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Tuesday 9th April 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

## HEALTH CENTRES STILL ON-TRACK

The recently announced Primary Care Centres for Arklow and Greystones are still going ahead as planned and rumours that they had been abandoned, or at best delayed, are totally untrue according to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris.

Last week Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore from Greystones expressed her 'shock and disappointment' at the news that Action Health Enterprises, who had been engaged by the HSE to build Primary Care Centres (PCCs) in both Greystones and Arklow has decided not to go ahead with the developments.

Cllr. Whitmore said "This is very bad news for the communities of Greystones and Arklow. People have waited years and years for these PCCs to become a reality and questions

really need to be asked as to how this could be allowed to happen. This is especially concerning as we were only recently assured by the Minister for Health that these projects were progressing well, with planning permission granted for the centre in Arklow, whilst the Greystones centre was due to go for planning shortly.

"Whilst Action Health has decided to not develop its portfolio of PCCs in Wicklow, it is my understanding that another developer could essentially take over

from where they have left off. However, it is now up to the HSE and the Minister for Health to act quickly to ensure that this can happen and that alternative developers for these premises are found. Any delay to the provision of primary healthcare for Greystones and Arklow must be minimised as much as possible.

"This is further evidence that the model of delivery used by the Government to build state facilities, such as hospitals, schools and PCCs is seriously flawed. When projects



Pictured at the Carnew KWETB Awards Night in the Woodenbridge Hotel were Yvonne Darcy, Monica Walsh, and Kevina Doyle.

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such as this fail, it is the community that ultimately pays the price."

Greystones based Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Health Stephen Donnelly said he wants to know why he wasn't told earlier about the delays.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "Back in January I became concerned that the Government's massive overspend on the new National Children's Hospital might have knock-on effects on other parts of our health service. I was so worried, in fact, that I submitted what's known as a Parliamentary Question to get an answer directly from the Health Minister.

"What I got in response was an email explaining that the planned Arklow

Primary Care Centre wasn't being funded under the HSE's Capital Plan so it wouldn't be affected by the overspend. The letter failed to mention any other problems that could prevent the building from going ahead.

"I heard nothing more until last Thursday, when the HSE confirmed that the contractor who had been hired to build both the Arklow centre and the Greystones centre had pulled out. What I want to know therefore, is when did the HSE and the Health Minister become aware of that fact? When I received my PQ reply in January was this information being kept from me and my constituents?

Continued on Page 3

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Pictured at the Carnew KWETB Awards Night in the Woodenbridge Hotel were Alison Delaney receiving her certificate and David Murray

## Bray Side rapper duo hoping to hit the right note

Bray-based and Malawian born duo Brayside are edging ever closer to their goal of achieving worldwide fame despite their dream of winning Ireland's Got Talent coming to an abrupt end last month.

Charles Odilo aka King CJ and Simon Chimbayo aka Sammy, who along with Arthur Janowsky aka Shadowman form the Bray Side collective, didn't manage to make it through to the live rounds of the national talent contest but they are now focusing on future projects and are waiting to hear back from producers of the UK's X Factor. If selected, King CJ and Sammy could see themselves launched onto the international stage in a show that regularly attracts more than 10 million viewers.

Bray Side are currently studying music and sound production at

Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) and told *Wicklow Times* they have found the college hugely supportive, both in terms of access to equipment and support. Both men dream of performing on the world stage and are currently recording their debut album as well as working on a TV series called 'Bray Squad'. Anybody who has come across their debut single and video on Youtube will know that the production values on Bray Side's work is extremely high. The guys have gigged locally around Bray and Dublin and are hoping to move to bigger stages and bring their unique brand of



King CJ and Sammy are Bray rap duo Bray Side

African Irish hip-hop to bigger audiences.

King CJ told *Wicklow Times* that performing is all they have wanted to do since a very young age and they are hopeful

that their experiences gained at BIFE will help launch their careers.

You can view Bray Side's videos on their YouTube channel Bray Side Boyz.

### What's Happening...

## Roundwood coffee morning

Don't forget the Wicklow wide coffee morning takes place on Friday 12th of April from 9am to 1pm in Vartry House Roundwood (Kavanaghs). Special guests this year are Leslie Dowdall and Jim O'Neill. Proceeds from all the coffee mornings around Wicklow will go to the seven Cancer support centres in the County and also to Wicklow Hospice. There will be lots of prizes on the day as well as refreshments. There will be an auction on Sunday 14th April from 12pm in Roundwood Parish Centre with all proceeds going to Roundwood Cancer Support.

## Arklow variety concert

A variety concert will be held in St Saviour's Church Arklow on Friday 12th April at 8.00pm featuring The Arklow Shipping Silver Band, Moon & Son (Nigel & Charlie Mooney - Jazz Musicians), Alastair Davis, Ronnie McCormick, Pupils of 5th and 6th Class in Carysfort National School and Other Artistes. Admission on door on the night and the proceeds are in aid of St Saviour's Church Windows. All welcome.

## Greystones social nights

There is social dancing to live music in Greystones Rugby Club every Sunday night from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. Come and join the fun. €10 entry.

## Volunteers needed for Arklow Meals on Wheels

Arklow Meals on Wheels would like to hear from people with an interest or background in cooking, and who would like to join one of their teams, working from the Pipe Band Hall, Castlepark, two mornings per week. For further information please contact 0402-32651.

## The Book Doctor

Are you a young reader between the ages of 7 and 10? Are you looking for a new series to delve into? Do you need a prescription for an exciting new book? Why not book into the 'Book Clinic' in Wicklow Library on Thursday, 18th April.

Parents and children are welcome for an informal consultation with one of Ireland's friendly book doctors from Children's Books Ireland (CBI).

This begins with some chat about the books you enjoy as well as activities, movies, and games you like, to let the book doctor know about your interests. Your book prescription will have a list of recommended reads just for you. You can fill the prescription from Wicklow Library or order them in for collection.

There are only 24 places, so book now! Call 0404 67025 or email [wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie). More info at [childrensbooksireland.ie](http://childrensbooksireland.ie). There will be a reading from Eoin Colfer's 'The Legend of Spud Murphy' at 2:30pm.

## Aughrim and District Active Retirement

Chair yoga will resume on April 9th for 3 weeks. The two other dates are the 16th and the 30th. The trip to the Concert Hall on April 13th will depart Lawless's Hotel at 10.30am. The group will continue to meet for a short walk at 10.30am on Mondays at Phelans followed by coffee and a catch up on the week events. All welcome.



Members of Wicklow Scout Group accept the award for Most Colourful entry in the Greystones St. Patrick's Day parade from Cllr Derek Mitchell

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# No discussion allowed on affidavits alleging possible 'criminality' in planning process

At the beginning of the last week's County Council meeting, Cllr Brendan Thornhill requested a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss "urgent planning matters".

Cllr Thornhill was not specific about what the planning matters related to, however Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Vance refused the request. Cllr Vance said the issue couldn't be discussed as "it may involve a future High Court action and Garda enquiry. People are entitled to their good name and reputation and there is a procedure in place for complaints. There's an ethical framework in the Local Government Act. We're not taking this suspension today."

