legal advice sought by the KWETB into its legality.

"The Public Accounts Committee has requested that a thorough search be carried out to identify the Directors of the company



Pictured: Ann Cranny and Dr Breda Cunningham at the launch of the Kilmacanogue History Society Oral History Project in the Glenview Hotel last Tuesday.

IS WICKLOW BEING IGNORED?

Continued from Page 1

CLlr Walsh, recently responding to Wicklow's commuter survey results, said "I have especially pressed the urgent need to attract businesses into the County to reverse the current commuting trend. The range of particular skill sets in the working Wicklow population could potentially be used to attract potential businesses into the IDA site in Greystones and into other employment development sites across Wicklow."

In a statement to *Wicklow Times*, Wicklow County Council said "Wicklow County Council works very closely with the IDA as well as other State agencies in the continuing drive to attract new industry to the county. The Council is currently working with the IDA on a number of initiatives, reflecting the good working relationship which the Council has with the Agency.

"It should be noted that the number of site visits by the IDA to the county is only one of many indicators of ongoing activity. It should be further noted that a site visit does not guarantee that investment will follow. Companies investing in Wicklow or other counties are interested in talent, track record and infrastructure and do not take decisions based on county boundaries. The IDA has continually emphasised that creating jobs in regional locations, including Wicklow and the Mid-East Region, will remain a top priority."

in which this lease has been entered into to see if there may be potential conflicts of interest.

"This is more evidence that further investigations are now required into all the years of finances relating to the KWETB."

The newly appointed Chief Executive of the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) told the Public Accounts Committee that they have

built a "robust culture of corporate governance" following serious failings raised by the Government's spending watchdog.

The report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Seamus McCarthy, found weaknesses in KWETB's procurement processes and that contracts awarded to a firm with connections to the then Chief Executive were not disclosed. The

Garda National Economic Crime Bureau was asked to investigate the matter following the publication of a report by Dr Richard Thorn, commissioned by the Department of Education.

Dr Keyes told members of PAC "Whilst acknowledging and accepting the seriousness of the findings of both reports, I hope that I can provide assurances to the Committee that KWETB

has set about to build a robust culture of corporate governance."

The Secretary General of the Department of Education Séan O'Foghlú told members that the issues at KWETB were of "very serious concern".

Mr O'Foghlú acknowledged that there had been internal audit failings. He told the committee that they had not seen evidence of similar failings across the ETB sector.

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Orla Keyes, Vice Principal of Newtownmountkennedy Primary School, and Newtown resident Lee Doyle, are pictured with the Newtownmountkennedy Primary School award winners of the 'Scoop that Poop' competition to design an anti-dog-fouling poster.

SPRING: Seven Artists from Kare and Ardeen Cheshire Home

Marking the beginning of the season of new growth, this group exhibition in the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, brings together work from seven artists with disabilities who have been working with tutor Orla Callaghan in the services of Kare in Baltinglass and Tinahely and Ardeen Cheshire Home in Shillelagh.

The title SPRING is used not only to suggest life and growth but also bounce, resilience and an arising source, all of which are encapsulated in the approach of this artist to their work which often sees them overcoming physical challenges and other constraints to tap into a well of creativity.

Paddy Burton, Anthony Delanthry, Ruth Fenton, Fiona Healy, Libby Hendrick, Edward Morrissey and Eoin O'Malley present a varied collection of paintings and drawings. These works represent very different journeys of personal exploration following individual interests and the continuous development of techniques and skill brought about by dedicated application.

The exhibition will take place in the Courthouse Arts Centre and will run until Friday 29th March (Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am - 5pm).

Major boost for mountain biking community

Co. Wicklow is set to receive funding to develop new bike trails as well as a new bike centre.

The International Mountain Biking Proposition for Rural Ireland was announced last week as one of the successful bids under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

The €13.6 million funding package will support Ireland's mountain biking community in Wicklow, as well as Limerick, Cork, Sligo, Dublin, Offaly and Laois. It is hoped that the funding will help to establish Ireland as one of the top mountain biking destinations in the world.

The funding package proposes the delivery of four national trail centres, one of which will be located in Ballinastoe.

The project will be delivered over a three-year period and each site or additional trail development will be opened to the public as it is completed.

The project will build on existing investment and success stories like Ballyhoura MTB across Limerick and Cork and will generate visitor numbers of over 3 million

over the next 10 years.

According to Fáilte Ireland's economic impact report, the development of these trail centres, could see visitors generating spend of more than €22 million per annum when completed. There are an estimated 20 communities around the country who will see the effect of new and increased visitor numbers in their area.

Deborah Meghen, Director of Stewardship for Coillte, said "We are delighted to partner with Fáilte Ireland and Department of Rural and Community Development to provide a platform for this exciting development. We want to continue to work with the best service providers to create outstanding destinations for mountain bikers. Investment has been made in the past by project partners in mountain biking across Ireland, but never to the scale needed to elevate this to an international proposition. This funding will now allow the existing trials to be upgraded to a standard that can attract visitors at

home and abroad."

Orla Carroll, Director of Product Development with Fáilte Ireland, said "Fáilte Ireland welcomes the announcement for funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to support the development of world-class mountain bike trails. The location of the trails in rural and remote areas will have a positive impact on local communities and help expand their tourism offerings. As the National Tourism Development Authority, it is one of our strategic objectives to ensure that the economic benefits of tourism are spread regionally across the country. We will continue to work positively in partnership with Coillte and the Department of Rural and Community Development to deliver quality visitor experiences that enhance and further develop our recreational tourism offerings and which lead to additional and increased social and economic benefits for local communities."

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Pictured: Kay Merrigan celebrates her 70th birthday with her family at Carcy McGees in Arklow

Educate Together announced as patron of new primary school

Educate Together has been announced as the patron for the new eight-classroom primary school for the Kilcoole/Newtownmountkennedy area to be established this year.

The new school will be established in interim accommodation initially, pending permanent accommodation solutions being put in place as part of the Department's Design and Build Programme.

A Department of Education and Skills spokesperson told *Wicklow Times* that "a proposed site for interim accommodation will be confirmed when a planning application is lodged with the local authority. The Department expects that will happen shortly."

Last November, the

DES invited parents in Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy to vote for the patron of their brand new local school through an Online Patronage Process Survey. Voting closed on January 14th and data gathered was used to decide the patronage of the primary school.

Local Fianna Fail Election candidate for Wicklow, Anne Gregory of the Kilcoole/Newtownmountkennedy Educate Together National School campaign group, said "I have really enjoyed work-

ing on the campaign and it gave me great pleasure to meet so many dedicated people that were part of the team. I look forward to the imminent announcement of the location to be announced."

The campaign garnered unprecedented support and volunteers were kept busy during this short but intense campaign. Says Niall Wall, Regional Development Officer at Educate Together "It was a pleasure to work with such a committed group of volunteers on this campaign and I'm delighted

that their hard work has paid off. This new school will be the fifth Educate Together national school in Wicklow and will add to the stock of equality-based school places for families in the county."

