

## WIND FARM GETS GO-AHEAD

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has granted permission to ABO Wind Ltd for a wind farm at Ballymanus. The Board's decision goes against their own inspector's Report which recommended that permission be refused as the development would be "visually obtrusive".

Permission has been granted for 11 wind turbines in the townlands of Roddenagh, Kiladuff, Ballymanus, Preban, Ballinglen, and Askakeagh.

The development will also consist of 2 meteorological masts (with a maximum overall height of 100m), new site tracks, temporary site compound, underground cables, two new access entrances and associated site works.

A spokesperson from the South Wicklow Wind Action Group (SWWAG) told *Wicklow Times* they were "stunned" by the decision, and that SWWAG would read all the documentation before

deciding on their next move, which would be to fight the decision in the courts.

The decision had been appealed to an Bord Pleanála after permission was refused by Wicklow County Council in August 2017 due to its location and the size and scale of the proposed turbines. Over 320 public submissions on the development were delivered to Wicklow County Council at the time by residents of South Wicklow opposing it. A previous application by ABO Wind for 12 turbines was refused by the Council in 2015.

The Inspector's Report recommended that per-

mission be refused, stating "The site of the proposed development is located in an area which is designated as an Area of High Amenity in the current Wicklow County Development Plan and as an area less favoured for wind farm development as set out in the Wicklow Wind Energy Strategy. Furthermore, the site is located within List Prospect No. 54 which features views across the Derry Water River towards the south Wicklow Mountains. The proposed development, by reason of its height, scale, and siting on a prominent ridge would be visually obtrusive."



Pictured are Alison, Jane, Zoe, and Rebecca Moules at the coffee morning last week in Lawless's, Aughrim, in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and cancer support services.

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Furthermore, the cumulative impact of the proposed development with the permitted windfarm to the west at Ballycumber would interfere with the character of the landscape and with a prospect of special amenity value, which it is necessary to preserve. The proposed development would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."

Reacting to the decision, Pat Casey TD expressed his anger, saying "This is the second application by this company against the wishes of the communities living in South Wicklow. On both occasions the communities were outraged that their rural landscape would be totally transformed by the construction of these Industrial

Turbines in the area. There was unanimous political support from all parties and such was the outrage that over 400 written objections were lodged on the first application and over 300 on the second.

"On both occasions and for sound planning reasons, Wicklow County Council refused the applications which were totally contrary to good planning practice for an area of outstanding natural beauty and for the rural heritage contained within this unique landscape."

"For ABO windfarm to continue to press ahead with its plans against the wishes of the communities, against the unanimous views of local politicians, and against the professional judgement of qualified planners within Wicklow County Council is truly disgusting."

**VOTE No.1**

**John Mullen**

Local Election Candidate | Baltinglass MD

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Pictured: Patricia Kelly and Joanna Fortune in Kilcoole Community Centre at Cllr Tom Fortune's campaign launch last week.

### What's Happening...

#### Temple na Skellig

Glendalough Heritage Forum (GHF) invites you to a public lecture, Temple na Skellig: new understandings of Francoise Henry's 1950s' excavations which will take place at 7pm on Friday 26th April in the Brockagh Resource Centre. The talk will highlight the results of a new project which finally publishes Henry's excavations and will also offer very brief news of the ongoing GHF/UCD excavations at Glendalough. In addition, it is planned to ask for help in identifying members of the local workforce who staffed her excavations and who appear in many of the photographs of the site. Admission is free and all are very welcome. For further information, please contact glendaloughheritageforum@gmail.com.

#### St. David's Car Boot Sales

Car Boot Sales have returned to St. David's Secondary School in Greystones. The next one will be held on Sunday 28th April, 9am to 3pm. The gate opens at 7.30am for sellers. Gates will be locked at 3.30 pm. Cars, €15; Vans/Cars with trailers, €25. Payable on entry. Details and sellers rules from info@stdavids.ie.

#### Talk on bees & beekeeping

Mary Montaut will give an introductory talk for those interested in starting beekeeping on 23rd April in Greystones Library, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This Talk is also for those who are generally interested in nature, wildlife and gardening. Mary is a member of the Federation of Irish Beekeeping Association. Booking required, 2873548, greylib@wicklowcoco.ie.

#### Healthy cooking for kids

Join the Cool Food School and make power balls and healthy hoppy smoothies at an Easter Workshop in Charlesland Community Centre on April 24th, 11am to 1pm. The cost is €20 and it's for children aged 6+. There will also be a Healthy Cooking for Kids class (with an Indian twist) in Newcastle Community Centre on Friday 26th April. It is for children aged 5+. For details on either event email info@thecoolfoodschoole.ie.

#### Greystones Tidy Towns Family Fun Day

The Greystones Tidy Towns Family Fun Day will take place on May bank holiday Monday, 6th May. The Gig Rig big stage will be there, with performances going on all day. Would you or your group like to perform? Just let Tidy Towns know by contacting mariettown@gmail.com.

### Kilcoole Policing Clinic

The Kilcoole Policing Clinic takes place each Wednesday evening in Kilcoole Community Centre, 6pm to 8pm.

Garda Corbett and/or Garda Thompson will be in attendance. Drop in for crime prevention advice, get a form stamped, and most other Garda station services.

Details from Garda Molly Corbett; molly.a.corbett@garda.ie or Garda Alan Thompson; alan.m.thompson@garda.ie.

## Arklow and Bray students United in Head and Heart

Students from St Mary's College Arklow and St Killian's Community School Bray were among over 300 young people gathered in Dublin for the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Young SVP East Region Youth Day 2019.

'United in Head and Heart' was the theme of the day in which participants created displays of their work, gave presentations, networked with other young volunteers. During the school year, students involved in the Young SVP programme carry out a range of actions to give back to their communities, including projects and actions on: food poverty, climate justice, homelessness, loneliness and isolation, kindness, equality and mental health.

SVP National Youth Development Coordinators, Becca Gallagher said "the aim of the Young SVP programme is to provide opportunities for young people to engage in social action in their own communities encouraging personal and social development". Speaking of their experience of taking part in the Young SVP programme the young people said that it was an experience they would never forget and that they had learned more about

issues in their community, how to listen to others, contribute their ideas, how to be organised and how to help others.

The United in Head and Heart event was a celebration of the hard work and dedication of Young SVP volunteers in Dublin, Wicklow and

Kildare. SVP member Nesson Vaughan told the group "the creativity and effort you have put in this year is overwhelming. You should all be very proud of yourselves for the work you have done to make your communities more just and fair places".

Caroline Fahey, SVP Head of Social Justice and Policy, spoke to them about the importance of standing in solidarity and encouraged the attendees to challenge the common

myths about poverty. Bobby McCormack from Development Perspectives who was the Dóchas (Global Citizen of the Year) in 2017, addressed the students on how we can all work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Dr Noel Keating, Coordinator of Meditation with Children, spoke about meditation as a universal practice for human flourishing.

Liam Casey SVP East Region President

thanked the schools, teachers and young people for bringing their enthusiasm, creativity and innovation to the work of SVP. He reminded the students that they are the future of SVP, but also very much the present, already making a difference in the lives of others.

Also, in attendance were representatives from the Gaisce Award and the Society of African Missions.

## €149,000 for Wicklow youth clubs

Wicklow TD Minister Simon Harris has announced that local Youth clubs in Wicklow are set to benefit from €149,000 in funding.

Speaking as he made the announcement, Minister Harris said "I am delighted that Wicklow will benefit from a new funding increase of 12% for the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme for 2019.

"The increased funding will bring the overall allocation for Wicklow to over €200,000 and will provide small volunteer-led youth clubs with greater capacity to reach more young people in Wicklow during 2019.

"The Local Youth Club Grant Scheme supports youth work activities at a local level by providing grant aid towards the cost

of running clubs and groups and is part funded by the proceeds from the National Lottery.

"The primary focus of the scheme is to assist volunteer led youth clubs that provide a programme of youth work activities for young people.

"Clubs that work with young people but are not specifically providing youth work may also be eligible to apply under the scheme."

Minister Harris continued "The scheme, which is open to new entrants, will be advertised locally and applications for funding will be invited by our



Minister Simon Harris

Education and Training Board from

local groups in their respective areas. Our ETB will be advertising the scheme on its website

over the coming months.

"The impact of small clubs working on the ground here in Co Wicklow is huge, reaching practically every community in the country - and is deserving of Government support.

"Through their efforts young people in Wicklow are developing their talents, skills and experiences which will make them leaders of the future.

"This additional funding will mean a greater volume of volunteer-led youth activities over the next year. I encourage every volunteer club or group to check locally for application details and see how it can benefit their work."

## Anam Cara Wicklow parents evening

Anam Cara Wicklow, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly parent evening on Monday 15th April at 7:20pm in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy.