In a subsequent statement Councillor Thornhill said "At last Mondays meeting in full compliance with standing orders a proposal to suspend standing orders was put before the council by Cllr Oliver O'Brien and Cllr Brendan Thornhill. Extraordinarily and unprecedentedly the Cathaoirleach Pat Vance refused to allow the legit-

imate proposal to be put to a vote. Our motion was to discuss the submission of sworn affidavits to both myself and the Cathaoirleach Cllr Irene Winters. The refusal by the Cathaoirleach to allow this proposal to be put before WCC raises fundamental questions with regard to the administration of WCC. It is a matter of considerable difficulty for me to understand as to why Cllr Irene Winters whom I understand formally requested the affidavits sat silent during Cllr Pat Vance's conduct having already been aware of the contents of the affidavits. The most serious issues ever related to WCC are contained in a number of affidavits. In these extraordinary circumstances I have to pose the following questions to Cllr Winters, firstly why did she remain silent given her full knowledge of the contents

of these affidavits? Secondly what action to date has she taken to have these matters independently investigated? It is several weeks since she has brought this information to the attention of an Garda Síochána, something she accused me two weeks ago of not doing. Finally can Cllr Winters now confirm who she forwarded these sworn affidavits to? Can she further confirm that parties complained of in these affidavits would not have access to this confidential information prior to an independent investigation? Furthermore is Cllr Winters satisfied that no conflicted party has access to this information? I now call on Cllr Winters to clarify this situation as a matter of urgency. Finally I have to say there is no discretion in such serious matters, as Cllr Winters in her previous press release

suggested there may be criminality involved. All elected Councillors and officials have a duty and obligation to bring any allegations of possible criminality to the attention of an Garda Síochána which is the only statutory body empowered to investigate such allegations."

Councillor Irene Winters told *Wicklow Times* "For my part I have written to both the Minister for Housing and Local Government and Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council seeking an independent and impartial review of the affidavits I received. I have also written to the Law Agent seeking independent legal advice as to my duties as a Councillor in this matter. It is disappointing that Cllr. Thornhill seems to have taken no action other than trying to seek publicity for himself."



Pictured are Charlotte and Dylan Bradshaw from Enniskerry at a recent 'Wine Lovers Weekend' in Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare.

## Health centres still on-track

Continued from Page 1

"I believe the HSE is in the process of securing an alternative contractor. I want to personally meet with the firm who've pulled out and discover why. I've also written to the Minister to find out exactly when we can expect the new health centres to open. So far we know nothing except that the work has been delayed. It's grossly unfair to leave patients in the dark like this," concluded Donnelly.

Greystones Fine Gael Local election candidate, Alice O'Donnell says she has been in touch with Minister Simon Harris and has sought clarification regarding the status of the Greystones Primary Care Centre. She has received confirmation that the project is proceeding as planned and that there is no indication that there will be a delay.

O'Donnell said "The Primary Care Centre is a really important development for our town. It was disappointing to read rumours, stating that the plans had been abandoned. I have taken the time to check the status of the plan and can confirm that everything is on track. The provider who has developed both plans to date (for Greystones and Arklow) has decided to sell on the remainder of the development. This is fairly common practice with builders and developers. The HSE has been engaged in the process and they have no concern that this will cause any delay.

"When dealing with matters like this which are of huge concern to locals we need to operate on the basis of fact. I was shocked to read reports that the primary care centre plans had been abandoned when this is absolutely not the case. It is important that we all work in a positive, fact-based way on community issues like this one. The Primary Care Centre, in addition to the provision of an Out of Hours GP service, is a very welcome development for our area. I will continue to work hard to prioritise the delivery of community facilities to serve our growing population."

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Pictured: Wicklow RFC Captain Amy O'Neill and her teammates celebrate victory after beating Edenderry RFC 29-12 in the Leinster Women's Rugby Division 2 Cup Final.

## RATES REVALUATION CAUSES 'PANIC STATIONS'

Many small business owners around Co. Wicklow are facing massive hikes in the rates which they must pay as a result of the national Rates Revaluation process, councillors have said. The new rates are due to come into effect next year.

Proposed new valuations were sent out to the 4,500 rateable businesses in the county in March informing them of their new rates, and Cllr Mary Kavanagh said there is now "panic stations" among small business owners and that the Council could be facing

"a mutiny - a non-payment of rates". Councillors say they have been inundated with calls from alarmed business owners who in some cases are facing a rates increase of a couple of hundred percent. Cllr Gail Dunne from Wicklow Town said he

was aware of one case of a business facing an increase from €14,000 to €40,000.

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

Cllr Gerry Walsh, Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee, raised the matter as a Suspension of Standing Orders at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council and described it as a 'bombshell'. Cllr Walsh said "I've been contacted by a number of small local business owners; in some cases their rates are being doubled. This comes at a time when they're just getting back on their feet after the recession, and when they're facing the threat of Brexit and online shopping. There's a lot of confusion around this." Cllr Walsh explained that a recent local clinic held by the Rates Valuation Office took place during working hours, and that "those who were able to attend were not satisfied".

Cllr Kavanagh said "there's nothing given in return for paying rates like there used to be. This is a very unfair tax, ill-thought out and rail-roaded through. People are talking about having to close their business because of this. It's come down on them like a concrete block. Small businesses are having a

hard time just keeping their heads above water and they need this like they need a hole in the head."

According to Brian Gleeson, Director of Finance at Wicklow County Council, 41% of businesses in Co. Wicklow are facing an increase, 56% will see a reduction in their rates, and for 3% there will be no change. Mr Gleeson said he was informed by the Rates Valuation Office that these figures are in line with 'the norm' across the rest of the country. It was suggested that some business owners were unaware that the figure given to them by the Valuation Office must be multiplied by a decimal. Cllr Walsh proposed more clinics, to be held in the evening, and an extension of the 40-day timeframe for the appeal process (Business owners have 40 days from the date the proposed new rates valuations were sent to appeal). Cllr Walsh also suggested that the rates increases could be 'phased in'. Mr Gleeson explained that to change the appeals deadline or introduce a 'phasing in' would require changes to legislation and wasn't possible. He reiterated that the rates revaluation process is "revenue neutral" as the bottom line will remain the same. He also reiterated that the process is being carried out by the Rates Revaluation Office, an independent office under the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, and that the Council has no input - "we just collect the rates".

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The 2019 Delgany Golf Club captains at the annual 'Captains Drive In Day' with the club mascot; Captain Dermot McCarthy, Junior Captain Patrick Burke and, Lady Captain Ann Nulty

## 'Enniskerry needs a village centre playground'

Bray West Labour Party candidate, Ian McGahon, is committing to campaign for a playground in the centre of Enniskerry village if he is elected in May.

Commenting, McGahon said "This issue has come up with me a number of times when I have canvassed young families living in Enniskerry. A number of them have asked for a village centre playground in Enniskerry. They have highlighted to me that there are great sporting facilities locally for older children but that their younger children often have to travel to Bray or Greystones.