The school will enrol Junior Infants starting in 2019 this year - enrolment for subsequent years will be taken in the year prior to the child starting school. Principal recruitment will begin immediately. The Department of Education and Skills is currently sourcing accommodation for the school.

In 2021, Educate

Together will apply for a new national school to serve the Bray, Woodbrook and Shanganagh areas of the county and in the same year will apply for a new secondary school for Kilcoole and Greystones.

Minister Simon Harris, who worked to secure agreement from the Department that an additional school was needed, has welcomed the news, saying, "parents in the catchment area have made their views known. I am particularly pleased that that parents were so involved in this important decision through this modern selection process and I know the community are delighted to see progress on a much needed school."

"This has not been a simple process, we identified a need for additional school places in the area a number of years ago but it took a lot to get the Department of Education to re-examine their population projections. I want to thank my colleagues, Alice O'Donnell and Cllr Derek Mitchell who worked with me to make the case to the Department that their numbers were out of date. Securing permission for an additional primary and an additional secondary school in the area was a major step forward and I was delighted to confirm this last year. The awarding of the patronage for this 8 class primary school will now allow school management to start planning and working towards the opening of the school."

"I want to congratulate everyone involved in the campaign. I look forward to working with the school as it develops. The Department are currently in the process of selecting a site and I will keep the community updated when I receive confirmation."

PETITION STARTED TO SPEED UP PATRONAGE PROCESS FOR SCHOOL

A petition set up by concerned parents in the Greystones Municipal District, calls on the Department of Education & Skills to initiate the patronage process immediately for the new post-primary school due to open in the Greystones/Kilcoole area in 2021.

The parents say that "this will ensure the school is ready" and "will allow children to hear if they have a place in the school well in advance".

Responding to a parliamentary question from Social Democrats co-leader Deputy Roisin Shortall TD on February 14th, regarding the timeline for the patronage process, Minister Joe McHugh said the patronage process for the new school will be run "significantly ahead of their due opening".

He stated "My Department will be examining all potential suitable site options to serve the area. A decision will then be made as part of the site acquisition process in relation to an appropriate site for the school and will be confirmed at a later date."

"A patronage process is run after it has been decided, based on demographic analysis, that a new school is required. This patronage process is open to all patron bodies and prospective patrons. Parental preferences for each patron, from parents of children who reside in the school planning areas concerned, together with the extent of diversity currently available in these areas, are key to decisions in relation to the outcome of this process."

The patronage process for the Wicklow post-primary school to be established this year is nearing completion, Minister McHugh said, and "it is anticipated that the successful patron will be announced in the coming weeks."

Social Democrats councillor Jennifer Whitmore expressed her disappointment with the Minister's response, saying "it really isn't good enough. Parents and students deserve to be able to plan for, and enjoy, the transition from primary to secondary - it a milestones that should be marked with excitement, not dread and worry. I will continue to raise this issue with the Minister."

The patronage process for the Wicklow post-primary school to be established this year is nearing completion, Minister McHugh said, and "it is anticipated that the successful patron will be announced in the coming weeks."

Capture the magic of your local Wicklow area

Energia has launched its 'Pic of the Month' competition and is now taking entries from the public via Twitter and Instagram.

Members can submit any image that they feel showcases the beauty and uniqueness of their locality, for example a local monument, wildlife, an event, a sunrise etc. The competition is open to all members of the public over the age of 18. At the end of every month Energia will select one winner who will receive €500 and five runners up who will each receive €100. Submissions must be original photography by the entrant, taken within 30 days of entry, and must be set in Ireland.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT PROPOSAL FOR TOWN CENTRE COMMUNITY BASED CCTV SYSTEM

Greystones Municipal District intends to make an application to the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform for funding towards the installation of a community based CCTV system for the town of Greystones to increase public safety and to deter illegal or anti-social behaviour.

In consultation with the local Gardai, a survey of the town has been carried out and, subject to funding, it is proposed to install 11 cameras on poles at locations between the harbour and Mill Road.

A map showing the exact locations will be on display and available to view in the offices of Greystones Municipal District and Greystones Garda Station from **Wednesday 27th February up to Friday 29th March 2019.**

All submissions should be in writing or by email and sent to Greystones MD, Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones – Greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie - by **Friday 29th March 2019.**

Myra Porter,
District Administrator

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Maxi Zoo Bray, Unit 5 Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED FOR NEW ARKLOW DATA CENTRE

Planning permission was granted by Wicklow County Council last week for Echelon Data Centres' planned 45,000m (484,000 sqft) facility in Avoca River Park, Arklow. The new data centre represents an investment of €500 million and will have a capacity of up to 100MW and will create 540 jobs - 450 in construction and 90 operational positions.

The granting of planning allows Echelon to begin the design process and the on-site enablement works for the project. Graeme McWilliams, Chief Operating Officer of Echelon Data Centres said "We want to start the project as soon as possible".

Fianna Fail, Pat Casey TD called it "the beginning of a new era for Arklow and a game changer for jobs and economic development in Arklow and indeed the South Wicklow region."

He went on to say, "For years the old IFI site at Avoca River Park has been a landmark for failed industrial development in Arklow. One of my top priorities for Arklow and the South Wicklow region was locally based economic development.

"For example the development levies on this project alone are €1,773,535 which will be used by Wicklow County Council to further local public

infrastructure and facilities. I have been working on this project with Crag Digital now Echelon for the past seventeen months. The initial investment is over €500 million and will transform this brown field site into a major data centre with 100 mega watts of capacity in phase 1 which will in turn attract industries in the valuable technology and software sectors.

"Apart from the 450 construction jobs that will be needed for the substantial redevelopment of the site, the data centre will in turn initially employ 90 high skilled workers and will in the future become a hub for a business park which is the model that US data centres have evolved into. Tech companies prefer to locate adjacent to these data centres and therefore the potential for not only Arklow but the South Wicklow region is very exciting.

"This is the perfect industry to be located at

this site as there are limitations as to the type of development that can take place here and there are crucial infrastructural benefits such as grid connection and its location near the N11, only an hour's drive from Dublin Airport.

"The potential for further job and commercial development at the site is massive and Echelon is committed to developing their holdings and the Arklow region for the long term.

"The granting of planning permission is a significant step in the creation of a new era of industrial development and jobs for Arklow and I am delighted to have been of assistance in getting this project to this crucial state."

Graeme McWilliams, Chief Operating Officer of Echelon Data Centres said: "We are fully committed to this substantial investment. The effect of this development on the

Wicklow economy will be felt not only during the construction phase but also through the 90 permanent positions that will be created on site when works are completed.

"It is my firm belief that the presence of this ultra-modern facility will also help the process of rejuvenating the Avoca Business Park, which in turn will attract new companies and enterprises and place Wicklow firmly on the map as a place to do business. The initial development phase of the project will be funded by the company and the first 35Mw of capacity (Phase 1 Stage 1) will be available from Q1 2021. There is significant grid power available and we expect a substantial growth in the renewable energy sector which will come on stream as facilities like ours help create a sustainable and constant demand for green power."