This event offers parents a safe and comfortable forum where they can connect with other bereaved parents who understand the depth of grief and loss that follows after the death of their son or daughter. As the seasons change, often as a bereaved parent we are reminded of the passing of time and all the events that sadly our son or daughter are not here for, such as family gatherings and special occasions. It is important bereaved parents know there is support and resources available.

This event is open to all bereaved parents and gives mothers and fathers an opportunity to avail of support and comfort from others who understand the intense grief, pain and devastation after the death of a precious child.

One of the mothers who attends the group urged bereaved parents to give it a try. "When I met other parents the sheer isolation lifted. For the first time I understood that what I was experiencing was normal".



Students from St Killian's Community School, Bray at the Young SVP East Region Youth Day 2019

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# HARMFUL POLLUTANT IN BRAY AIR

Councillor Steven Matthews (Green Party) has voiced his concern about extremely high levels of a harmful air pollutant recorded in Bray on March 24th.

Councillor Matthews has written to the Environmental Protection Agency EPA seeking further information on this high level reading of particulate matter known as PM<sub>2.5</sub>. It is a tiny particle of air pollution mostly associated with diesel exhaust fumes. Because it is such a small piece of matter it can lodge in the lungs and cause respiratory



CLlr Steven Matthews

health issues in humans.

Councillor Matthews said, "The EPA website advises that spikes or extreme readings should be treated cautiously as it may be maintenance of monitoring equipment issue. However as Bray has received some poor ratings in the past for air quality I am asking the EPA to investigate this recording."

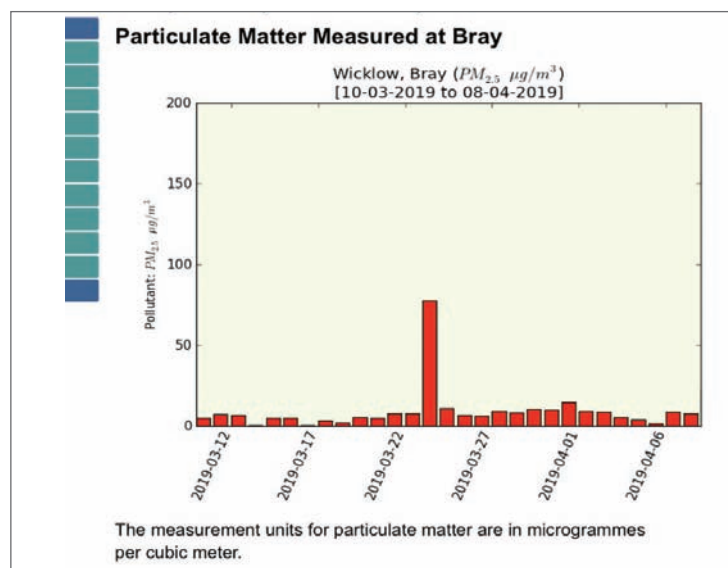
"I've no doubt that

much of our air quality problem in Bray is down to traffic congestion. The fumes from our cars are polluting our air and have a very detrimental effect on our respiratory system. Our young children walking to school at this time when congestion is worst are most affected.

"The council needs to invest more in safe walking routes to school, better footpaths and safer segregated cycle ways. It is only when we create a safer and better alternative to car use that we will reduce traffic congestion.

"A walk or cycle to school or work in the morning is a great start to the day and the council need to make it safer to do so. Air quality is one of those issues that goes unnoticed and unseen but is hugely important environmentally and for our community health.

"I will be seeking greater investment from our roads budget towards the necessary infrastructure to make walking and cycling safer and easier for those wish to do so."



A graph showing the latest available data for particulate matter over the last 30 days

## Bray environmental scientist appointed to President's Council of State

Bray resident Dr Cara Augustenborg is among seven people appointed to the Council of State last week by President Michael D Higgins.

Dr Augustenborg is an environmental scientist, climate change lecturer, writer and activist with a doctorate in environmental science and engineering from UCLA. She moved to Ireland in 2003 and settled in Bray in 2007 where she now lives with her daughter Eva. Cara is a Senior Fellow in Environmental Policy at UCD.

The Council of State (an Comhairle Stait) is a body established by the Constitution of Ireland to advise the President in the exercise of many of his or her discretionary

reserve powers. It consists of a number of government officials who sit ex officio such as the Taoiseach and Tanaiste, as well as certain former office holders and up to seven individuals of the President's own choosing. It has the authority to provide for the temporary exercise of the duties of the President in the event that these cannot be exercised by either the President or Presidential commission, though this is unlikely to occur.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* about her appoint-



Dr Cara Augustenborg

ment Dr Augustenborg said she was 'thrilled and shocked' to be appointed to President Higgins' Council of State.

"Throughout his first term, President Higgins consistently advocated for strong climate action around the world and for the protection of our natural heritage here at home. Including my expertise within his second term Council of State demonstrates his commitment to environmental issues even further. I hope my perspective will support his leadership in this area should the Council be called upon to advise him on legislation. It's an honour to be appointed to this position."



Pictured: Devin and Conal Kelly taking part in the Greystones Lawn Tennis Club Open Day on recently. Pic: Joe McQuillan

## Funds available for Tidy Towns projects

To mark the 60th anniversary of Tidy Towns, Wicklow Tidy Towns were awarded funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development, administered by Pobal to assist with the preparation for this year's national tidy towns competition.

Wicklow Tidy Towns are seeking expressions of interest from groups/residents associations/individuals wishing to clean/plan/develop a project relating to a public space, part of an estate or residential area within the town of Wicklow.

They can assist with the purchase of plants and small gardening tools through vouchers for local suppliers.

If you are interested please set out your proposal and estimate of costs.

WTT asks that groups are mindful of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and that any proposed planting would be pollinator friendly.

They will endeavour to provide vouchers towards as much as possible towards the cost of the project but some contribution from the successful applicants may be required.

Work will need to be completed by 21st June 2019. Before and after photographs, proof of work being completed, including receipts will be required.

Email submissions to [andrewplawless@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewplawless@hotmail.com) Closing date for receipt of submissions is 30th April.

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Pictured: Melanie Corrigan launches her election campaign, with John Leeson, Minister Andrew Doyle and Councillor Christopher Fox

## Corrigan kick-starts campaign with giant Live Here Give Here message

"To really live well we need more than bricks and mortar, we need to Live Here and Give Here". This message formed part of Melanie Corrigan's speech at her campaign launch last Tuesday night 9th April.

Joining Melanie to address the packed room were John Lesson and Minister Andrew Doyle who both urged her campaign volunteers and supporters in Bray West to put their shoulder to the wheel and 'get behind' Melanie to get her elected.

Melanie shared what motivated her to run for the local council stating "One of the main reasons I decided to put my name forward as a candidate to represent Bray West, was because I am so inspired by the people in our community, people who give their time for free to make the community a better place to live in".

It is this generosity that inspired her Live Here Give Here campaign 'call to action'. "I want to be sure that we all live in a community where we truly live well. This is more than just bricks and mortar. It is the spirit of a community where people give and seek support to and from each other".

Melanie added that she has been inspired by her community all her life, where she has seen the Live Here Give Here in action. She told the room that it would be her privilege to represent Bray West and bring Live Here

## Councillors sign anti-racism pledge

Over 30 Candidates for May's Election to Wicklow County Council came together recently to publicly sign an anti-racism election protocol.

Speaking following the united meeting of candidates at Wicklow County Council Shane O'Curry of European Network Against Racism Ireland said "We were delighted that over 30 candidates came together from Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Town and from Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Sinn Fein, Labour, Green Party, People Before Profit, Social Democrats, Aontu and independents. There were also another 10 who sent apologies.

"By signing the Anti racism protocol these candidates are really sending a positive message to all in County Wicklow that Wicklow is a welcoming place to all and that they will not engage in harmful rhetoric against migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities.

"With direct provision coming to Wicklow Town and with County Wicklow recently announcing that 38 Syrian families will be allocated to County Wicklow under the Irish

Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) it would be easy for local election candidates to exploit current trends and to vilify migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities.

"We in ENAR Ireland strongly commend these 40 Wicklow local election candidates for coming together in a non partisan manner and for promoting a positive welcoming message to their constituents," concluded O'Curry.



Labour candidates Anne Waithira Burke and Ian McGahon supporting the anti-racism pledge

Give Here to the next level as a local councillor where she can make a difference and everyone can be part of it.

She finished by explaining that she will be championing issues under her 3 main themes, which are to: "Address the real needs of the local area at a grass roots level; Boost local business innovation and knowledge sharing supports; Cultivate a clean and caring community."

## Bray East FF candidate launches campaign

Fianna Fáil Local Election Candidate for Bray East, Chris Walsh, launched his campaign for the upcoming election on in The Martello, Bray.

The launch was opened by Deputy Stephen Donnelly. Speaking at Chris' launch Deputy Donnelly said "Chris is a fantastic candidate. He has been working really hard for the local area over the last two years and is out on the doors engaging with people and listening to their issues. Through his involvement with WH Five Loaves he is acutely aware of some of the major issues around housing and homelessness that are effecting our community. I am certain Chris will make a great Councillor with your support."