"I believe this issue needs to be looked at. The site at the bogmeadow in the village could be a possible location. I will certainly be prioritising a playground for Enniskerry village centre if I get elected in May," concluded McGahon.



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

### APPLICATIONS FOR POSTAL/SPECIAL VOTES

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government has signed the Order to hold a Referendum, European Parliament and Local Elections on Friday 24th May 2019.

The following categories of Elector can apply for a Postal/ Special Vote:

- Gardaí
- Defence Forces
- Disabled Postal Vote\*
- Disabled Special Vote (Nursing Homes)
- Diplomats
- Circumstance of Occupation/Students\*\*

\*Disabled Postal Votes are available for electors still resident at home, who may on grounds of illness or disability be unable to travel to a Polling Station

\*\* Circumstance of Occupation/Students are for electors who will be working on the day of the poll and for Students who are studying within the State and who would be unable to cast their vote at their normal polling station.

Postal Votes are NOT available for Electors who are away on holidays on the day of the Poll.

**ELECTORS WHO REQUIRE A POSTAL/SPECIAL VOTE – PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2019. LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

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If you have any queries please email [franchise@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:franchise@wicklowcoco.ie)

# 'GIVE THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ENNISKERRY GARDA STATION'

A petition opened by local election Independent candidate for Bray West Rory O'Connor is calling on the Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan TD to give the public access to Enniskerry Garda station. The Garda station is manned, but no-one from the public is allowed access it for basic state services.

Local election candidate Rory O'Connor said "The people of Enniskerry, Kilmac, Curlestown and surrounding areas no longer have public access to the Garda station in Enniskerry Village. This means that residents in the area have to travel to Bray, causing a major

inconvenience for those with mobility issues and those who are not car owners to access the most basic state services, like getting forms stamped, etc.

"This is an absurd decision made by the Fine Gael Government, that sees active Gardaí on duty in the station, but no pub-

lic access allowed. This puts extra pressure on Gardaí in Bray, who are already stretched to the limit. This is just a common-sense proposal and I would call on the Minister for Justice to re-open the station for public access as soon as possible."

O'Connor said he was encouraged with the initial response and feedback and urged residents



to sign the petition as many locals see this as the first step to the eventual closure of the station thereby increasing the risk of more crime in the area.

## 'Real concern for people in local film industry'

Fianna Fáil local election candidate for Greystones, Elaine Willis says that the ongoing delays in providing guidance for tax reliefs announced in Budget 2019 for the film industry are causing unnecessary and widespread damage as the government stall on introducing the changes.

"With Ashford Studios and Ardmore Studios situated here in Wicklow, this is a real concern by the hundreds of local people employed in the film industry," said Willis.

"It is extremely disappointing that the film industry is being put under considerable pressure as a result of delays in the introduction of new regulations for section 481 relief. These changes were well flagged months in advance, and yet almost 4 months into 2019, and at least 9 months since revenue started working on this issue there is no clarity on how the scheme will actually operate. We now have a situation where representatives of the film industry have indicated that projects risk being defunded. It is somewhat ironic an incentive to encourage the development of the industry is now causing damage. Our film industry has achieved international regard and competed on the same level as production companies in Los Angeles or London. The Minister for Culture and the Minister for Finance must now urgently clarify when these regulations will come into place."



A public meeting was held by Melanie Corrigan (left), Bray West candidate for Fine Gael, in the Summerhill Hotel Enniskerry last Tuesday 2nd of April, about the proposed development of 218 houses at Parknasilloge, Enniskerry. Nearly 100 people turned up to view the plans and write down their concerns which will be used as part of a community submission.



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Pictured: Lee Donnelly, Clodagh Egan, Maeve McMichael and Michelle Hoist from Bray Musical Society at the dress rehearsal for their upcoming production of Sister Act

## Spring Clean your pet

Your pet should not be bathed too often. A well-groomed dog only needs a bath around every three months.

Obviously, this does not apply to animals that are partial to rolling in dirt. Wash your pet in warm water and use a mild dog shampoo. A great option is the TAKE CARE range exclusive to Maxi Zoo. There's a shampoo for every type of pet that is gentle on the skin and the natural protective oil covering the coat.

The head should be left out of the washing process to avoid soapy lather getting into the ears and eyes. Dry the dog thoroughly afterwards or use a hairdryer. Dog's ears are very sensitive, so you should examine their ears regularly for earwax or unpleasant odour. You can remove any dirt with the aid of a damp cloth. Never venture into the ear canal, especially with cotton buds. If it is evident that your dog has ear problems, you should consult a vet. The same applies if its eyes are permanently weeping or inflamed. Otherwise clean away the corners of the eyes with a damp cloth.

Get more grooming tips and find out about the TAKE CARE range at your local Maxi Zoo store.

## Blessington AFC Family Fun Day

Blessington AFC are delighted to announce their upcoming Coimín Greenway 5k and Family Fun Day!

This event is a real opportunity to showcase the natural beauty and highlight fantastic local amenities in the area.

The 5k race trail starts at the Avon, Blessington and leads south along the shores of Blessington Lakes and through forest and natural woodland. Enjoy the stunning views from Ireland's first official E-Greenway.

With cash prizes, the race is professionally chip timed and there are bespoke medals for all race participants. There are also free kids races with all 5k entries and refreshments will be available afterwards.

There will be plenty of fun, activities and entertainment at The Avon on the day for the whole community. For more information, please see the Blessington AFC Facebook page.

# 150 bags of litter removed from Wicklow Uplands

The 2019 Pure Mile Competition is in full clean-up mode right now with over 300 miles of road, mountains, valleys, woodlands and forestries, being adopted by a variety of communities, groups, individuals, organisations, businesses, scouts, walking groups and cycling clubs, and now involves over 1,500 volunteers who are assisting Pure to, Clean Up The Uplands.

A recent litter pick and clean up by the Glencree Walking Group in the beautiful scenic Wicklow/Dublin uplands, all the way from Kilakee Car Park in South Dublin to the Sally Gap Cross Roads in Wicklow, resulted in the removal of over 150 bags of rubbish, tyres, flooring, discarded pallets, and a considerable amount of domestic waste.

This was the third year that Pure and The Glencree Walking Group joined forces to Clean Up The Uplands, and although a considerable amount of litter and rubbish was removed on the day, it was acknowledged by all involved, that there was a noticeable reduction of litter on the 10 mile stretch of road. The first collaboration resulted in the removal of hundreds of bags of litter and over 3,000kg of illegal dumping.

Ian Davis, Pure Manager commented "The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands is a unique landscape and environment, attracting thousands of visitors annually. It is also worth noting that this landscape is of environmental significance, and part of the Wicklow Mountains National Park. It's an area of both Irish and European significance and protected



Members of the Glencree Walking group and Ian Davis from PURE at a recent cleanup

under the European Habitats Directive as a Special Area of Conservation. The amount of litter and dumping encountered on the day was both disgusting and disheartening. However, the enthusiasm, energy, and commitment, demonstrated by the people involved in the cleanup was extremely uplifting."