'Metro must be reinstated to Sandymount and go further towards Wicklow'

CLL Derek Mitchell has called for the MetroLink to be extended to Sandyford, as was previously planned.

Following reports that the Metro is to be cancelled to Sandymount, Cllr Mitchell said "at present the Green Luas line is very overcrowded at rush hour, people can't get on, and the much higher capacity Metro is needed. The new large town of Cherrywood is being built on the Luas and the very overcrowded M50/N11. In future the Luas is planned to be extended to Bray.

The Metro must be extended to Sandyford, as was planned, and further otherwise the existing Luas will be utterly full.

"The Metro should end in a large Park n' Ride site on the Southside, as is planned for the Northside near Swords, and a route should be reserved for a future extension to Bray."

Cllr Mitchell said he was "Particularly surprised that Green Party leader Eamonn Ryan TD is suggesting a change in the route away from the South East and Wicklow as this will make it difficult to extend Luas to Bray."



Pictured: Rita Cluskey, Aoife Power, Ria Dalton and Jenny Power at the official opening of the new post office in Rathnew. See page 12

Arklow roundabout scheme a huge success

All eight roundabouts from Junction 20 to Junction 21 leading into Arklow town have now been sponsored by local businesses under two different schemes.

Arklow Municipal District, having recognised the importance of having well-maintained approach roads into Arklow, has been innovative with the introduction of County Wicklow's first Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme three years ago.

Topline Bolands and Bridgewater are both responsible for maintaining their sponsored roundabout while Arklow Municipal District is currently putting in place a summer maintenance plan for the remaining six roundabouts. The improvement of these roundabouts will help to generate economic benefits and increase visitor numbers along with giving the town an identity.

Electrical works to light up the lantern from the former lightship "Alf Skua", which was placed on the roundabout at Junction 20 onto the M11 motorway, have now been completed.

The lighting will now highlight the lantern which has been extensively refurbished and restored to its former

glory. It represents a tribute to the maritime history of Arklow town and has already become a recognisable landmark within the area for locals and visitors alike.

Works based around a coastal theme are also nearing completion on the two roundabouts at Junction 21.

Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, stated: "I would like to thank the businesses who have sponsored all eight roundabouts, along with other businesses in Arklow Town who have contributed in any way to improving each of the roundabouts."

"A special thanks to the Arklow Tidy Towns who have maintained some of the roundabouts over the years. I also wish to acknowledge the work undertaken by the staff of Arklow Municipal District who introduced the scheme and the engineering staff who have worked with contractors and overseen the works on each roundabout."



The illuminated lightship lantern at the roundabout at Junction 20 leading into Arklow



Pictured: Leslie Martin and Mark Power at the official opening of the new post office in Rathnew.

New Bray election candidate makes four in 'independent grouping'

Former Bray Sinn Fein Councillor Rossa Murray will run as an Independent candidate in the upcoming elections. Murray is one of four candidates that has aligned in an Independent grouping and hope to take a seat in four electoral areas of County Wicklow. The others are former Sinn Fein councillors John Snell in Wicklow and Gerry O'Neill in Baltinglass, and new candidate Tommy Breen in Arklow.

If all four candidates are successful in their bid, they will form a four-person grouping on Wicklow County Council, covering all areas bar Greystones. Rossa Murray was elected to Bray Town Council in 2009 but did not contest the 2014 election. It was rumoured at the time that

Murray was promised John Brady's seat on the council should he be elected to the Dáil. Subsequent to John Brady's election in 2016, Michael O'Connor was co-opted to the empty Sinn Fein seat.

O'Connor has since left his council seat and a further co-option took place,

installing Dermot O'Brien in his place. Rossa is hopeful that he will return to the Council this year and told *Wicklow Times* that he has already received huge support from people in the Bray East area. "I feel like Little Bray has been neglected and needs public representation and I'm



Former Sinn Fein Councillor Rossa Murray will run as an Independent candidate in Bray

the man to do it," said Rossa. "I'm looking forward to the campaign and hopefully will be elected back onto the Council to serve the people of Bray."

COUNCIL POWERING UP WITH SOLAR CARPORT CANOPY

Wicklow County Council will develop a 'Solar Carport Canopy' at County Buildings as part of their efforts to meet national energy efficiency targets. The Canopy is expected to directly supply at least 40% of the county building's energy needs.

In 2009 the Government set a national target to improve energy efficiency by 20% by 2020.

In the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy, it has set the public sector the more challenging target of improving its own energy efficiency by 33%.

The strategy's objectives are for the public sector to use its skills and experience to take a national leadership role in the deploying of energy efficient projects and initiatives.

Wicklow County Council told *Wicklow Times* that it has some way to go to reach its target.

However, there are a number of projects planned that will 'contribute towards reaching it and also demonstrate our exemplar role'.

At County Buildings, the most visible project will be the development of a Solar Carport Canopy in the car park along Station Road, from the main entrance to the wall of the stores building.

The Canopy will support about 300kW of solar panels. They will produce, on average, about 40% of the electricity used in county buildings, (the 'baseload'), which will save €40,000-50,000 a year, depending on the cost of electricity which is likely to increase significantly over the coming years.

In addition, the Canopy will provide cover from the rain, shade from the sun in the summer and reduce light pollution among other benefits.

Construction is relatively quick, with little disturbance and there will be no loss of parking spaces.

Delgany Accessibility Scheme passed

Greystones Councillors passed the Delgany Accessibility Scheme at a special meeting last Monday.

The councillors by resolution agreed to the proposed scheme subject to incorporating a vehicular entrance to Ivy Cottage, subject to road engineering review and proper planning.

After the meeting, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "I am glad to see the Accessibility Scheme finally agreed for Delgany Village. The increased traffic through Delgany over the last few years has made pedestrians and cyclists more vulnerable so it's important that we make changes to address that and ensure safe access through the village."

"The input from the local community on this scheme, in particular through the Delgany Community Council, has resulted in an excellent proposal, and one that should meet the needs of the residents. However, this scheme does not cover the 'main' street of the village, and it is important that work is also undertaken here as it is currently a very busy traffic thoroughfare and is not safe for pedestrians."

"I have asked that the Council begin to look at a

scheme for this area to ensure the continued viability of the shops and businesses there, whilst making it an attractive and safe place pedestrians to use."

The scheme aims to improve pedestrian accessibility and safety in Delgany at Bellevue Hill junction and traveling east to Killincarrig Roundabout. It follows on from a Road User Audit commissioned by The Council in 2012 which identified a number of road safety and accessibility issues in the village.

According to the report prepared by consultants AECOM Ireland Limited, the improvements include footpath build-outs and reduced corner radii at the mouth of the junction to narrow the carriageway and reduce crossing distances for pedestrians; a raised table across the junction to reduce vehicle speeds and serve as an entry treatment to the village; provision of a disabled person's parking bay on the east side of the junction; provisions of trees and bicycle stands on the new footpath area on the east side of the junction.