Speaking on his campaign and launch, Walsh said "I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone that came to support my launch at The

Martello. It means so much to have such a fantastic bunch of people behind me as I embark on this campaign.

"I grew up in Bray and I am immensely proud to call it home. There is so much we can do to improve our town, and I am excited at the prospect of working together to make Bray the best it can be.

"Bray needs a young progressive voice to deliver housing, youth facilities, adequate transport infrastructure including improvements to the N11 and park and ride facilities, environmentally friendly resources, increased tourism opportunities and improved education services. All of which are priorities for me, if elected in May."



Cllr Pat Vance with Fianna Fail candidate for Bray East, Chris Walsh

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# 'LPT continues unfair journey'

"The announcement by government to delay property tax increases is cynical and is really driven by the fact we have local and European elections on the 24th of May followed by the prospect of a general election in the autumn," Independent Councillor and candidate for the Greystones Electoral Area Tom Fortune declared.

Cllr Fortune went on to say "To be talking about increase to property tax in the height of a housing crisis, with a shortage of supply driving prices up and with Brexit not sorted and any outcome likely to effect people's incomes is totally unfair.

"Property has got far more expensive since 2013 driven up artificially in my view. Peoples ability to pay is a major issue.

"The whole basis of the property tax is wrong and unfair. You cannot spend your property. The way the tax was introduced from the start was grossly unfair, example East coast property prices verses the rest of the country, a very

ordinary house in Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare or Meath have high values. Also the services it was promised to deliver locally is not happening, mainly because central government reduced the local government to local authorities by the amount of the property tax income."

Councillor Fortune believes that "National government should not be replicated at local level. That this is a real challenge when you are discussing an area such as property tax. Unfortunately big party whip system always try and control things.

"It is better for local democracy when it is not controlled by the national government.

We need more Independent councillors at local level."

He continued: "The bottom line on this government decision is all about self-preservation due to local and European elections in May.

"I know from my meetings with constitutions that the key issue with local property tax (LPT) is people's ability to pay and a lack of services that were promised. In a word this is just cynical."

Also weighing in on the issue, Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said "It is wrong for the public to be kept in the dark in regards to the plans. "What we see now is a pre-election political strategy in the delay of the announce-

ment which relies on the principle of 'out of sight, out of mind'. House prices across Wicklow, particularly in North Wicklow have shot up in price since the rate was set in 2013 and this would lead to a considerable increase in the tax people would be expected to pay. Rather than let people know where they stand the Government have again cynically decided to keep people in the dark and kick the issue down the road until the other side of the elections."

Cllr O'Brien concluded "Local Property Tax is an election issue and the Sinn Fein stance on it is very clear. We oppose it and we want it abolished."



Cllr Tom Fortune at his election campaign launch last week with his wife Ann, daughter Aine, and granddaughter Emma Niall Fortune in Kilcoole Community Centre

## Labour select Greystones local election candidate

The Labour party in the Greystones Municipal Area has selected Anne Waithira Burke as their candidate for the Local Elections at a Selection Convention held in Kilcoole.

Anne Waithira Burke said "as an Irish citizen and a mother of two children, I am immensely proud of Ireland and how it has developed and changed over the past 12 years I have been here. I am very hopeful that Ireland will continue to flourish not only for our future but our children and their children's futures. It has been a struggle to educate myself and I continue to do so and work hard to build a life for my family. I see great resilience and optimism in the Irish people, and I believe that helping each other and building a future for our children starts at local level."

Anne has been an activist for many years both in Kenya and Ireland. She works as an administrator and young woman migrant leader for an NGO called AkiDwa, (National Network of Migrant



Anne Waithira Burke

Women). Originally from Kenya, Anne grew up in the slums outside Nairobi and knows hardship and the importance of resilience and education. She has been especially active in fighting for the rights of women and young girls. She is an advoca-

tor and voice against racism, prejudice and bullying.

Annie is a firm believer in the importance of community development and integration. She states her main concerns are: To fight to end the serious housing crisis; To advocate climate change measures; To improve the facilities for children and young adults in the area; To develop an intercultural strategy for the area in which many foreign born Irish citizens now live; To advocate to improve the local transport system; To advocate for the return of Town Councils and local democracy; To fight to increase jobs in the area from which most working people commute.

## Appeal against Southern Cross supermarket

An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála against the application for a single storey retail supermarket and new armed roundabout on the Southern Cross Road in Bray.

The appeal was lodged by Bray Retailers Group (BRG) and a decision is due to be made in August. In a submission objecting to the development during the consultation phase, BRG stated "The Local Area Plan emphasises a neighbourhood size development akin to Boghall Shopping Centre. It also emphasises compactness (i.e. densification of scarce land resources). BRG suggest a scheme like Boghall Shopping Centre with apartments overhead which could justify the capital required for a roundabout at this over-trafficked area." The development would consist of a single storey retail supermarket measuring c. 2,493sqm gross floor area (including an ancillary off-licence within the supermarket); external loading dock of c. 38.8sqm; a service yard of c. 1,158sqm; 1 external plant room of c. 46sqm; 178 car parking spaces; 50 cycle parking spaces; a substation (c. 21sqm); the construction of a new armed roundabout on Southern Cross Road; hard and soft landscaping; lighting, attenuation and drainage and all associated site development, access points, roads, boundary treatment and infrastructural service provision needed.



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Following their huge success in Croke Park for the Festival of Families in front of His Holiness Pope Francis the children from the Wicklow town based MyTh Academy appeared in the National Concert Hall for the Rathmines and Rathgar Musical Society's production of "R&R Sings! The Sound of Musicals" a wonderful entertaining concert which took place on April 13th and 14th. The founder of MyTh Aisling Doyle was delighted that the children were invited to perform in a professional concert with the Wonderful R&R in the prestigious National Concert Hall. The concert also featured Kirsty McDoughal, Mathew Nolan, and Padraig Cahill all from Wicklow town under the musical direction of Jackie Curran Olohan.

## GP out of hours service becomes operational

John Brady TD has called on the HSE to run a public awareness campaign to promote the long awaited out of hours GP service for North Wicklow which recently became operational.

Deputy Brady said "The long awaited GP out of hours service for North Wicklow finally opened on 2nd April. Northdoc will operate from St Columille's Hospital and will operate from 6pm to 8am Monday to Friday and 24 hours over the weekend and bank holidays.

"Up to 150 GP's have signed up to service the area of North Wicklow and South Dublin that Northdoc will cover. Its

fantastic news that after many years campaigning by Sinn Féin, the service is now finally open to the public. It is disappointing however that no public awareness campaign has been put in place to inform the public of this critically important new service. The HSE needs to roll an awareness campaign out as a priority."

Brady concluded "This service is long overdue and now that it has been



John Brady, TD

launched will bring an end to current disgraceful situation where people are left waiting many

hours and in some cases days to see a GP. There is a dedicated phone number for people to ring 01-2234500, it's important that people phone before attending the new service. This is a critical part of primary health care and I'm glad that following the Sinn Féin campaign the discrimination the people of North Wicklow faced in accessing a GP out of hours has now ended."

## Average house price now 67% above lowest point

In Wicklow, prices in the first three months of 2019 were 5% higher than a year previously, compared to a rise of 10% seen a year ago. The average house price is now €340,000, 67% above its lowest point.

That's according to the latest Daft.ie House Price Report released last week.

The national average price in the first quarter of the year was €261,000, up 5.9% on the figure for the same period last year, an increase of €15,000 on average. It is the 22nd consecutive quarter that the national average price was higher than a year ago.

Commenting on the figures, Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin and author of the Daft.ie Report, said: "On the face of it, the signals from the market in early 2019 appear to be largely unchanged from recent years, with prices rising in all 54 markets (25 parts of Dublin, the four other cities and remaining 25 counties) in the first three months of the year. However, in many markets, this may be just a rebound following falls in late 2018, driven in large part by the calendar-year basis of exemptions under Central Bank rules. The Dublin market shows a big improvement in availability and a cooling off in inflation. With completions set to increase in coming quarters, a period of much more moderate inflation - at least in Dublin - appears likely."

Martin Clancy from Daft.ie said: "In addition to a sharp increase in the number of properties on the market, the volume of transactions is also up across the board. In the year to December, there were nearly 19,000 residential property sales in Dublin alone - an increase of 4% compared to the previous year. Likewise, we're continuing to see strong interest on Daft.ie with over 1,000 property searches now taking place every minute across our website and mobile apps."

## Drive for new members at Greystones Tennis Club Family Fun Day

Minister Simon Harris showed his support for Greystones Lawn Tennis Club by attending their Family Fun Day on Sunday 7th April.

The Minister has had a long involvement with the club and last year assisted it in securing Sports Capital Funding for a new set of lights to allow longer court usage and better inclusivity.