Although Pure has removed over 3,250 tonnes (3,250,000 kg), of illegal dumping from this beautiful scenic landscape, they only have one truck and one driver, and unfortunately, they are unable to remove the unsightly small-scale litter. The Glencree Walking Group clean-up makes a huge difference to the appearance

of the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and a number of other Pure Mile groups are currently organising similar cleanups of, upland roads, mountain trails, woodlands and forestries.

Joe McNamara of The Glencree Walking Group stated: "Working with the Pure, and by adopting this stretch of road, and doing this cleanup, it's our way of keeping the uplands pure and clean, the way it should be."

Pure supply all groups with Pure Mile bags, litter pickers, gloves, Pure Mile high-vis jackets, and the Pure Truck removes all of rubbish gathered by The 2019 Pure Mile Project has attracted a huge number of communities, groups, individuals, organisations,

businesses, scouts, walking groups and cycling clubs, and all are extremely busy Cleaning-Up The Uplands, with over 300 miles of road, mountains, valleys, woodlands and forestries, being adopted this year.

Recent cleanups have resulted in the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, with over 70 groups now involved in this years project, and over 1,000 volunteers assisting Pure to clean up the Garden of Ireland. groups.

Further information on Pure can be found on [www.pureproject.ie](http://www.pureproject.ie)

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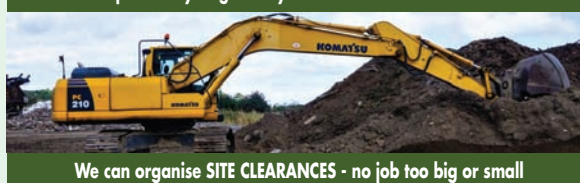
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# Cold weather beds given one-month extension

The 12 beds for homeless people in Co. Wicklow that were opened as part of the cold weather initiative will now remain open until the end of April. The beds were due to close at the end of March.

Sinn Sinn Féin TD John Brady has described the one-month extension as "a tokenistic gesture".

Speaking last week Deputy Brady said "I raised the issue of the pending closure of the 12 beds for the homeless that opened in Wicklow in December directly with the Minister.

"These beds opened as part of the cold weather initiative, if allowed to close the majority of people would have ended up back on the street as there is no alternative

accommodation for them.

"I asked the Minister for Housing to directly intervene to ensure that the people using the facility were not evicted back onto the street and for additional funding to be put in place to ensure that these badly needed beds could remain open. I have now got confirmation that the beds will remain open now until the end of April.

"I welcome the intervention; however a one-month extension is little more than a tokenistic

gesture."

Brady continued "Between December and February there was a 25% increase in Wicklow of people in Emergency accommodation.

"These figures however don't reflect to real story of homelessness as many people are not offered any form of emergency accommodation and are forced to stay with family or friends and don't appear in these stats as homeless."

Brady concluded "Due

to the housing crisis there is also a homeless crisis and that lasts 12 months every year, not just at Christmas time. We need additional emergency homeless beds in Wicklow and the 12 in this facility can't be allowed close at any point until additional beds are opened elsewhere."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said the Council will seek a further extension from the Department.

## 'Off to the Gardai' as discussion is shut down

Independent councillor Tommy Cullen stormed out during last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, after an attempt to raise a planning issue which he described as "very serious" was rejected.

Cllr Cullen said he had been in contact with the Chief Executive about the matter, which he said is related to a "major residential development in the Greystones area". Cllr Cullen said he was

in possession of a document relating to a certificate of compliance that was issued without full planning levies being paid.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat

Vance, shut down a discussion on the matter, saying it was not relevant to the item on the agenda which was then being discussed - the Chief Executive's monthly management report.

"I'm not taking anything that isn't included in the Chief Executive's Report," said Cllr Vance.

A heated exchange then ensued between Cllr Vance and Cullen as they shouted over each other and Cllr Vance threatened to adjourn the meeting until there was calm.

At this point Cllr Cullen walked out, saying that he would share the information with the Gardai.



Catherine Doyle, Brian Coogan, Keith O'Mahony, Emma Arnold, Geraldine Davitt and Breda Dowling of Colaiste Chill Mhantain make a donation to Sinead Tarmey of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation from the proceeds of a recent coffee morning organised by Transition Year students. A total of €1085 was raised.

## Thornhill denies being ageist

Cllr Brendan Thornhill was told to 'cop on' to himself at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council when he raised a notice of motion seeking to limit the number of years a sitting councillor can serve consecutively.

Cllr Thornhill, running as an Aontu candidate in Bray, put forward a Notice of Motion requesting that the Council call on the Minister for Local Government, Eoghan Murphy to introduce legislation which sets the maximum number of years an elected councillor can serve without a break to 15 years.

Cllr Grainne McLoughlin said it was "a daft idea", while Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said "you'd want to cop on to yourself. That's a stupid thing to put down on the agenda."

"I'm not overly surprised at this reaction," responded Cllr Thornhill, who argued nonetheless that councillors who sit on the council for many years can become "stale" and "lose their enthusiasm" for the job. He denied that he was ageist and said that the council should follow the practice of private industry where there is "fresh turnover".

Cllr Shay Cullen said "I wouldn't see any reason for a councillor to stand down as long as they are of sound body and mind."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "the public will decide if a councillor has been here for too long or has lost interest. It's not for us to put people out to pasture."

"It's a decision of the people," agreed Cllr Jim Ruttle, who has been serving on the council since 1985. "I certainly wouldn't have liked to be terminated 15 years ago."

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Vance, who has also been a councillor since 1985, said "to suggest that there are a lot of councillors here who shouldn't be here, that would be a lot of experience lost."

Cllr Thornhill's Party colleague Oliver O'Brien spoke in defence of the idea, saying it was "very good".

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Often we need the help and support of professionals who are experienced in dealing with specific problems.



## Bluebird Care's Home Care Packages

A Home Care Package is a set of services provided by the HSE to support older people to remain in their own home rather than remain in hospital or be admitted to a nursing home.

Home Care Packages are provided by organisations that have been approved by the HSE following a detailed tender process. There is no means test and you do not need to have a medical card.

If you are approved for a HCP, you will be given a list of

providers to choose from, however most of these are based in Dublin or further afield and do not provide services locally. One company on the list is Bluebird Care of Broomhall Business Park, Rathnew who currently provide services to many HSE and private customers through-

out the County.

Bluebird Care employ local Care Assistants who are QQI trained in Care Of The Elderly and Care Skills, they all need to have Patient Moving & Handling, are Garda Vetted and reference checked. Bluebird Care's Care Assistants are regularly supervised as they work

in the community and both the staff and customers have access to a 24 hour emergency phone. Regular reviews of the service are carried out with their customers and families and the HSE carry out regular Audits of the service being provided.

If you receive approval for a HCP in County Wicklow, why not call BBC at 0404 31177 for more information.