The scheme includes road widening to provide appropriate pedestrian facilities from Convent Road around the bend to Priory Gate.

Newtown locals set for charity fashion show

By Cathy Lee

The glitz and glamour of local fashions will be showcased this coming Friday at a charity fashion show taking place in the Parkview Hotel Newtownmountkennedy from 8pm.

Organisers aim to "Raise vital funds for the Irish Cancer Society, and have some fun along the way", said organiser Theresa Martin. Fashions to be on modelled on the evening vary from high fashion from local designers such as Anne Gregory Design and Fishers, to childrens' clothes from Kid's Fashion and casual clothes from the local charity shop, St Vincent de Paul. Students from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann will also be modelling their clothes created from the Junk Kouture fashion design competition.

All the models taking part are local and come in all shapes and sizes, with councillor Daire Nolan, a member of the Garda Síochána John Whelan, staff from the Parkview Hotel and many other members of the commu-

nity both young and old taking part, such as the local scouts. Theresa said that her team "Like to keep it local and get the local people involved, and there will be something for everyone".

The local people have come together in support of this event and local shops and businesses have made donations. Theresa said that "Three years ago we had a fashion show in aid of Pieta House and raised over €7,000. We're hoping to exceed that this year". She highlighted that the money raised will go towards helping every community in Ireland and their individual struggles with cancer treatments and diagnosis.

Theresa described the Irish Cancer Society as a cause close to her heart. Theresa's husband Fran

has cancer and Theresa said "He is going through chemotherapy at the minute but luckily it looks like he's coming out the other side. The Irish Cancer Society have helped us tremendously as a family". She described how the charity have supplied transport in the form of a care-car, for hospital related appointments which has been accommodating to them. "It has really meant a lot to us", she added.

There will also be a drinks reception on arrival from 7.30pm, and musical performances from tenor Darren Mooney, as well as entertainment from MC Paul Kennedy on the night. A raffle will take place and prizes will be on offer for the Best Dressed Lady and Best Dressed Gentleman. Tickets to the fashion show cost €10 and can be purchased from the Parkview Hotel or the local post office, with all proceeds going to the Irish Cancer Society.



Local volunteers Hazel Martin and Ashleigh Lee who will be involved on the night, are pictured wearing dresses by Anne Gregory Design.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Notice in relation to the operation of the following Housing Grant Schemes

Wicklow County Council is inviting interested contractors who wish to be included on a panel for carrying out of works under the below Grant Schemes. This Panel of contractors is not an exclusive list. Contractors must submit their C2/Tax Clearance Certificate.

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT – covers extensions and reconfiguring the whole house for people with a disability or mobility problems in privately owned properties

MOBILITY AID GRANT SCHEME – covers level access showers, ramps, rails, ceiling hoists and stairlifts in privately owned properties

HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE – covers roofs, electrical works and essential repairs in privately owned properties that are in poor condition.

This is not an invitation to Tender and no contract will exist between any contractor and Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow County Council shall not be held liable for any works that may arise as a result of a person engaging a contractor from this panel.

Expression of interest can be sent to Grant Section, Housing Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, 0404 20120 or at www.wicklow.ie or email housing2@wicklowcoco.ie

'THE ANSWER TO THE HOUSING CRISIS IS STRAIGHTFORWARD: SIMPLY BUILD MORE HOUSES'

Wicklow County Council has defended its housing provision figures for last year following criticism from former Labour TD and current Local Election candidate for Bray, Anne Ferris.

After recent national figures were released by the Department of Housing, Ferris expressed deep concern regarding the provision of social housing in Co. Wicklow, saying that the Council had explanations to make. Ferris said "it is hard to see how the housing crisis in Wicklow will be solved if progress is not made on the building of council houses.

"The way I see it from examining the figures for County Wicklow, the statistics show that in the first three quarters of 2018, only three houses were built by the local authority. The Council acquired another twelve houses under the Part V agreement: this scheme stipulates that a developer must provide up to 10% of its housing to the local authority for social/affordable housing. So the figures show that only fifteen new houses were provided in this period by Wicklow County Council. These figures compare very badly with the house builds that the local authorities in our neighbouring counties of Kildare and Meath provided. I am sure the Council will tell us that they are providing homes under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) programme whereby people on the housing list have to search and find landlords willing to participate in the scheme. This is certainly not, and nor should it be, a long-term solution to the housing problem.

"I believe that the

answer to the housing crisis in this country is straightforward - simply build more houses. It is pathetic nonsense to hear from many quarters in Fine Gael and Fianna Fail that this cannot be done. The fault lies fairly and squarely with property developers and speculators and in my view these problems are not being tackled by either of the right-wing parties in the Dáil. The Labour Party has produced its own solution to the problem showing how 80,000 houses could be built without increasing taxation by even one cent. It is high time that the Housing Minister and the Government examine all the proposals being offered to them in a real effort to end our housing crisis."

In response, the Council said it "delivered a total of 117 additional units to its Social Housing Stock in 2018. The local authority itself constructed 28 new social units, comprising: 20 mixed type unit development at Avondale Heights in Rathdrum; 7 apartments at the refurbished Old Library Building in Arklow; and a A-rated unit on the infill site at O'Byrne Road in Bray.

In addition Wicklow County Council currently have 7 other new build social housing schemes on site and a further significant 23 schemes at an advanced planning stage. This will see a doubling of the number of social housing units delivered in 2019 and again in 2020,

resulting in a total number of 1,327 newly built social housing units for County Wicklow by the end of 2021.

"Local Authority constructed supply is only a part of the supply chain

for social housing and a significant number of other supply streams are being developed to further increase the number of social housing units available for the people of County Wicklow."



Denis Gilveskiy from Bray, U13 British Squash Champion & U15 British Junior Squash runner up, is pictured with his sponsor Rory Gillen from Greystones and of GillenMarkets and Gillian Godsil, presenter with East Coast Radio.

LAND WANTED

LANDOWNERS: We are looking to purchase 1-2 acres of land around the Greystones, Charlesland or Delgany areas.

A local Greystones individual is looking to purchase a small parcel of land at market prices to build a non-for-profit Squash courts complex, which will also incorporate activities for disadvantaged children.

The land may be owned by a local farmer, a school, a business or an individual. If you are interested in hearing more please contact:

Enniskerry raid targets organised criminal group

A number of searches of residences were carried out in Enniskerry, Tallaght and Ballymun areas on 20th February.

The raids were the result of an intelligence-led operation targeting an organised criminal group operating in the Dublin and Wicklow areas. A planned operation was carried out by the Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau and local Gardai.

Cocaine and Cannabis herb with a street value of approximately €250,000 (pending analysis) and approximately €20,000 in cash was seized.

Three males aged 41, 37 and 28 years were arrested and detained under Section 2 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1996 at Bray and Ballymun Garda stations.