Minister Harris visited the club to support their drive for new members and to meet those who are working to promote tennis in the community.

Speaking after the visit, Minister Harris said: "It was great to get the opportunity to visit the club today and support their open day. The Greystones Tennis Club have shown themselves to be exemplary in encouraging people to get active and involved in sport and as Minister for Health and a local TD, this is really welcome. At the club, I met members of Lakers who now regularly enjoy using the facilities of the club. It is fantastic that the club is being so

proactive in encouraging people to play tennis and particularly in reaching out to members of our community that might often find it difficult to access appropriate facilities.

"It was so encouraging to meet with club representatives about their hopes to make the club available for wheelchair

tennis also. This would be a very positive and inclusive move and I look forward to assisting in any way that I can."

Minister Harris has worked with the club on development projects in the past and most recently he worked with them to secure Sports Capital Funding for new lighting at the club.

Minister Harris said "Developing our clubs and facilities is a priority for me as they are key to encouraging people to live a healthier lifestyle. I am eager to continue my work with clubs and organisations all over the County to ensure they can reach more people in our community."



Pictured at the Greystones Lawn Tennis Club Open Day on Sunday 7th April, were Connor Woods, Minister Simon Harris, Karsten Hokamp, Diane Cahill, Art Oakes, Paul McKnight, Brian Kennedy, Nadia Hennessy and Marian O'Rourke. Pic: Joe McQuillan

## 2019 Greystones Municipal District People of the Year Awards



**The Awards will be presented in the Greystones Golf Club, Greystones on Thursday 9th May, 2019 at 8pm**

**Application forms and tickets are available from Greystones Municipal District, Tel: 01 2876694 or Email:**

**Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie / greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie**

**Ticket Price €35**

[www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

**Closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday 26th April 2019**

- **Sportsperson of the Year**
- **Civic Award**
- **Special Person of the Year**
- **Cultural Person of the Year**
- **Commercial Award**
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year**



**GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**  
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# 'GREYSTONES HAMMERED BY COMMERCIAL RATES HIKE'

The recent rates revaluation undertaken by the Revaluation Office across Wicklow has seen Greystones businesses being hammered by increases, according to Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore.

Cllr. Whitmore, Social Democrats, said "I have spoken to many businesses in Greystones over the past weeks and I was shocked to learn that many will face rates hikes of 100 percent as a result of the recent revaluation."

Whilst Greystones has a high occupancy rate for retail, and is known for its friendly village character, many of our retailers struggle at the moment to cover their current costs. These rates hikes might just be the final nail in the coffin for some.



Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore

"I find it disgraceful that small retailers, who managed to make it through the recession and that play such a large part in the character of

Greystones and our other towns, could now be possibly forced out of business through Government policy. The business environment is particularly tough at the moment, with Brexit on the horizon and online shopping impacting our small retailers. Rather than continually hammering these businesses, Government needs to support and help them. They provide such a valuable service and really are the heart of communities all across Wicklow. It would be

short-sighted and irresponsible to play any part in putting them out of businesses."

Cllr Whitmore added "If Government continues on this path, towns like Greystones will lose many of its small retailers and the only shops that will be able to afford to stay open will be the large franchises. This is not what I want to see for my town, and I don't believe that anyone would want Greystones to turn into a characterless main street."



Pictured: Fran Kinsella and PJ Minogue in Kilcoole Community Centre at Cllr Tom Fortune's campaign launch last week.

## Heavy in foal pony left to suffer with severely infected wound

The ISPCA recently responded to a call for help made to the National Animal Cruelty Helpline about an injured pony in Arklow.

ISPCA Chief Inspector Conor Dowling discovered a grey pony, heavy in foal, with a severely infected wound on her neck requiring urgent veterinary attention.

The pony, later named Kay was seized and



transported to the nearby Irish Horse Welfare Trust (IHWT).

Mr Dowling said: "It is difficult to establish the exact cause of the injury which, could have been there for some time. She is a real fighter and it's great to see her recovering so well. I find it difficult to understand how anyone could leave a pony to suffer in this condition. Those responsible for animals must ensure that they receive prompt veterinary attention when required and an injury as severe as this, should have been addressed immediately".

The pony was not microchipped. Further investigations are being out by Chief Inspector Dowling and a case file on the matter is being prepared.

Anybody with any information is asked to contact the ISPCA National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 1890 515 515 or report online at [www.ispca.ie/cruelty\\_complaint](http://www.ispca.ie/cruelty_complaint).

## West Wicklow candidate blasts 65 bus service

Social Democrats local election candidate for Baltinglass, Dave McGinn, has criticised the Dublin Bus 65 bus route, which he says is "not adequately serving West Wicklow."

In a post on his official campaign Facebook page the Blessington resident shared his experience of the bus having passed him and other commuters at the bus stop on their way home that evening.

"I don't get the 65 bus to work too often anymore because it's so unreliable, but I got it today and sure enough it was full before it crossed the canal at Rathmines heading back to Ballymore. So I'm currently waiting an hour for the next one. I left work at 5:30pm, and I'll be lucky to be home before 8pm."

"Students, workers, and people wanting or needing to get to and from town have to wait anything between 1 hour and 3 hours to get on the bus, and there is always a need to have a back up plan. Public transport is meant to make life easier and to decrease the number of cars on the road; unfortunately this is not the case if you're commuting from Blessington. More and more people are driving because they can't rely on the 65."

The 65 bus route travels from Poolbeg Street in Dublin city centre, along the N81 through Tallaght, and on to Blessington and Ballyknockan. It is the only public transport option directly connecting West Wicklow to Dublin. A recent survey commissioned by Wicklow County Council found that the overwhelming majority of West Wicklow commuters drive to work, and that 67% are unhappy with their commute. The 65 bus service has been criticised in particular due to its lack of frequency, with one hour between bus departures at peak times and two hours off peak times.

Commenting on the need for a more frequent service, Mr McGinn said "I think it's already justified, but certainly as the population of Blessington continues to grow with young families and commuters, the need for better public transport will become more urgent. This is a major irritation for me, but for parents with young children it might mean the kids are asleep before they get home, or if they're not then you're probably too frustrated and exhausted to enjoy your time with them. This is a quality of life issue - commuting from West Wicklow to Dublin is already a pain without it being compounded by poor service."

The local election candidate says he plans to start a petition calling for additional buses at peak times.

## Pedestrian killed in Laragh after car crash

A man in his 40s has been killed in a road traffic collision on the R755 at Laragh. The collision happened at around 2am on Sunday April 7th.

The man was fatally injured when the car struck him while walking outside a restaurant. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the car, a woman in her 20s, was not injured in the collision.

Gardai are appealing for anyone who was in the area at the time, or who has dash-cam footage to contact them.



## Candidate urges Greystones to become plastic free

Lourda Scott, Green Party local election candidate for Greystones Municipal District, is calling for action to encourage local business to adopt more environmentally aware practices and enable Greystones to become a plastic-free zone.

Scott says: "Following on from last year's action, on April 13th thousands of people left their plastic packaging behind in supermarkets in protest against unnecessary single use, non recyclable plastic packaging, but yet supermarkets are slow to change their current practices. As consumers we must continue to demand change."

Scott points to a campaign she launched complaining that fruit and vegetables given to local primary school children as part of the Bord Bia led Food Dude's programme are wrapped in single use plastic. She started a petition calling for a switch to more eco-friendly packaging by next year. She says "People want change but it is time for political parties to take action and not just pay lip service to the idea of supporting the environment. The Green Party's Waste Reduction Bill proposes a ban on single use disposable cups and tableware and a deposit and refund scheme for drinks containers. I urge everyone to sign the petition to progress this bill, currently at 17,000 signatures, and to refuse unnecessary plastic when in local businesses. We have the opportunity to lead in this area by simple practical actions."

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St. Cronan's pupils Luke Cullen, Josh Dunford, Adam Hagan, and Ben Kelly with their trophy at the 28th All Ireland Credit Union Schools Quiz final.

## St. Cronan's crowned national winners of All Ireland Credit Union Schools Quiz

St Cronan's Boys National School in Bray has been crowned the national winner of the 28th All Ireland Credit Union Schools Quiz. Pupils Luke Cullen, Josh Dunford, Adam Hagan and Ben Kelly beat off stiff competition from their rival teams in the 11-13 years age category at the grand final in the RDS in Dublin on Sunday 7th April.

More than 90 teams of four from across the island of Ireland made it through to the national final following the knockout stages at local and regional level. The participating teams were accompanied by families, relatives, teachers and friends who enthusiastically cheered them on throughout the afternoon. Quizmaster, well-known radio DJ Fergal D'Arcy, ensured the atmosphere remained light-hearted while the competing teams grappled with the more difficult questions.

The hotly contested quiz is run by the Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) each year and attracts more than 25,000 participants. The local and regional knockout rounds were organised by credit union volunteers and took place in over 300 venues between January and March.