## FirstCare Nursing Homes

Quality of life is important to everybody irrespective of age or ability. Putting people first is the mantra of FirstCare, an Irish-based centre of excellence in providing older persons' and dementia care for the local people of Wicklow, North Dublin and Kildare.

"We encourage our residents' lives to be celebrated, with emphasis on providing an environment that inspires engagement. Each person who enters residential care comes with a story, and we at FirstCare feel this story should be acknowledged and acclaimed. Our mission across all FirstCare Homes is to deliver person-centred care and this is underpinned by our core values of dignity, respect and compassion."

FirstCare was established in 1994 by Mervyn Smith with the purchase of his first home, Earlsbrook House in Bray. A second home in Wicklow followed when Blainroe Lodge was purchased. Four purpose-built homes followed in quick succession (Beneavin Lodge and Beneavin House in Glasnevin, Mount Pleasant in Kilcock and more recently Beneavin Manor in Glasnevin), specialising in all areas of care of the older person including dementia care and respite care.

### Homes in Wicklow

Earlsbrook House is located in Bray, just a stone's throw from the seafront and promenade and a short stroll from the town centre. With a comprehen-

sive programme of activities such as games, music, entertainment, walks along the promenade and outings to local attractions, there is something to suit everyone. The original Earlsbrook House has been tastefully extended to accommodate 64 residents in twin and single rooms. Shared areas include 4 lounges and dining areas, a Snoezelen multi-sensory room, hairdressing salon, oratory, smoking room, family room, beautiful gardens and an internal courtyard garden.

**Blainroe Lodge** is a modern home, close to Wicklow Town, opposite Blainroe Golf Club and a short distance from the beautiful Silver Strand Beach. Formerly a hotel, Blainroe Lodge is home to 71 residents. It provides a comfortable environment, and those who live here experience a wonderful sense of community. Shared areas include four cosy living room/ dining areas, 'The Residents' Bar' area, a Snoezelen multi-sensory room, activity room, hairdressing salon, oratory, smoking room, family rooms and a courtyard garden

The design of the homes with the use of open homesteads create a homely feel. The homes are designed using colour in creating individuals' own 'front doors'. There are interactive reminiscence areas throughout the corridors of the homes, supported by evolving Homesteads, to invoke memories and meaningful engagement and interaction for all residents.

For FirstCare, high quality care depends on creative, empathetic staff who know each person individually, their history, their values, beliefs, likes and dislikes. They can therefore be responsive to the things that are important to each individual. If home is where the heart is, there is much to love about the nurturing environment of a FirstCare home.

"If you are thinking about Nursing Home Care for your loved one or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to call us. FirstCare Earlsbrook House Nursing Home - Call Home Manager Patricia on 01 276 16 01 FirstCare Blainroe Lodge Nursing Home - Call Home Manager Louise on 0404 60030 visit our website at [www.firstcare.ie](http://www.firstcare.ie)."

### FAIR DEAL

FirstCare say "When it comes the Fair Deal Scheme, our own Social Worker, Mary Courtney, is the person to talk to. She's an expert in helping residents and families understand what's available to them. To get in touch with Mary, for advice or further information on the Fair Deal Scheme and the application process, visit [www.firstcare.ie](http://www.firstcare.ie) or call us on (01) 6991070."



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Home Manager: Patricia McCoy

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## Blainroe Lodge Nursing Home,

Coast Road, Blainroe, Co. Wicklow

**Tel: (0404) 600 30**

Website: [www.firstcare.ie](http://www.firstcare.ie) Email: [blainroe@firstcare.ie](mailto:blainroe@firstcare.ie)

Home Manager: Louise Moran

BLAINROE  
LODGE





*Pictured: Members of Bray Musical Society at the dress rehearsal for their production of Sister Act; (Back row l-r) Eoin Martin, Michelle Holst, Gill O'Rourke, Clodagh Egan, Niamh Ni Thuama, Joanne Feeney, Lee Donnelly, Cartherine Gregan, and (front row l-r) Clodagh Forde, Emma Flanagan, Paula Gregan, Hannah Salmon, Joanne Keeling, Lyndsay Tracey, Megan Fawcett, Elizabeth Gregan and Sarne Lightman. Pic: Joe McQuillan*

## Cars clamped 'in error'

There was anger and confusion among residents of the Riversdale apartments on the Upper Dargle Road in Bray last week as some woke up to discover they would be late for work as their cars had been clamped during the night.

At approximately 4:20am last Wednesday, seven cars belonging to residents of Riversdale, which is part of the La Vallee complex, were clamped by the NCPS (Nationwide Controlled Parking Systems Ltd).

It's understood that the cars were parked in their allotted spaces which are reserved for residents.

In a statement to *Wicklow Times*, NCPS said "Some cars were clamped in error and they were released free-of-charge. We apologise for any inconvenience caused."



*One of the cars that was clamped at Riversdale last week*

## 'Laragh-Glendalough Traffic Access Plan will transform the area and help residents and tourists'

Glendalough-based TD Pat Casey has welcomed the long awaited part 8 process on the major Laragh-Glendalough Traffic Access Plan which began last week.

"In 2009 it was obvious to my local community in Laragh-Glendalough that the traffic congestion in the area was reaching crisis levels. As the local Councillor I led a campaign calling on Wicklow County Council and the NTA to realise their responsibilities to address the traffic access to this iconic part of Wicklow. I acknowledge both Wicklow County Council and the NTA in addressing this serious issue.

"Over the years I have chaired several public meetings in the Brockagh Centre and elsewhere to ensure that the entire community of Laragh-Glendalough were involved in addressing the traffic needs of the area.

"It has taken ten years but finally the part 8 process for a major redevelopment of the traffic access infrastructure surrounding Laragh-Glendalough is now underway. I welcome this stage and ask that the Council provide a full set of documents and plans to be placed on display in the Brockagh Centre for consultation by the local

community.

"I will also facilitate a public meeting to address the concerns and the issues that this plan will raise in the area. I do think however that the vast majority of residents will agree that the current traffic chaos particularly at weekends cannot continue as both locals and businesses alike are severely restricted due to gridlock in Laragh-Glendalough."

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detached property offers excellent potential (subject to planning regulation) to create a wonderful family home by extending to both the side and rear. Currently set up as a workshop, the presence of a separate stand-alone garage offers further existing possibilities, such as converting this into a home office, den, study, games room or children's playroom. An ideal choice for young families, couples, downsizers and investors alike, call us now to arrange a viewing.

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# CLLR. TOM FORTUNE

## #TheVoiceofReason

**Cllr Tom Fortune is an independent candidate in the local elections which will be held on the 24th May- standing in the Greystones Electoral area.**

Tom has had a life-long keen interest in what happens in his community. Central to this ethos is his belief that communities should have more control over what happens in them. For many years he has taken an active interest in Education, Sport, Tourism, Local Development and in Fairness for his community.

Tom says Integrity, Fairness and an interest in Business Development are vital parts of the role of a public representative.

He has over 30 years' experience working in corporate and indigenous Irish companies at board level. He has also started and runs his own consultancy business. All of this helps him carry out his role as a public representative.