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New post office opens in Rathnew



Former Post Mistress Susan Martin officially opens the new Post Office in Rathnew.

An Póst has opened up a new post office in the Centra store in Merrymetting Shopping Centre, Rathnew. The new post office, opened on Monday 18th of February, was opened by former Post Mistress, Suzan Martin. Ms. Martin had been post mistress for a number of years, prior to the new post office being built.

by Samuel Doherty

Ms. Audrey Power and her husband, Mr. Mark Power, the owners of the Centra Store, were present for the ribbon cutting ceremony,

carried out by Ms. Martin. Ms. Power is now the new post mistress of the office in Rathnew.

A representative for An Póst said that they were "very happy" with

the new premises and that "a big crowd" showed up for the opening. He said that the new office's location opens up An Póst to "new customers" in the Rathnew catchment area.



An Post's Business Development Manager Alan McLaughlin is pictured with new staff members Jennifer Comiskey, Audrey Power, and Bernie Davis at the Post Office in Centra, Rathnew.

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Information event for hill farmers seeking to participate in second round of SUAS project

Following the official launch of the €1.95 million 'Sustainable Uplands Agriculture-environment Scheme (SUAS)' Pilot Project in November, Wicklow Uplands Council has now announced the opening of the second round of applications for parties interested in participating in the project.

The project is designed to assist both commonage groups and individual farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin uplands and the Council invites interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest form before the March 15th deadline.

To coincide with the announcement, a SUAS information event will be held in the Brockagh Centre in Laragh at 8pm on Monday the 25th of February, where more details of the project and the application process will be shared.

The key objective of the five-year pilot is to develop practical and innovative solutions that will address the complex agricultural, environmental and socio-economic challenges associated with the land management of commonages and hill farms in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands.

Pat Dunne, the Project Lead for the SUAS Project said "Following last year's

announcement, we received a substantial number of applications seeking to participate in the initial rollout of the project. Through a selection process, a number of participants were identified and we are delighted that each of them are now fully engaged with management plans"

"This project represents an enormous opportunity to make a positive and lasting change to secure the sustainable future management of the Wicklow and Dublin uplands and we call upon all interested parties to attend the upcoming event"

The project has created a framework to assist the participating commonage groups to form their own constitution and to establish as a formal structure.

It is the commonage group itself that collectively develops and agrees to a management plan with the support of the SUAS operational group.

According to Declan Byrne, Project Manager of the SUAS project, "The SUAS project has the potential to change the way agri-environmental schemes operate on the commonages across the country and once completed, it will offer a framework built around a collective and formalised structure for other groups to adapt."

"The project appropriately places the farmers at the centre of developing management plans for upland

habitats areas, as they will be the ones who will be doing the work on the ground"

The SUAS Project is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Information on the project and Expression of Interest forms will be available at wicklowuplands.ie

Go4Life Games Day

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership invite you & three others or individually from your group to attend a Go4Life Games Day Wednesday 27th February 2019 11am - 2pm in Newcastle Community Centre.

Tea, Coffee and Registration 10.30am, light lunch 1pm. Out of the games day four players from each of ten groups will play three different games with a view to forming a County Team to attend the National Games Day Saturday 8th June 2019 in DCU RSVP. Contact Denise at Wicklow Local Sports Partnership on 0404-20100 or text Valerie 087 6319667 before Thursday 21st February.

TALK TO YOUR SOLICITOR

A solicitor has the expertise to help you in many situations during your lifetime. Whether you're moving house, making a will, employment law, starting a business, administration of estates, or divorce, advice from a solicitor is needed.

There are times when legal advice is crucial and it is knowing the important times to call on your solicitor that will make a difficult or stressful situation, a much easier one to manage.

Solicitors in Ireland have a very wide range of different functions. A solicitor may give legal advice about non-contentious matters, such as buying a house or flat or drafting a will. A solicitor

may act as your agent or representative in commercial transactions. Your solicitor may also give you legal advice and represent you in relation to

"Solicitors in Ireland have a very wide range of different functions"

a dispute or disagreement that you have with another party, for example, a family dispute or a dispute with your employer or your

neighbour.

A solicitor may give your legal advice about taking or defending a case, if you have been involved in an acci-

dent, for example, a road traffic accident or an accident at work.

If you are involved in a court case, your solicitor will manage

the case and represent you when dealing with the other party. For example, your solicitor will send letters to the other side on your behalf. Your solicitor will file all of the necessary court documents and contact the witnesses for the case.

If it is necessary to involve a barrister in the case, your solicitor will "brief" the barrister by sending him/her all of the necessary documents and infor-



mation. Your solicitor may also actually represent you in court, although in the High Court and the Supreme Court, a barrister will usually be engaged.

Unlike barristers, solicitors are allowed to join together to form partnerships or companies and they are allowed to advertise their services.

The Law Society sets down rules and regulations about how solicitors may conduct their business. There is a Disciplinary Tribunal, which can investigate any allegations of misconduct made against a solicitor.

Solicitors are professionally trained to provide clients with skilled legal advice and representation on all legal matters. The work of solicitors varies as widely as the community they serve. However, the work of a solicitor may fall broadly into one or more of the following categories: Advising private clients; Business; Litigation; Conveyancing; Wills, Probate & Administration of Estates; Personal Injury Law; Debt Collection; Employment Law; Property Law; and, Mediation.



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Greystones councillors and Tidy Towns members at the new water refill station next to the South Beach Playground.

School enrolment numbers rising, enrolments in Catholic schools falling

Preliminary enrolment numbers in Primary and Post-primary schools in Wicklow increased between September 2017 and September 2018. While enrolments in multi-denominational schools are rising, enrolments in Catholic schools were down.

The Department of Education and Skills last week published initial results on enrolments by local administrative area for September 2018 in Primary and Post-primary schools across Ireland. The data provides information on increases and decreases in school enrolments across the country, changes in the numbers attending schools of different ethos, as well as average school sizes.

The total number of pupils enrolled for the 2018/2019 school year in both primary and post-primary schools in Wicklow rose to 29,103, an increase of 233.

Commenting on the data, Minister for Education Joe McHugh said: "The numbers highlight the rise in the school-going population across the country, with an increase at both primary and secondary level enrolments. They reflect the important changes taking place in the patronage of our schools, with more choice available to parents."

"At both primary and secondary level, the number of multi-denominational schools has risen. There is also a move towards larger schools in our post-primary system as enrolments increase each year. These numbers provide

essential data to enable the Department to plan and to implement the change processes underway to provide for greater diversity and choice in our education system."

Total enrolments in Wicklow primary schools rose to 18,114 in September, an increase of 93 pupils. The figures demonstrate changes in the numbers of children attending schools of different ethos.

Enrolments in multi-denominational primary schools in Wicklow increased by 9.4 per cent while in Catholic schools they decreased by 0.4 per cent. Total enrolments in Catholic primary schools in Wicklow stood at 13,329 in September 2018, representing 73.6 per cent of all pupils, down from 74.2 per cent in 2017.