The questions for the quiz are compiled each year by primary school teachers and cover topics such as geography, history, music, literature and sport. The

event is a popular fixture on the annual schools' calendar and aims to encourage and develop teamwork and collaboration between schoolchildren. It is one of the central events in the ILCU's programme of youth initiatives.

Speaking at the event, ILCU Head of Communications, Paul Bailey said "Every child who took part in all stages of the quiz should be very proud of their achievement. The hard work and preparation they put in will stand to them in the future. Teachers and parents are also deserving of praise for the time and effort dedicated and the support they gave. The grand final here today was fiercely contested, and our two winning teams are extremely deserving of their prizes. I hope everyone taking part today enjoyed the event as much as those of us who watched on as spectators."

## Council to vote on motion to declare 'climate emergency' for Wicklow

Wicklow County Council is to vote on an emergency community motion to declare a climate emergency in Co. Wicklow and to focus resources on tackling climate change and biodiversity collapse.

On March 15th, young people from around Wicklow and Ireland staged a huge strike for climate and biodiversity action. The Wicklow climate strikers are now calling on their local politicians to stand up and be counted with the young people to protect Wicklow and Ireland as the home they will inherit.

The emergency motion will be proposed by Greystones Municipal District to Wicklow County Council for the next meeting.

There was a demonstration by members of

the Green Greystones group at Wicklow County Council offices before last week's meeting, and a native Glen o' the Downs' Oak Sapling was presented to each of the Cathaoirle of the five Municipal Districts.

The motion asks: "that WCC acknowledge and support the recent Climate Strikes driven by the young people and families in Greystones, Bray, Arklow, Carnew, Dublin and around the country; That WCC have listened and understood the deadly urgency felt by the young people and their demand

that all stakeholders and representatives act immediately to ensure that young people have a liveable future in Wicklow, in Ireland and on planet Earth; That WCC agree that the evidence of emergency is overwhelming from IPCC on Climate and from WWF LPR on Biodiversity; That WCC agree that, while relatively small in global terms, Wild Wicklow, previously acknowledged as the World's most liveable community, can and must step up and show visible leadership".

The motion also asks

that Wicklow "will immediately implement the following steps (as leading proactive cities and regions internationally already have): declare a climate emergency for Wicklow; publish a climate action plan; declare a biodiversity emergency for Wicklow; update and publish a biodiversity action plan; report regularly on progress on both action plans; that county Wicklow and each of the five Wicklow municipal districts will join the global covenant of mayors for climate and energy".



Councillors and candidates outside County Buildings showing support for action on climate change

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# Thousands still waiting for a decision on their pension

Fianna Fáil local election candidate, Anne Gregory has criticised the Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection after it emerged that 78,000 pensioners are still waiting on a decision about their entitlement to an increase in the State Contributory Pension.

"A review in relation to post Budget 2012 band rates is currently underway. I hear this on a daily basis from concerned Wicklow residents."

New figures released to Fianna Fáil reveal that as of 28th March 2019, only 11,646 of 90,000 reviews have been completed. Of these, over 8,850 resulted in an increase in payment for the pensioners concerned.

Gregory said, "Fianna Fáil fought very hard to get the government to rec-

tify the anomalies with regard to Contributory Pension entitlements that came about following the disastrous changes introduced by Fine Gael and Labour in 2012.

"These changes resulted in thousands of people being denied their entitlement to a full state pension. Whilst I am of course glad that reviews are underway and that a number of pensioners have received their revised payment I am dismayed by the slow pace

of the review process.

"Many pensioners feel very frustrated after their expectations were heightened by the Minister; the slow pace of delivery is extremely unfair to those pensioners whose pension payments were unfairly reduced in 2012.

"This review was announced in January 2018 and it now looks likely that thousands of pensioners may end up waiting up to two years before a decision is finalised on their entitle-

ment to an increase in the State Contributory pension.

"It is very disappointing for pensioners who having being denied their entitlement to a full state Contributory Pension for years are now subject to further delays. Minister Doherty needs to speed up this process and ensure that reviews are being conducted as quickly and efficiently as possible", concluded Gregory.

## Overcrowding in Colaiste Chraobh Abhann

Kilcoole's growing population has become an issue for Colaiste Chraobh Abhann over the last 10 years. An extension for the school is due sometime in the next two years, but until then more prefabs will have to be put in place to cope with the rising numbers.

Colaiste Chraobh Abhann is a secondary level school based in Kilcoole. .

It was opened in 2003

By Niamh Coster

by former principle Shane Eivers, with a capacity of 560 students

which was surpassed back in September 2009.

The school's lack of space lead to an exten-

sion application being filed back in 2013. Since then three prefabs have been put in place. Former principle Mr. Eivers speaking to the *Wicklow Times* has said that "another three (prefabs) are going in later in the year" to help cope with the rising numbers "and that will tie the school up to capacity for another 2 years". Mr. Eivers has said in regards to the extension: "We would be hopeful that it would be in place around 2020, 2021".

The school takes students from Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy, Roundwood, Newcastle and a few from other places in North Wicklow. It is expected to have 800 students by 2020. In 2016 Kilcoole alone had a population of about 1300 children



Pictured are Kayden Byrne, Michael Byrne and Mason Cosgrove at the coffee morning in the Parkview Hotel, Newtown, in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and cancer support services.

## Letter to the editor:

What's new, Brendan?

Councillor Brendan Thornhill has been in the headlines for a number of weeks talking about possible corruption within the planning section of Wicklow County Council.

Brendan could you please tell us, from what planet have you just arrived from? Over the years I personally posted about the corruption regarding the illegal destruction of my village and area of Kilcoole. My most recent objection to a development beside me had permission granted. The development has now been deemed an alleged unauthorised development (another word for illegal) and work continues.

Charlie Keddy

## Greystones People of the Year Awards

The Greystones District Councillors, in conjunction with the *Wicklow Times*, will honour people from the Greystones area. Is there someone you know who deserves recognition for their achievements? And for their contribution to the community? Why not nominate them for an award?

Awards will be made in the following categories: Sports Person of the Year; Civic Person of the Year; Special Award; Cultural Person of the Year; Commercial Person of the Year; Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Awards will be presented on Thursday, 9th May at a special function in Greystones Golf Club. Full details and nomination forms from Greystones Municipal District, 2876694. The deadline for nominations is Friday 26th April.



Bray Rotary Club held a collection on the Main Street in Bray in aid of the victims of Hurricane Idia. Club President John Whelan (pictured left) said they were once again overwhelmed by the generosity of Bray residents who gave so willingly for this deserving cause. They were joined on the day by Rotaractors ( youth section of Rotary) who were of enormous help



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

### BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Baltinglass Municipal District is preparing to submit an application to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for funding towards the installation of a Community based CCTV System for Blessington Town. The funding scheme from the Department of Justice and Equality is designed to support local communities who wish to install and maintain CCTV security systems in their area with the aim of increasing public safety and to deter illegal or anti-social behaviours.

In consultation with the local Gardai, a survey of the town has been carried out and, subject to funding; it is proposed to install CCTV at up to 12 locations on new poles at locations around Blessington.

A map detailing the proposed locations of CCTV cameras will be on public display at the Baltinglass Municipal District Office, Blessington Library and Blessington Garda Station.

If you wish to make a submission on the Blessington Community CCTV project please do so in writing or by email to Baltinglass MD, Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington – [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie) Submission should be received by Friday 3rd May 2019.

Garvan Hickey,  
District Administrator.



# LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

**T**here are 19,244 people in Co. Wicklow (14%) living with a disability and there are 5,559 carers. There are 3,821 people in Wicklow with a disability related to mental health, 1,949 with an intellectual disability, 1,485 with blindness or severe vision impairment, 2,991 with deafness or severe hearing impairment, and 4,813 with a learning difficulty.

Twenty-four percent of people with a disability in Co. Wicklow are in employment. This is compared to 54% of the general population. Nineteen

percent of people with a disability living in Co. Wicklow, meanwhile, have no access to a car or van. This is compared to just eight percent of the general

population.

In February, Independent Senator John Dolan, CEO of the Disability Federation of Ireland, was in Wicklow to present these and other disability statistics to Councillors and discuss the range of barriers that continue to exclude and inhibit people with disabilities.

Senator Dolan said

"These include poverty, housing, public transport and access to employment and education. We all have a responsibility to find ways of tackling these issues and the role of local councils in this is critical."

There are over 7,000 people in Wicklow who have difficulty with basic physical activities.

All of this means the topic of disability is

becoming closer to our hearts for many of us, as we are increasingly likely to have a friend or family member who has a disability. However, thanks to the many support services in place, living with a disability doesn't have to mean being held back in life. In

Co. Wicklow, there are many services and organisations to provide support, care, education and employment, to improve the everyday lives of those with a disability who live, work and socialise in Co. Wicklow.