Independent Councillor Tom Fortune with the North Wicklow Hospice Foundation committee as they are presented with a cheque from Aldi.

So where did it all begin? In 2001 Tom was asked to take on the chair of his community council (these are now known as Town Teams). This group, KCDA (Kilcoole

Community Development Association) continues and they are doing fantastic work for the local Kilcoole community.

In 2004 a founding member of the KCDA group, Jack Smith, asked Tom to put himself forward for the 2004 local elections. Tom did this and was delighted to be elected. The demands of local politics required a lot of learning and readjust-

ment, but that was a challenge Tom embraced and devoted himself to with passion and tenacity.

In this role of public representative Tom is active across his entire community - Kilcoole-Greystones- Delgany-Newcastle- Killadreenan.

Education was an area Tom felt he could contribute and he was delighted to be elected to the VEC (as a member of the

VEC he sat on two school boards of management). Tom was elected to the board of Wicklow County Tourism and was chair of Wicklow Tourism for seven years. Housing is another area Tom has devoted himself to improving over his time on Wicklow County Council. He was elected to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee where much was achieved with much still to do. Today Tom is a member of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support strategic policy committee. Tom is also a member of the county Joint Policing Committee where he is working with the boarder committee to ensure communities remain safe places to live and raise families. He was chairman of Wicklow County Council in 2010. He has also served as chair of Greystones Town and the District council.

Reflecting on his role as a councillor over the last 14 years Tom says he quickly learned that things did not happen as quickly as he was used to in his business work. Patience, strong communication and negotiation skills are required as well as a capacity to work collaboratively with people from other parties/political backgrounds in the best interest of the community.

Cllr Fortune says he has particular political values. "I like to help people, I challenge unfairness, I have an independent mind, and I like to think that I bring my life experience to what I do. The government system, both local and national, is not easy for people to deal with. So on their behalf I ask hard questions, I support people in their dealings with local government."

Tom believes that his professional background, the fact that he is born and raised and has raised his own family in the very community he represents gives him invaluable insight and experience.

In response to what he sees as his stand out expertise, Tom replied, "my knowledge of local government, my business background and my commitment to fighting for and seeking fairness on behalf of my constituents." He further added, "To be effective as a public representative you must have Integrity, and be passionate about fairness.



Independent Councillor Tom Fortune is standing in the Greystones Electoral Area in the forthcoming local elections.

"I am a spokesperson for the community (electoral District). It is my role to question all matters on the community's behalf and to only support what is in the interests of our collective communities. I have an established and proven track record in this regard."

He adds, "I work on behalf of our communi-

ties but I would not be able to do this without the continued support of the public.

Asked to sum up how he carries out his role in four words. Tom says "The Voice Of Reason".

Follow Tom Fortune's local election campaign on social media. Facebook: CLLR Tom Fortune ; Twitter: @cllrtof

If you would like to contact Tom about any issue or perhaps get involved in his re-election campaign he can be reached on 0862488195 or by email: tom.fortune49@gmail.com



Independent Councillor Tom Fortune is pictured presenting the Civil Defence with an award for the 2019 St. Patricks Day Parade.

**Best Wishes To Tom**

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Best wishes & every future success to Tom from

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Best wishes to Cllr. Tom Fortune from

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## INDEPENDENT Cllr Tom Fortune VOTE No.1

### POLITICAL VALUES

- I like to help people
  - I challenge unfairness
  - I support people in dealings with local government
  - I ask the hard questions
  - I have an independent mind
  - I bring my life experience to what I do
- This is what motivates me**

### EXPERTISE

- My knowledge of local government
  - My business background
  - My approach in seeking fairness on your behalf
- Dealing with local government on your behalf

#TheVoiceofReason



**Integrity  
Enterprise  
Fairness**



# Greystones woman representing county in #WomenwithImpact campaign

Among the thousands of women taking part in this year's Women's Mini Marathon is Sharon Felton from Greystones, who is representing her county as part of the #WomenwithImpact campaign. The campaign is celebrating women throughout the country who have made an impact on lives in their local community.



Pictured: Sharon Felton from Greystones

Sharon has done around ten Mini Marathons in the past, supporting a range of different causes, most recently the Blackrock Hospice, who looked after her father before he passed away. In 2016 Sharon joined a couch to 5k with a local running club, and last September went on to start a new couch to 5k group with around 40 runners taking part every week, culminating with the Shanganagh parkrun last December.

Despite her running activity, Sharon is looking forward to walking the Women's Mini Marathon this June: "The Mini Marathon is such an emotional day with all the different charities and different stories, so for me it's more special to walk rather than run the 10k, to really take it all in and soak up the atmosphere. There is no other event like it. This year is a special year and we hope to walk in memory of a special little girl, Lucy Leahy, who passed away just last January. We hope to make t-

shirts, raise awareness of DIPG (a rare brain tumour) and fundraise towards a bench in our estate so she will always stay in our thoughts. I hope to get lots of others to join me in taking part in this very special day."

The Women's Mini

Marathon will have an increased postal entry offering this year, giving women all over the country the opportunity to receive their race number by post. Anyone entering before April 30th will be able to choose the postal entry option, sub-

ject to availability. There will also be a number of pick-up points around the country, where participants can collect their race number.

Entries are now open for the 2019 Vhi Women's Mini Marathon. The event, now in its

37th year, will take place on Bank Holiday Sunday 2nd June 2019 at 2pm. Over 30,000 women are expected to walk, jog and run the 10K route in Dublin, starting in Fitzwilliam Square and finishing on Baggot Street.

## Rathdrum student praised for science project

A Rathdrum Leaving Cert student was applauded by a Government Minister for devising a science project that could have a real impact in poorer parts of the world, at an event in Dublin.

Avondale Community College student Sean Byrne was praised by Overseas Development Minister Ciarán Cannon for an invention that won him a prestigious Irish Aid prize at the annual BT Young Science and Technology Exhibition earlier this year.

Sean Byrne was singled out for praise at a special 'Science for Development' event that was held at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

The event was organised in collaboration with Irish overseas development organisation Self Help Africa, and gathered more than a dozen student science projects from across the country that had specifically looked at challenges of the Developing World in their entries to this year's BT science fair.

18 year-old Sean won the top prize in the Irish Aid sponsored category, and was commended by Minister Cannon as "a committed global citizen".

The Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development congratulated Sean Byrne and other students in attendance for their use of science for development purposes, saying that they can play a critical part in helping Ireland achieve the UN global goals.

"This event is a great opportunity for me to learn from the speakers, and from the other students. I'm really enjoying it," commented Sean, who showed his project to an audience of guests that included the Minister and Dr Tony Scott, Founder of the BT Young Scientist. "They seemed really interested in my project and were really insightful."

Sean's project, a low-cost eggshell filtration system to remove metal pollutants from water, won Self Help Africa's Science for Development Award - sponsored by Irish Aid - at this year's Dublin annual science fair. Each year, the prize rewards the project that best addresses a challenge faced in the Global South. Other projects on the day included a solar-powered



Avondale Community College student Sean Byrne with Dr. Tony Scott, BT Young Scientist exhibition founder

aquapony device, an app to detect crop disease and a study on vertical farming.