Enrolments in multi-denominational schools stood at 1,356, accounting for 7.5 per cent of the total (up from 6.9 in 2017). Church of Ireland schools had enrolments of 2,108, representing 11.6 per cent of all pupils.

Overall in Wicklow more primary schools gained than lost pupils, with 26 schools seeing an increase of 5 or more pupils, compared with 18 schools that saw a decrease of 5 or more.

Small schools remain a distinctive feature of the primary education system, with 708 schools having 60 or fewer pupils enrolled for the 2018/2019 school year. These schools accounted for 22.8 per cent of all schools yet represented just 4.4 per cent of the total enrolments.

The report shows that Wicklow had a lower

Greystones gets second water refill station

A joint project between Greystones Tidy Towns and Greystones Municipal District Office has resulted in the installation of the second of 4 water refill stations to be placed throughout the town. Greystones Tidy Towns are starting the water refill station venture to try to tackle the issue of plastic pollution, by providing free drinking water bottle refill stations for the use and convenience of the Greystones public.

The project came about after Greystones Tidy Towns was awarded extra funding from the community Cultural and Social Department of Wicklow County Council in recognition for winning Bronze at the National Tidy Towns Awards. After meeting with representatives of Greystones Municipal District Office, it was decided that Greystones Tidy Towns, in partnership with the Greystones Municipal District Office, would use this money to provide water refill stations throughout Greystones.

There are now water refill stations at the Church Road entrance to the Burnaby Park, adjacent to the new 'Big Love' bicycle parking area on Killincarrick Road and one next to the South Beach Playground. Two more water refill stations will be located at strategic

points throughout the town as part of the first phase of this joint initiative. Greystones Tidy Towns and Wicklow County Council are working together with the local 'Greystones Business Identity Promotions, who are the Irish Ambassadors for 'Join The Pipe'.

The aim of the Greystones Municipal District Office and the Greystones Tidy Towns initiative is to reduce the amount of plastic drinking water bottles ending up in parks and other green areas, in the rivers and streams and on Greystones' south beach. On the back of the success of their reusable coffee cup campaign, they intend to work with local businesses to introduce the sale of reusable drinking water bottles which are BPA-free (Bisphenol A, a harmful industrial chemical which can affect

the brain; a person's behaviour) and phase out the sale of disposable drinking water bottles in shops and around the town.

As well as having an environmental pay off, there is a benefit to the local finances in providing free drinking water, whenever the people want it. In addition, the income that 'Join The Pipe' generate from the cost of their refill stations and multi-use bottles is being used to set up clean-drinking water projects in developing countries, such as, bringing water to those without, thereby providing global humanitarian benefits.

Greystones is the first town in Ireland rolling out this scheme and they have said that they are "proud to be part of this initiative".

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Laragh Tidy Towns

The Laragh Tidy Towns AGM will be held in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh at 8pm, Wed 6th of March. The group is working in unison with Wicklow Country Council, applying for funding to make necessary improvements in the area. They welcome anyone in the community to come along on the night or if you want to be actively involved please contact them or join www.facebook.com/laragh.tidytowns/ to keep up to date on news.

Aughrim and District Active Retirement

Every Monday we meet in Aughrim for a short walk and coffee afterwards in Lawless's Hotel. Everyone is very welcome to come along. Yoga is on again next Tuesday at 10.30am.

Shankill Classical Music Club

The March meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month i.e. Wed 6th. Usual venue: Shankill Old Folks' Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill, 7.45-10.00pm, (tea and biscuits at the interval). Visitors welcome (€2). Just come along, or see further details of the club on www.shankillclassical.org, or ring or text John on 087-2109175.

Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Lynhams car park in Laragh every second Thursday from 12 noon to 12.50 pm. The next visit will take place on 28th of February. To renew or request items or access databases from your home computer, phone 087 9135229 or log onto www.wicklow.ie.

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Your mental health is as important as your physical health. If you are suffering from any type of

physical pain, it's so important to get your symptoms checked out. For example, if you suffer from back pain, trying acupuncture might be something you haven't tried but it is worth giving it a go.

Likewise if you feel like things are just getting too much for you, it's always a good idea to speak to a professional.

Perhaps counselling can help.

Whatever the case, you are not alone and help is out there. So whether is physical or mental, don't give in to pain.



Michelle McDonald
Tinahely, Co. Wicklow.

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LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE WICKLOW CREATES 74 JOBS IN 2018



Minister Pat Breen, Minister Heather Humphreys, and Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, are pictured announcing the 'Local Enterprise Office Wicklow' 2018 job figures

Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Pat Breen TD, the Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Datas Protection, announced the 'Local Enterprise Office Wicklow' 2018 job figures, on Wednesday, last week. The figures show that 74 were created by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow supported companies last year. This is an increase of 12% since 2017.

2018 was the 5th year of employment growth for the Local Enterprise Offices, with 3,656 net jobs created nationwide in 2018. The Local Enterprise Offices now help provide over 36,000 jobs in 7,000 LEO client companies all over Ireland. Since the LEOs were established in 2014 their clients have created over 18,000 jobs in small businesses across the country. The Local Enterprise Offices also approved €18.2million worth of financial assistance to 1,259 projects.

The Local Enterprise Offices worked successfully with 171 of their client companies to help them transfer to Enterprise Ireland along with 796 associated jobs. This was up from 60 companies making the transition in 2017.

2018 was a very strong year for Local Enterprise

Office Wicklow, with a record number of new clients tapping into the many supports on offer through the LEO office.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise with LEO Wicklow said: "These figures highlight the important role that Local Enterprise Office

Wicklow is playing in creating jobs and sustaining small businesses in the region. The LEOs are the first engagement any entrepreneur or small business owner should have when they want to develop or grow their idea or company. Every day Local Enterprise Offices help small businesses to get off the ground, overcome challenges, hire new staff, fund innovation, prepare for Brexit and plan for the future. The range of supports on offer from the Local Enterprise Office will help anyone seeking to start or grow a

small business through highly practical services such as professional business and management training, mentoring, networking opportunities, finance and much more."

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, said: "The number of SMEs in County Wicklow is relatively high and thus they form an important source of employment. I'm delighted that the local small companies make the most of the many supports on offer through the LEO Wicklow office who assist and support their growth through financial assistance as well as extensive business skills training and networking. A 12% growth in the number of jobs created by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow supported companies is indeed a very welcome contribution to the local economy".

Public workshop events on the County Wicklow outdoor recreation strategy

The Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee, who are in the midst of developing the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2019 - 2024), are inviting all outdoor recreation participants and outdoor recreation service providers to attend one of the consultation meetings taking place this week.



This includes providers such as guides, instructors, equipment hire and a wide range of hospitality services.

The purpose of these meetings is to identify the 'state of play' of outdoor recreation in the county and how it can sustain and grow the benefits of participation in outdoor recreation for its residents and visitors.