## BRAY & NORTH WICKLOW STROKE CLUB

**The Bray & North Wicklow Stroke Club has been in existence for almost 20 years.**

Founded in 2000 by Michael Whelan, the club was formed in response to what he saw as a lack of any other forms of community support in the Bray area for stroke victims.

Michael took it upon himself to form the Bray & North Wicklow Stroke Club - a group where those who have suffered a stroke can meet up and share experiences, getting help and encouragement with speech or physical problems. There have also been annual outings to places such as the Botanic Gardens and Hunter's Hotel in Rathnew.

The club is welcoming to people of all ages. Members have ranged from children aged under 6, to older people in their 60s, 70s and 80s. Members come and go throughout the year, and although the group primarily serves Bray and North Wicklow, members come from as far away as Arklow.

The Bray & North Wicklow Stroke Club do collections once a year in Bray and Greystones, which also raise awareness of the club which is always welcoming to new members who wish to come along and take part.



## OPEN DOOR DAY CENTRE

**This year Open Door is proud to celebrate 35 years of caring in the community and would like to thank all its supporters for helping to make a difference to members' lives.**

Open Door is a charitable trust founded in 1984 and while based in Bray, the catchment area covers North Wicklow and South County Dublin. The Centre provides facilities and activities for adults with varying disabilities as a result of stroke, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, spina bifida and road accidents amongst others. Activities include art, music, computers, physiotherapy, ceramics and woodwork. Open Door is a vital social outlet for its members and also provides much needed support for carers and their families. Find out how Open Door can help you or someone you know by calling 01 2867123 or drop in to the Centre on the Vevay Road, Bray, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm.

While Open Door is partly funded by the HSE, funds must be raised to cover the deficit in order to continue to provide the many therapeutic activities to members of the community. Visit [www.opendoor.ie](http://www.opendoor.ie) for more information on how you can help support Open Door.



Open Door caters for adults with physical disabilities on a daily basis. Our modern, purpose built **Activity Centre** is situated on the Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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# LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

## EmployAbility Service

The EmployAbility Service provides employment support services to people with disabilities and support needs throughout Ireland and has a reputation for quality service provision with a strong focus on achieving desired results in each of its twenty-three centres.

The EmployAbility mission entails forming alliances and working partnerships with other organisations and service providers; Playing an active and leading role in informing and influencing employers with regard to the benefits of employing people with disabilities; Setting and promoting world class standards in employment and placement services.

EmployAbility provides a range of supports to employers and people with disabilities through a team of Employment Support Specialists (Job Coaches) and professional support staff. The EmployAbility Service Wicklow is a free service to both employers and participants and is contracted to and funded by the Department of Employment and Social Protection.

EmployAbility Service locations in County Wicklow are: EmployAbility Service Bray (Tel: 01 2116474, [info@employabilitywicklow.ie](mailto:info@employabilitywicklow.ie)); EmployAbility Service Wicklow Town (0404 20417, [info@employabilitywicklow.ie](mailto:info@employabilitywicklow.ie)); EmployAbility Arklow, (0402 29724, [info@employabilitywicklow.ie](mailto:info@employabilitywicklow.ie)); EmployAbility out-reach Service West Wicklow (0404 20417, [info@employabilitywicklow.ie](mailto:info@employabilitywicklow.ie)).



## Bathroom Adaptations

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## National Learning Network - Bray: Free Training for Employment & Further Education

If you are out of work, have a disability or had a serious illness or if you left school early and you are looking to get a job or qualifications and further education then you might be interested in calling into the regular National Learning Network Open Mornings.

You will see first-hand the training courses they have on offer. The centre on the Boghall Road in Bray opens its doors every Wednesday from 11.00am -to 1.00pm and people are invited to come along to meet current students and instructors to learn more about their training courses. It's a great opportunity to see first-hand what's involved in the courses and to see the additional supports that are on offer such as education supports, psychologist, and peer support to help you to a new start!

The courses, funded by the Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board, offered here are:

- \* Vocational Skills Foundation which leads to a QQI Level 3 in Employability Skills,
- \* Employer Based Training, which is a job seeking course, which leads to a QQI Level 4 in

Employment Skills \* IT and Business Administration which leads to a QQI Level 5 in Information Processing. All of the courses offer work placement. For more information, please see their ad in this section or call 01 282 9643 or get

the latest updates on [www.twitter.com/NLNWicklow](http://www.twitter.com/NLNWicklow). Don't forget the Open Mornings take place every Wednesday from 11.00am to 1.00pm in the centre in Beechwood Close on the Boghall Road, Bray.

## Bray Stroke Club

Meets every Monday in Villa Pacis on the Vevay Road, Bray.

The club is open to anybody who has suffered a stroke, no matter your age.

Contact Michael for further details:  
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WICKLOW

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### Benefits to Job Seekers:

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- Inclusion in the open labour market
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QQI AWARD





The Wicklow branch of Darkness into Light launched this year's event on Monday last at Fitzwilliam Square in Wicklow. The local committee have the backup support of the local Colaiste Chill Mhantain school as well as Wicklow Lions Club. On the 11th May thousands of people from the Wicklow area will walk or run 5K for Piata House and help save lives. Pictured is the Wicklow DIL Team Declan McNerney, Ann Chambers, Joe Kirwin, Sean Olohan, and Geraldine Mooney with students from the local Colaiste Chill Mhantain school - Charlie Cruise, Darren O'Brien, and Brandon O'Brien, joined by Leo the Lion

## Cat Litter - what to choose?

People can be picky about their own bathroom habits, so is it any surprise that cats will be picky about theirs?

Choosing a litter can be an important decision, for best chances of pleasing your feline friend, makes sure you know the information necessary to choose the right litter for her, and for you.

### Non-clumping litter

Using non-clumping litter has its own unique set of advantages and disadvantages. It is designed to absorb instead of hardening into clumps. However, changing the litter box becomes quite a chore with non-clumping litter. Waste still has to be scooped out daily, but urine sits in the litter until it begins to smell, and the only way to clean the box is to dump it all out and replace it with fresh litter. If you wish to avoid juggling rubbish bags and heavy, smelly litter boxes, non-clumping litter may not be the right choice for you, or your cat, as you will inevitably put off changing the litter box.



### Clumping litter

The beauty of clumping litter is that rather than absorbing urine until the litter becomes saturated and smelly, the litter forms hard clumps around the urine. As a result, the litter box is easy to manage: just use a slotted litter scoop to remove clumps and waste, leaving the loose litter in the box for next time. As the level drops, just refill the box with fresh litter.

Not sure which litter would suit your cat best? Call into your local store today to discuss the best litter for your cat with our **Maxi Zoo** Pet Experts.

## Greystones Girl Guides' good turn

Members of Irish Girl Guides from Greystones and Delgany were thrilled to feature on RTE's News2day programme when they did a litter pick in the grounds of St Laurence's National School in Greystones.

The Ladybirds, Brownies and Guides decided to join the An Taisce Spring Clean as one of their good turns for Irish Girl Guides' National Good Turn Week.

National Good Turn Week took place from 1st-7th April. When girls join the organisation, they promise to do a good turn every day. Given that there are 12,000 members, this makes a whopping total of 84,000 good turns every week.

During National Good Turn Week members share their good deeds on social media using the hashtag #GoodTurns and encourage members of the public to do the same.

In this way, it is hoped to spread kindness and goodwill throughout the country, thereby making a positive impact on individuals, families, communities and on society as a whole.

Younger Irish Girl Guides (IGG) members help their parents with chores around the home (without being asked!) and share their lunch with their friends while older girls may offer to help an elderly neighbour with shopping, donate money or toys to charity or hold a bake sale to raise money for charity.

Some girls opt to do good turns for the environment, like walking or cycling to school or turning the tap off while brushing their teeth. Some Girl Guide units organised litter picks in conjunction with An Taisce's Spring Clean and sharing their photos with the #trashtag hashtag, which has taken social media by storm in recent weeks.

"By carrying out good turns daily, the value of volunteering is impressed upon our members from a young age," says IGG Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon. "Our youngest members from age five learn about different ways they can help others at home and at school while our older girls get involved in community action projects and learn to use their voices and their skills to improve the world around them."



Members of Irish Girl Guides from Greystones and Delgany were thrilled to feature on RTE's News2day programme when they did a litter pick in the grounds of St Laurence's National School in Greystones. The Ladybirds, Brownies and Guides decided to join the An Taisce Spring Clean as one of their good turns for Irish Girl Guides' National Good Turn Week.

## ASHFORD TEEN IS YOUNG FILMMAKER OF THE YEAR

Fourteen-year-old Sean Treacy from Ashford in Wicklow took home the title of Ireland's Young Senior Filmmaker of the year 2019 for his short film 'Rue' at the Fresh Film Festival 2019 in Limerick.

The competition, which received a record of more than 1,700 entries this year, announced the winners at the Odeon Castletroy.