At the event, the young Wicklow inventor also received validation from experts in the field: "Sean's project has the potential to impact the lives of thousands of people in the developing world, for instance in large swaths of India where people rely heavily on water from rivers that show a high percentage of metal pollution," commented Paul Wagstaff, Agricultural Advisor at Self Help Africa.

As a winner of the Science for Development Award, Sean Byrne received an Irish Aid-sponsored travel bursary, which will allow him to travel to Africa next year on a study trip organised by Self Help Africa's Development Education arm.

"The trip will be a fantastic opportunity for me to field test my project, and to discover a new country," concluded Sean.

## Columbarium walls for graveyards

By Cathy Lee

Representatives from the Wicklow County Council Columbarium Walls project recently met with Arklow councillors to gather suggestions about the building and design of columbarium walls. These walls are set up to be put up in local graveyards across the county to hold individual urns in a dedicated place in the graveyards.

The members heard that Bray Municipal District are the most advanced in terms of financing their columbarium wall, and are going for the traditional wall design, which places a small urn in the wall with a dedicated placard on this. The project team are visiting all the districts to gather information about preferences for what type of feature will be created and what the options are. At the March meeting of Arklow Municipal District, Councillors passed around some sample photos of wall types, one being a locker-storage type design, and councillors were also told that urns could be placed in the ground with a block with names put over them as well.

The councillors agreed that they didn't feel comfortable deciding something like this for the population of Arklow and the surrounding communities. Cllr Fitzgerald said "We need to get the views of the people. It's a very personal matter and we'll get some strong views from people".

Speaking of the duration of the project, with concern for St Gabriel's cemetery in Arklow, Cllr Mary McDonald said that the graveyard is at the "end of its lifespan". Her concern lay with thinking that if this project is going to be something far off, "we should be looking at the next graveyard for this." She said that another location for the wall may need to be identified or a set space should be left vacant in St Gabriel's graveyard.

Cllr Annesley said that the members had to take this seriously, as it is something that is urgently going to be needed as 20% of people in Arklow are going for the cremation option versus being buried. He agreed with Cllr Fitzgerald and Cllr McDonald but pointed out that blank walls are hard to come by in local cemeteries. "The graveyard is not going to last forever, we need to be specific about this before we go out to the people asking for opinions" said Cllr Annesley. Cllr Murphy agreed that a public consultation could be needed and remarked that "times have changed with the next generation, particularly in not buying graves. This is an initiative that is needed."

The fund for this project began in 2017, but councillors heard that there are not enough funds to take the plans further at the moment. Cllr Kennedy pointed out that rural people still like to buy their graves in advance, but admitted that burial spaces can be an issue.



Pictured at the Young Social Innovators Speak Out tour were Loreto Bray students Michelle Rapliza, Julianne San Diego, Zahra Walsh, Sinead Paglinawan, and Beatrice Smith presenting their project 'Behind the Mind'. These young innovators want to break the stigma around mental health and have created a short film to encourage people to open up about their mental health struggles. Pic: Aileen O'Hagon



# Mum... I'm BORED!

## -Easter Camps and Activities in Co. Wicklow-

With the Easter midterm break approaching fast, ways to entertain the kids and keep them active over the holidays will be at the forefront of every parent's mind. While the days to the holidays are counted down eagerly, the break can often leave the kids feeling rather bored and result in increased stress and tension for parents.



### Something for everyone this Easter at Marlton Kids Club in Wicklow

**15th - 19th April:** U'6s Camp 11:30-13:00 - Fun, grooming and riding ponies...every little girls dream. O'6s Camp 12:00-17:00 -- Riding, pony care and much more, all disciplines and abilities catered for, it doesn't matter whether you have ever sat on a pony before or not! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and fun competition on the final day!

**23rd - 27th April:** Advanced Eventing Camp 12:00-17:30, includes a sleep over and a trip to compete in Barnadown on Saturday. Advanced horse care training and riding, understanding the art of horsemanship and delivering quality care so all participants are capable of successfully caring for their own pony in the future. This camp is for experienced riders only. Own ponies welcome.

Marlton Kids Club has an onsite tack shop carrying a wide range of children's riding and casual wear at competitive prices. Contact them on 083 898 4398 or check out Marlton Kids Club on Facebook. Be sure to contact them early as spaces are filling very fast.

### Bonagrew Stables

#### Easter Pony Camp:

Week 1: 16th, 17th & 18th April  
Week 2: 23rd, 24th & 25th April

Daily activities include: Horse riding, stable management & games.

Spaces can be booked for 1, 2 or 3 days.



Contact Grainne 086 3221249 to book.  
Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.bonagrewstables.com](http://www.bonagrewstables.com)

### Totally 'jawsome' Easter fun: Sea Life Bray launches 'egg-citing' quest to locate missing shark teeth

Take a dive into the deep at SEA LIFE BRAY this Easter and become the newest recruits of the 'Jawsome Rangers' and fulfil the mission of finding the missing shark teeth.

From April 13th-28th, an immersive in-tank trail, exploring a variety of sharks, will see guests tasked with helping Professor Finn locate the large Play-Doh model shark teeth in the tanks. This latest activity from SEA LIFE marks an exciting collaboration with Play-Doh, offering guests exclusive hands-on creative play for hours of fun.

Along the way, guests will discover facts about the different species of sharks and will have the chance to learn more about the SEA LIFE sharks and rays.

This Easter, Jawsome Rangers will also get the chance to follow an egg-citing Easter activity trail to find a variety of species of shark eggs. There will be letters lurking on each egg hidden around the centre - scramble the letters to spell out a secret word.

Once the secret word has been found and the Easter egg hunt is complete, guests will receive a special Easter reward to take home.

At the end of the trail Professor Finn will also greet the new Jawsome Rangers and share some of his expert knowledge of the fascinating sharks.

Once the trainee Jawsome Rangers have qualified they'll get a special Play-Doh gift to take home and then they'll move into the activity zone featuring a create-your-own shark model made out of Play-Doh.

Visit SEA LIFE Bray to take part in the Jawsome Sharks adventure. Running from the 13th to the 28th April, this jaw dropping experience is perfect for the whole family to enjoy.

So, what are you waiting for? Book your tickets via [www.sealife.ie](http://www.sealife.ie) and become the next Jawsome Ranger!

### BONAGREW STABLES

Bonagrew Stables is a combined riding school and livery yard with full and grass livery for horses and ponies.

There is the option of leasing a horse or a pony, and having riding lessons. Pony camps are held during school holidays. Bonagrew Stables' three-day camps run from 10am to 4pm. Throughout the day children will ride, learn how to care for the ponies' needs including feeding, grooming, mucking out and care of tack. The days are full of fun & games. Most of the children come back for many camps.