The meetings which are open to all, take place on the 26th February in the Roundwood Parish Hall, the 27th of February in the Courthouse Art Centre, Tinahely and on the 28th February in the Hollywood Community Centre. All of the meetings start at 7pm.

Speaking following the announcement, Rural Recreation Officer for County Wicklow, Bryan Fennell said "We are encouraging all who enjoy and partake in Outdoor Recreation in Wicklow to attend one of the workshops. It has been over a decade since the residents of Wicklow have been offered the possibility of contribut-

ing to a Countywide Plan and these events provide an opportunity to positively shape future recreational development in Wicklow."

Brian Dunne, Coordinator of Wicklow Uplands Council, commented "The Wicklow Uplands, as indeed all of Co Wicklow, are a key area for Outdoor Recreation in Ireland. Once completed, this strategy will guide the future sustainable development of Outdoor Recreation across the county so these workshops represent an important stage in the process"

Irish Leisure Consultants, a planning and management services company that operate in the recreational, tourism and arts sector, are undertaking the strategic development process which includes engaging with all stakeholders. If you are unable to attend one of the meetings but would still like to contribute to the strategy, please contact Humphrey at humphrey@ilc.ie. For further information visit: wicklowpartnership.ie/outdoorstrategy

Arklow Town Team mark International Women's Day

Following the success of last year's celebrations, members of Arklow Town Team have again organised an International Women's Day Lunch to celebrate the special day which takes place on Friday 8th March.

International Women's Day provides an important opportunity to showcase commitment to women's equality and to raise awareness. The day is celebrated and supported globally by industry, governments, community groups, charities, the media and many more. The theme for the 2019 event is "Balance for Better".

This year's event will take place in the Arklow Bay Hotel from 12 pm to 2.30pm with tickets costing €25. Guest speakers will include journalist Valerie Cox; Deirdre Burns, County Wicklow Heritage Officer and students from St Mary's College, Arklow.

A raffle will be held on the day and all proceeds will go to C.E.A.R.T. Women's group who do amazing work in County Wicklow.

Tickets for the event can be purchased from the Arklow Bay Hotel, Cllr Mary McDonald, Cllr Miriam Murphy and at the offices of Arklow Municipal District.

Spotlight on working smarter using tech and business growth

Running from March 4th to 8th March, LEO Wicklow will be celebrating Local Enterprise Week with a range of events for start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses.

The highlight of Local Enterprise Week in County Wicklow will be the seminar and networking event on Wednesday 6th March, called 'Working Smarter in Business using Tech'.

Business owners are becoming busier and with time at a premium, can use all the help they can get to work more efficient and effective. There are numerous (free) apps available specifically made for micro enterprises that help avoid duplication in your business processes and actions and free you up to focus on your business growth. But where to start finding out about them? During this interactive workshop guest speaker and digital marketing expert Noel Davidson gives you a whistle stop tour of useful tools to help you save and manage your time more effectively but on a shoe string. This is a highly subsidised event at €10 but places are limited so booking is essential.

On Tuesday evening, March 5th a Start Your Own Business course will commence. This course covers all the essential elements you need to consider when starting a business and testing if your idea is viable.

Renowned sales and marketing expert Terry Harmer will deliver the first of a 2 day Training Course "Increasing Sales in your Business" on Thursday 7th March at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew. This practical course will cover topics such as: accurate sales forecasting, managing a sales pipeline, cold-calling, securing a meeting with buyers, making that all important presentation and following up after the contract has been awarded. The course is led by renowned trainer Terry Harmer, is excellent value at €120 for 2 full days (coffee break and lunch included) with day 2 of the course taking place on March 14th. Places are limited so early booking is advised.

To register for any of the events during Local Enterprise Week please book online at localenterprise.ie/Wicklow or phone 0404 30800.

Vibeke Delahunt of the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow said that Local Enterprise Week was the ideal 'shop window' to show the wide range of supports on offer to start-ups, sole traders and small businesses in Wicklow. She said: "We hope these events will inspire and motivate hundreds of entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs in County Wicklow. Small businesses continue to be the backbone of our local economy, with huge potential to grow and create jobs."

Speaking about Local Enterprise Week, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "Local Enterprise Week is an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurs and business owners to engage in a variety of events customized to the needs of small business in the County. The flagship seminar on How to work smarter using apps and low budget tools presents an excellent opportunity to work smarter, be more effective and save time".

Details for all events can be found at www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow and the Local Enterprise Office are strongly advising businesses to book well in advance.

BUDDING YOUNG ENGINEERS AWARDED AT UK & IRELAND LEGO LEAGUE FINAL

A team of young engineers from Wicklow Montessori Primary School have been awarded for their passion, aptitude and technical ability at Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) FIRST LEGO League UK and Ireland final.

The award-winning team - Solar Sensors - is made up of Maya Hammond, Laura Hammond, Eve Stokes, James Dunne, Benji Billington, Matthew Leonard, William O' Riordan, JJ Bourke and Ciarán Walton.

They were awarded the RS Future Engineers Award at the competition final on Saturday 16th February in Bristol. Sponsored by RS Components, this award was for the team who showed the most passion, aptitude, technical ability, motivation and collaboration throughout their FIRST LEGO League journey.

The science and technology challenge, which is aimed at 9-16 year olds, tasks teams to build a robot to tackle a series of missions, and create an innovative solution to a real world problem. This year's

INTO ORBIT challenge was all about space - how humans survive for extended periods in this environment.

The team's project involved finding solutions to problems with the senses in space - such as sight, taste and hearing. Erica Gallagher, Solar Sensors' team coach, said "Returning to Wicklow with the RS Future Engineers award is fantastic for the team. We are so proud of all they have achieved throughout the FIRST LEGO League INTO orbit season."

Mandy Workman, FLL IET Education Manager, said: "FIRST LEGO League allows young people to experience engineering in action. As well as bringing excitement to STEM subjects, the students get hands-on experience with robotics, and designing

innovative solutions to real world problems. Developing computer programming, teamwork, problem-solving and communications skills has never been so much fun and gives students an insight into the creative and innovative careers that engineering presents.

"There is a great need for young people with STEM skills to fill the next generation of engineering role and we are excited to see such bright young engineering minds in FIRSTLEGO League."

The event, was the largest ever FIRST LEGO League UK and Ireland final with over 500 young people attending who were all keen to demonstrate their skills in robotics, computer programming, teamwork, research, problem solving and communication.



The winning team 'Solar Sensors' from Wicklow Montessori Primary School at the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) FIRST LEGO League UK and Ireland final in Bristol.

'Imposing VAT of 23% on food supplements is wrong'

Stephen Donnelly TD has said Minister Paschal Donohoe should intervene to prevent VAT of 23% being imposed on many food supplements from 1st March 2019.

Deputy Donnelly commented "The application of VAT to food supplements was discussed at length during the passage of the Finance Bill last year. At the time, my colleague Michael McGrath asked the Minister to ensure that no changes were made pending a promised review of the issue by the Tax Strategy Group in the summer of 2019.