Rue is a story about a boy who regrets his last words to his best friend. Speaking about his win, Sean said, "To win here today is an absolute honour, especially considering the quality of the films that were entered! I think this year's films are the highest quality that Fresh Film has ever received. They were all absolutely outstanding and any of them could have placed first. I am really honoured and chuffed that it was this film that won. It's one the actors and I worked really hard on, I couldn't have done it without them, and they were amazing. I can't thank Fresh Film Festival enough for organising the whole event, it was just fantastic!"

Sean also directed the short film 'Spark', in which the body of a camera brings a young boy's dream to life, which was also screened during the festival. Sean had previously come second in Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2018 for his film 'Brother' in which two kids become unlikely friends after they are forced to spend time together.

Other films entered

into Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2019 from Wicklow filmmakers included 'I Had a Dream' by Cillian George, aged 18, in which a boy shares his dreams and ambitions but luck is not in his favour to carry them out, as well as 'Three Animations - Group 1' by students from Coláiste Cill Mhantáin, which is a collection of large scale stop motion animations.

Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year is the highlight of Limerick's Fresh Film Festival, which is now in its 23rd year. Other highlights of Fresh Film Festival 2019 include feature screenings and workshops including an Industry Master class with The National Youth Film School.

Fresh Film Festival encourages young people from Ireland and overseas, aged 7 to 18 years, to create, exhibit and share films. The festival provides an opportunity for these young filmmakers to have their work seen on a cinema screen for the first time and to compete for the title of Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year. All films submitted are also considered for a range of Specialist Awards including the Radharc Trust Award (documentary), the Boulder Media



Sean Treacy: Young Senior Filmmaker of the year

Animation Award, the RTE 60 Second Short Film Award and the RTE Factual Award, in addition to the International and Audience awards.

"Ireland's Young Filmmaker have a very interesting approach" says Jayne Foley, Director of Fresh Film Festival. "Storytelling is at the core" she says, "because the budget is usually either low or non-existent, filmmakers have to be very inventive with plot and location." This year the festival received over 1,700 films into its three categories Junior, Senior and International.

Jayne adds, "the festival is a forum where young film-makers can meet each other. Even at that stage networking is important. You may end up meeting the same people again later in your career. As advocates of young film-making, we also try to showcase films abroad. We've brought Irish films and young filmmakers to Korea, Austria, Germany and Edinburgh. This year we are excited to have a number of international young filmmakers coming to Fresh and sharing their filmmaking experience with us."



# Uplands Council seek volunteers for Sally Gap litter pick

The Wicklow Uplands Council is organising a litter pick event along a 7km stretch of the Sally Gap on the evening of Tuesday the 16th April.

The event is being organised in as part of the Pure Mile Competition and the An Taisce National Spring Clean, which happens nationwide through the month of April.

The route through the Wicklow Mountains National Park, will begin at Kippure Adventure Centre and head along the Sally Gap Road (R759) adjacent to the Coronation Plantation as far as the well-known Sally Gap crossroads.

To cover this distance, the group will break up into smaller teams with a mini-bus picking up and collecting along the route.

All volunteers are welcome and should meet at 5.45pm at the

Kippure Adventure Centre. Given the changeable weather conditions, volunteers are requested to dress appropriately and if possible to also bring a pair of gloves. All collection bags and litter pickers will be provided. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Kippure Adventure Centre.

Speaking in advance of the event, Brian Dunne, Coordinator of Wicklow Uplands Council said "The Sally Gap is important not only as a route across the Wicklow Mountains, but as one of the great natural assets that this region has to offer to its many visitors and for the communities that work and reside in the

area.

"This litter pick event has been organised to ensure that its kept in the pristine condition it deserves to be found in and all volunteers and support is warmly welcomed".

The Sally Gap is world renowned for its spectacular views of peaks, glacier valleys, blanket bogs and cascading rivers and attracts considerable numbers of visitors keen to experience some of its beauty.

Unfortunately, the Wicklow Uplands' suffers from incidents of illegal dumping and littering, causing serious challenges to its unique habitat and biodiversity and to the communities that reside and visit

there.

Pure Project Manager, Ian Davis said "The Pure Project promotes and supports groups such as walking, cycling, scouting or local businesses and organisations getting involved with clean ups throughout the uplands region.

Wicklow Upland Council's upcoming litter pick will make a notable difference to the appearance of the Sally Gap, a highly visited tourist route and I congratulate in advance, all of the volunteers involved."

For further details on the event, please contact Brian Dunne at [bdunne@wicklowuplands.ie](mailto:bdunne@wicklowuplands.ie).



Rubbish collected recently by the Dunlavin Pure Mile group during a cleanup.

## Wicklow students show class in Primary School 5s County Final

Arklow Town FC played host to the Wicklow County Final of the FAI Primary School 5s Programme on the 10th of April. Through a series of local qualification rounds just 6 schools progress from a hard-fought Wicklow County Final onto the provincial finals.

The 'A' Cup, open to boys and/or mixed teams from small schools, had 4 passionate schools with the final between the talented Scoil Naomh Brid and St Saviours school. Scoil Naomh Brid triumphed in what was a thrilling contest. The 'B' Cup, for medium sized schools, again proved to be a compelling division with 8 teams involved. The final was eventually won by Gael Scoil Chill Mhaintain who proved a little too strong over a talented Carrysfort NS side. The 'C' Cup, for large schools, was another hard-fought contest between 2 very talented schools. St Kevins Greystones eventually came out on top of the large school's division. The winners will now progress to the South Leinster Finals on April 30th, at Bunclody AFC, Co. Wexford.class girls registered making it more competitive than ever.

In the Girls 'B' Cup Final, for medium sized schools, Sacred Heart Aughrim sealed qualification to the next stage after they overcame a tough challenge from Donard NS.St Laurences Greystones put in a fine display against St Marys Blessington to progress from the Girls 'C' Cup division for large schools. St Laurences finished off the tournament with a 5 goal to 0 goal win and look in fine form heading into the South Leinster Finals.



## Newtown man wins €22,000 on Winning Streak

John McDonald from Newtownmountkennedy had fallen asleep in front of Winning Streak when his brother Eddie shook him awake and said "that's you" - pointing at the television screen, "they pulled out your name". John, still in a sleepy haze, waited until the end credits until he saw his name and address in full before he started to believe it!

Since then John says he has never seen so many good luck cards or have received so many calls to the house from well-wishers from his neighbours and friends in Newtownmountkennedy. He also admitted that he had been struggling to get a good night's sleep in anticipation of his Winning Streak appearance.

John was born and reared in Newtownmountkennedy where he grew up with his parents and 13 siblings at home. John is now retired but spend 43 years of working life working for Wicklow County Council, plying his hand at many things such as road maintenance and on the bin lorries among other things. Now retired John's real love is walking. He is well known in the town as a great walker and can cover up to 18 miles a day.

## Wicklow Gaol to launch 'Gates of Hell' virtual reality experience

This June Wicklow Historic Gaol will launch a new Virtual Reality Experience themed - 'The Gates of Hell'.

The fully immersive experience will transport visitors back in time to Wicklow Gaol in the 1700's - a time of extreme corruption. Customers from across the world will enter a grim 3-dimensional world of bribery, rebellion, dark dungeons and witness some of the most notorious prisoners in action from the perspective of actually being in the Gaol in that very moment.

The new experience has been made possible following the awarding of a €200,000 grant from Fáilte Ireland through the new Storytelling Interpretation Grants Scheme to improve the quality of animation and storytelling at existing attractions throughout Ireland's Ancient East.

The family-friendly experience will invite visitors to journey through over 200 years of life in Wicklow Gaol and experience the 1798 Rebellion, the famine era and the War of Independence through the eyes of Gaol inmates... and meet many an imposing character along the way. The paranormal realm and its ghostly inhabitants will also open its Virtual Reality doors along the

journe, giving a glimpse into the strange activities that have earned the Gaol the title of 'Ireland's Most Haunted Building'.

Imagine are the Virtual Reality Specialists developing the dramatic new experience. "It's like being an active witness", explains Brian Hickey, the Creative Director at Emagine.

"Imagine if you could leap into a cinema scene. It's an experience. We're going to put users in a very different Wicklow Gaol, as it might have looked in the 1700's. This is one of the most exciting projects we have worked on & we have an entire team of animators & 3-D artists dedicated to bringing the amazing his-

toric world of Wicklow Gaol to life by taking storytelling to a groundbreaking new immersive level. Wicklow Historic Gaol is the jewel in the crown of the Ancient East & soon visitors from across the world will have the wonderful opportunity to leap into some of its fascinating stories."

Blaise Treacy, Chairman of the Board at Wicklow Enterprise Park says it is vital to the success of Wicklow Gaol to stay relevant in the customers' and tour operators' minds.

"Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Historic Gaol management team are delighted to receive this grant sup-

port from Fáilte Ireland. Wicklow Gaol is a key attraction in County Wicklow in Ireland's Ancient East and pivotal to the economy of Wicklow town both in terms of customer spend and job creation."