"Despite this, Revenue now plans to proceed with the imposition of VAT at the 23% rate. It makes sense that no changes are made in this area until the Tax Strategy Group has had an opportunity to consider the issues more fully. People are taking various food supplements for all sorts of reasons but mainly in an effort to live healthier lives, and this change will have a detrimental impact on them. The sector too will inevitably suffer major damage if it proceeds. I believe these changes should be halted until a full review can take place as part of the Tax Strategy Papers due to be published in the summer. Minister Donohoe needs to urgently engage with Revenue on this issue and ensure that no change is made until the issue is more comprehensively analysed as part of an expert review later in the year."

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Helen Wycherly, President of Network Ireland, Fiona Steed, former rugby international, and Mary Kileen Fitzgerald, Senior Enterprise Development Officer Limerick, are pictured at the launch of Network Ireland's International Women's Day event. Pic: Brian Arthur

NETWORK WICKLOW TO ATTEND MAJOR CONFERENCE

Network Ireland will host a major event at Thomond Park, the home of Munster Rugby, on Friday 8th March to celebrate International Women's Day. The event will celebrate women in business and will also focus on the importance of building resilience.

Hundreds of women from around Ireland, including Wicklow are expected to attend the conference, from budding entrepreneurs, SME owners, professionals and leaders in indigenous and multinational organisations to non-profits, charities, arts and the public sector.

The Oscar nominated Irish firm, Cartoon Saloon will be at the event. Other speakers include former Ireland rugby international, Fiona Steed and performance coach, Gerry Hussey. The event MC is journalist Deirdre O'Shaughnessy. The theme for this year's conference is

#BuildingResilience.

President of Network Ireland, Helen Wycherly said: "We want to focus on #BuildingResilience - for ourselves and our businesses. It is important to develop a positive and resilient mind-set to conquer the challenges we as businesswomen encounter.

"Our celebration of International Women's Day will be a fantastic, inspiring, fun event for all with endless opportunity for learning and connecting with other women in business from across the country."

Network Ireland is partnering with Local Enterprise Office,

Limerick for the International Women's Day event. Eamon Ryan, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Limerick said: "I am delighted to welcome this prestigious event, to celebrate International Women's Day, to Limerick as part of Local Enterprise Week 2019.

It further strengthens the partnership between LEO Limerick and Network Ireland."

The theme for Helen's Presidency this year is "Step Up". She wants to help women all around Ireland to fulfil their potential by empowering them to 'step up and do more'.

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CLASSIFIEDS

APPLICATION TO WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A WASTE FACILITY PERMIT

Notice is hereby given in accordance with articles 7 and 8 of the waste management (facility permit and registration) regulations 2007 – 2015 as amended; that Sturdy Products Limited intends to apply for a renewal of its facility permit at, Blessington Industrial estate, Blessington Co Wicklow to recycle end of life plastic products. The class of activity in accordance with the third and fourth schedule of the act is as follows, **R5 Recycling/Reclamation of other organic materials.** The application for a waste facility permit will be made to Wicklow County Council within 10 working days of the date of this notice.

A copy of the application for the waste facility permit will as soon as practicable after receipt by Wicklow County Council, be available for inspection or purchase at the waste management section, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, during office hours (Monday – Friday: 9.00am to 5.00pm)

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ger Devlin Haulage and Plant Hire Ltd intends to apply for planning permission for development at Annagolan, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of the importation and deposition of inert subsoil and topsoil for land profiling and re-contouring purposes at an existing agricultural holding of 2.34 hectares and all ancillary site works which includes an additional 0.328 hectares of internal haul road. The purpose of this work is to improve the site for agriculture.

A Certificate of Registration under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration Regulations), S.I. 821 of 2007, is required for this development. 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. 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 to the planning authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) 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.

• Planning • Recruitment • Notices • Prayers

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a café bistro and associated works at Unit 3 Main Street Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow for C. Kavanagh. 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@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a 111sq.m. two storey extension to 78 sq.m. dwelling, new front porch, new waste water treatment system to EPA standards, revised entrance, and associated works at Garrymore Upper, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow for L. Clarke. 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

James and Jennifer Douglas seek Permission for works to semi-detached dormer dwelling consisting of first floor extensions to front, side and rear of previous attic conversion; solar photovoltaic panels on first floor extension to rear; ground floor extension to connect dwelling to existing outbuilding at rear and side; bay window extension to previous ground floor extension at rear; altered fenestration; part reduced levels in back garden and associated site works at 7 Raheen Park, Bray, Co Wicklow, A63 FK83. 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. Agent: Stephen Newell Architects - www.sna.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Paul & Orla Doherty seek permission for new rooflight to front and single storey extension to occupy existing lane way to rear of; 15 St. Bridget's park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

This 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, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to this application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Authority 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

We, Mr & Mrs H Cohen wish to apply for planning permission for the construction of a single storey extension of circa 13m2 to the north elevation of No4 Cherry Drive, Delgany Wood, Co Wicklow. This 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, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to this application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Authority 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

We Vivian & Shelia Brangan wish to apply for planning permission for a development at Stoneleigh, Killiskey, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of a change of use (removal of condition 2 of Planning ref no. 977/363) from restricted use as a dwelling to use by all classes of persons. 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

Application is being made to Wicklow County Council by John Deegan for Planning Permission for a proposed 2 storey dwelling house over basement with a new road entrance, a percolation area and a new effluent treatment system to comply with current EPA requirements and all ancillary site works at Ballisland, Shillelagh, 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 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 N & D Heatley seek planning permission for a vehicular access, residential parking yard together with all associated site development works at Homeside, St Patrick Road, Wicklow Town, 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 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, Glynn Gillett, seeks planning permission, for the (a) extension and renovation of two existing semi-detached houses, no. 5 & no. 6, Knockroe, (b) construction of new boundary walls and boundary treatments, (c) construction of new single storey domestic garage to rear of no. 6, and (d) all site services and associated site works at No. 5 and No. 6, Knockroe, Delgany, 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 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. Signed: Glynn Gillett

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought for construction of new first floor extension over existing single storey portion of existing two storey semi-detached house at 122 Rathdown Park, Greystones, Co Wicklow, for J Doonan. The application includes removal of the existing roof over the existing single storey extension, and the addition of new first-floor window to the front, side, and rear elevations. 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.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen.

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

E.H.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which the following vacancy may be filled:

• EXECUTIVE TECHNICIAN

REF: 04/2019 Salary: €42,214 – €50,699 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• EXECUTIVE QUANTITY SURVEYOR

REF: 05/2019 Salary: €48,691 – €67,684 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS
12 NOON ON THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 2019 SHARP**

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate.

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Thomas Murphy
Director Of Services
Enterprise & Corporate Services
Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Wicklow

Phone: 0404 20159
Fax: 0404 20112
e-mail:
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