Jenny De Saullies, Head of Ireland's Ancient East at Fáilte Ireland, said: "Visitors from around the world are increasingly expecting more interactive and hands-on ways to enjoy history and heritage - key components of our Ireland's Ancient East brand. Development grants, like the one we've announced today for Wicklow Gaol, are vital in ensuring our tourism offering remains strong and competitive."



The 'Gates of Hell' virtual reality experience at Wicklow Gaol





Pictured at the playground in Aughrim for the launch of 'Young Lungs at Play', a new smoke-free space initiative by the HSE, in partnership with Arklow Municipal District and County Wicklow Partnership were Hazel, Clara and Grace Sheridan with Martina Blake, Tobacco Free Ireland Programme, Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Head of Health and Wellbeing, HSE, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Cllr Miriam Murphy, and Mary Desmond, Health Promotion Officer, Community Healthcare East. Children from Sacred Heart National School, Aughrim were on hand to officially launch the new initiative, the aim of which is to encourage the public to keep communal areas such as playgrounds and parks free from tobacco smoke. New 'Tobacco - Free' signs have been placed in six playgrounds, outdoor gym areas, other local amenities (such as at the local Duck Pond) and in the 'Moments in Time' garden in the Arklow Municipal District area. The signs also show contact details of services that are available, free-of-charge, to all adults seeking support to quit.

## Grants available to Wicklow youth groups to hold an event during European Youth Week

Léargas, Ireland's agency for international collaboration and exchange programmes, is offering youth groups in County Wicklow up to €300 to host an event as part of European Youth Week taking place from 29th April - 5th May.

The theme of the week is 'Democracy and Me' and events should explore the ways young people can influence decisions and be active in society.

Events in Wicklow

will be part of a programme of over 1,000 grassroots activities taking place across Europe during Youth Week.

Commenting on the week, Carmel Walsh,

Senior Client Services Officer with Léargas said: "With the local and European elections taking place at the end of May, it's a perfect time to encourage young people to partici-

pate in the democratic process and make their voices heard. Under the theme 'Democracy and me' youth groups can hold events like mock elections, debates on issues of importance to young people, or invite election candidates to visit their group.

To apply, youth organisations must be already involved in Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps. Groups can apply online at [www.leargas.ie](http://www.leargas.ie). The deadline for applications is Monday, 15th April 2019. All successful groups will receive resources to help them host the event including a European Youth Week Pack.

European Youth Week takes place every two years and is milestone for young people and the youth sector in Europe. A flagship event in Brussels will bring together young people, youth workers, volunteers, youth organisations and policy-makers. Ireland

organisations including De Paul, Donegal Youth Service and Crooked House will be attending.



Nora Furlong and a group of young people participating in a Youth Lab, which was part of European Youth Week.

## €34 MILLION INVESTED BY GOVERNMENT IN WICKLOW HOUSING

The Government has allocated €33,984,442 to Wicklow County Council for the rapid delivery of 124 new homes for Co Wicklow.

Four house building schemes approved in Bray, Wicklow, and Rathdrum will deliver 124 new homes to Co Wicklow. The funding is to be allocated from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to Wicklow County Council for the rapid delivery of social housing.

Minister Simon Harris said "In just this past week, this Government has approved 4 important social housing build schemes in Co Wicklow that will deliver 124 homes. This is very welcome progress as it will

allow make a significant impact on our local housing demand. The €34 million investment has been allocated to Wicklow County Council to ensure the projects move forward quickly."

Twenty homes will be delivered in phase 2 of Avondale Heights, Rathdrum; 40 homes will be provided at Ashtown Lane, Wicklow Town; 31 homes will be delivered at Ard na Greine, Bray; and 33 homes will be delivered at Bollanry Woods, Wicklow Town.

Minister Harris continued "This announce-

ment demonstrates this Government's commitment to the delivery of more social housing and in turn, reducing the pressure on our Co Wicklow housing market. This multi-million Euro allocation to Wicklow County Council is key to the construction of new homes for the County. I will continue to work with Chief Executive Frank Curran and my Government colleagues to ensure our County continues to receive the necessary funding for growth and development."

## New sheltered housing development planned for Bray

Vincent Hannon Architects, in association with Tuath Housing, a not for profit housing association, gave a presentation to Bray Municipal District councillors last week on their proposal for a 17 unit sheltered housing development for the elderly on Parnell Road.

The site is located between the rear of Brighton Terrace and a surface carpark opening from St Kevin's Square. Planning permission was granted in 2003 to construct a 3 storey 12 apartment building over ground floor carpark.

The units will be a mix of one and two bedroom adaptive apartments, allowing for an increase from one to 3 bedroom, depending on need. Tuath say the form and layout of the building of the building 'strives to accommodate the elderly from the area whilst having flexibility for future adaptation with accessibility a central aspect of the design strategy'.

It is expected that planning approval will be completed by September 2019 with an on site start in mid June 2020 and completion and handover to take place in June 2021.



Pictured at the coffee morning in Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and cancer support services were Sandrine Lemonnier, Becky Harrison, Jean Harris and Nuala O'Rourke.



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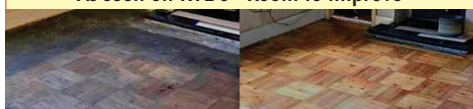
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### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Gary Collins intend to apply for permission for demolition of existing rear extension, new 123.5 sqm single storey extension to the rear of existing dwelling, removal of existing septic tank and installation of new wastewater system and soil polishing filter and associate works at Ballyfree East, Glenealy, 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

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 0404-64123 or 086-2461269 Email: [eugene@alphaplandesign.com](mailto:eugene@alphaplandesign.com)) Seeks planning permission consequent to outline planning permission under ref. no. 17/367 for two no. 2 storey dwellings to the front of the site with connection to services, and all ancillary site works at Grove Cottages, Church Lane, Greystones, Co. Wicklow for Dorm Quality Developments. 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](mailto:eugene@alphaplandesign.com)) Seeks planning permission for a single storey extension to the side of dwelling and associated works at 5 Greenhill Close, Greenhill Road, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for C. 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.

# CLASSIFIEDS / RECRUITMENT

- Planning Notices
- Prayers

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

#### 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 that Dempsey Sand and Gravel Ltd., Kilmurray North, Redcross, Co. Wicklow will be making an application to Wicklow County Council, within 10 working days from the date of this notice, for a Waste Facility Permit to operate a facility at Balleese Lower, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow for the importation and deposit of inert subsoil and topsoil for the purposes of land remediation.

The class of activity at the site in accordance with in accordance with the Third & Fourth schedules of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended, is:  
 Class R5: Recycling/reclamation of other inorganic materials, which includes soil cleaning resulting in recovery of the soil and recycling of inorganic construction materials.  
 Class R10: Land treatment resulting in benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement.

The class of activity at the site in accordance with Part One of the Third Schedule of the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) Regulations 2007, as amended is:

Class 5: Recovery of excavation or dredge spoil, comprising natural materials of clay, silt, sand, gravel or stone and which comes within the meaning of inert waste, through deposition for the purposes of the improvement or development of land, where the total quantity of waste recovered at the facility is less than 100,000 tonnes.  
 A copy of the application will, as soon as is practicable after receipt by Wicklow County Council, be available for inspection or purchase at the following location: Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

#### APPLICATION TO WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A WASTE FACILITY PERMIT

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 0404-64123 or 086-2461269 Email: [eugene@alphaplandesign.com](mailto:eugene@alphaplandesign.com)) Seeks planning permission for change of use (removal of planning condition no. 2 of planning ref. no. 08/1256 and removal of planning condition no. 2 of planning ref. no. 04/2032) from restricted use as a dwelling to use by all classes of persons at Quill Road, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow, for S. and A. Brady. 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.

#### 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

*B.McL.*



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
 COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

### PART-TIME RETAINED FIRE FIGHTERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form panels from which vacancies may be filled on the following Fire Brigades:

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- DUNLAVIN FIRE BRIGADE REF: 12/2019
- CARNEW FIRE BRIGADE REF: 13/2019

Candidates should not be more than 55 years of age on the latest date for receipt of applications.

Candidates should reside and work within a maximum of 5 minutes distance to the Fire Station as there are strict requirements regarding availability to attend fire calls.

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Candidates will be subject to Garda Vetting.

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20100 or by emailing [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS**  
**12 NOON ON THURSDAY 2ND MAY, 2019**

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

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# CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

**CALL 01 2869111 EMAIL: [jennie@localtimes.ie](mailto:jennie@localtimes.ie)**

**PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY**





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Sofas, Dining, Bedroom  
and Accessories!

Clara  
2 Seater Sofa

Now Only  
**€649**  
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Sun: 12.00-18.00, Bank Hol: 12.00- 18.00

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**\*20% Deposit & Balance Over 12  
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