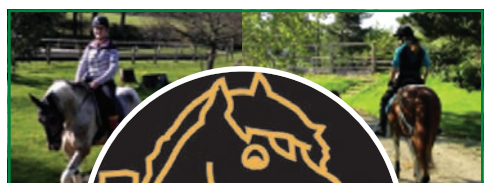
**SEA LIFE**  
Bray presents  
**JAWSOME SHARKS**

Help Professor Finn find the missing sharks' teeth to become a Jawsome Shark Ranger

by **Play-Doh**

16th Feb - 6th May

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On site tack shop carrying a wide range of children's riding and casual wear at competitive prices.

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Unplug your kids at Squirrel's Scramble!  
Experience the wonderful natural forest with more than 50 different challenges to climb, balance, slide and crawl, Zoom along the zip-lines through narrow passages in the woods for a thrilling adventure!

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

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1702 - 1924

Open Daily  
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Bring the kids to explore & meet the characters over the Easter hols

Wicklow's Historic Gaol, Kilmartin Hill, Wicklow Town. Book your tickets on:  
[www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com](http://www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com)





Pictured are some of the participants in the County Cumann na mBunscol Wicklow Skill Tests in Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence, Ballinakill. The top performing pupils in the County Skills tests now have the opportunity to represent their school and county during the half time of selected All-Ireland Series games during the summer. The winners were: Girls Football (Olivia Shannon, Annacurra NS); Boys Football (Mason Melia, Newtown; Colm McGuckian, Aughrim NS); Hurling: Eoin Lawlor (St Pat's, Wicklow); Camogie: Aine McDonald (Crossbridge NS); Katie Slattery (Gaelscoil Ui Cheadaigh).

## ENNISKERRY TOURIST ATTRACTION ON COURSE TO SAVE 1.4 MILLION TREES

Visitors to Cool Planet Experience in Enniskerry have pledged to reduce their carbon footprint by 25% - a cumulative 30,000 tonnes and the equivalent of saving over 1.4 million trees - in the twelve months since the pioneering Wicklow tourist attraction first opened its doors in March 2018.

Almost 20,000 visitors have taken part in the interactive experience, designed to inform about the realities of climate change, and inspire individuals to become 'Agents of Change'.

Through immersion, gaming, competition and more, Cool Planet takes visitors on a journey through the highs and lows of our changing climate, whilst imparting exciting innovations and practical solutions that can be embraced to help solve the problem.

The next generation is leading the charge, with children pledging

to reduce their carbon footprints by 25%, compared with their adult counterparts' 22%.

"Year one at Cool Planet has been incredible," said CEO, Vicky Brown "What is especially exciting is our results are supporting the findings of the citizens assembly on climate change. Once people understand the evidence and changes required to address global warming, they are willing to play their part, and to make the necessary lifestyle changes. At Cool Planet we are seeing that after taking our tour, visitors

leave feeling informed, engaged, and enthusiastic about a carbon free future. And more importantly, that the conversation continues long after they go home."

Topping an incredible year for the Enniskerry-based attraction - the

first of its kind anywhere in the world - Cool Planet Experience has also been shortlisted for a prestigious European Museum of the Year Award, the winners of which will be announced in Sarajevo at the end of May.

### American Celebration of Music

Southeastern University, Florida, the SEU Chamber Singers and Women's Choir featuring Victoria Keller, accompanist, with Dr. Daniel Gordon, director, will be giving a free performance in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh on Tuesday 14th of May. Show starting at 11.30am, everyone is welcome.

## Celtic Routes project aims to encourage visitors to Wicklow

The brand which will help promote the Celtic Routes project between Ireland and Wales will be launched on April 10th.

The Celtic Routes project aims to encourage visitors to explore new areas of Wales and Ireland en route to their final tourist destination.

Led by Carmarthenshire County Council, the project focuses on the areas of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion in Wales and Waterford, Wicklow and Wexford in Ireland.

It hopes to transform less well-known areas from transit zones to new touring sites,

increasing the time visitors spend in these regions and capitalising on the opportunities to boost local economies.

The project will be developed through customer research, trade events and workshops as well as cross border visits by businesses in Ireland and Wales to bring together expertise and ideas.

The objective is to increase the visitor appeal of the targeted areas, including through the development of new trails linking local culture,

heritage and the natural environment.

On April 10th, 2019, the Project Partners and Consultants will launch the Brand for the Interreg Ireland Wales co-funded Celtic Routes Project.

The launch will take place in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford at 2pm on 10th April.

All tourism providers are encouraged and welcome to attend. However, booking must be made through Eventbrite.



At last week's Bray Municipal Council meeting were (l-r): Cllr Joe Behan, Cllr Pat Vance, Jack Jannon, Boris Fennema, and Mark Henderson from Bray Sailing Club, and Cllr Steven Matthews. Pic: Joe McQuillan

## Bray council welcomes Bray Sailing Club

Bray Sailing Club Representatives were invited to Bray Municipal District Council's meeting last week to speak about their recent Training Centre of the Year award from the Irish Sailing Association.

Mark Henderson, Training Centre Manager, also spoke about the importance of a safe and viable harbour to the club's success as a vibrant community-based club, and recent environmental initiatives.

The 'Turn the Tide on Plastics' campaign is an initiative that the club began last year. The aim of the campaign is to increase the club's Junior members' environmental awareness and to instil a

sense of responsibility in them for the stewardship of the environment and the Bray Community. Most recently the club was part of the launch of the "Take 3 For the Sea" campaign along with Cllr Steven Matthews and Bray Tidy Towns.

"This fantastic initiative, which has been funded by the Municipal District, encourages everyone to pick up three pieces of plastic on every visit they make to the

beach. This is just a simple example of how everyone can do something small to have a big positive impact on the Bray community and beyond," said Mark.

"Our Turn the Tide on Plastics campaign has very much been a bottom-up initiative, with Juniors leading the way to do their bit for the community. Our goal for the 2019 season is to make our Junior Training courses single-use plastic

free." Mark also spoke about the challenges the club faces: "The increased popularity of Bray Harbour as a destination has led to significant traffic congestion during summer weekends."

"In addition, we obviously have a tidal harbour in Bray which places restrictions on the amount of time the harbour is usable each day, but also causes problems in certain weather

conditions." The recent award follows on from the success of last year when the club won the title of Eastern Region Training Centre of the year. Over 100 clubs and centres compete for this title each year, and most of them are far better resourced than Bray, with paid staff and far superior facilities. The club has been in existence for 60 years and has over 350 members.

## Children's magic show at The Whale

Direct from his weekday magic show 'abraKIDabra' on RTÉjr, and the RTÉ 1 Christmas show "The Greatest show That Never Was" Joe Daly brings his children's comedy magic and illusion show to the Whale Theatre.

Suitable for children from 4-12, Joe will bring them on a rollercoaster ride of magic, illusion, comedy and fun.

Joe's show completely reinvents children's entertainment, so much show that the adults will enjoy it as much as the kids! Prepare yourself to be spellbound one minute and roaring laughing the next.

Tables will fly, newspapers torn up and restored, cola poured over a volunteer's head and Joe Himself will float on air... that's just for starters!

The show takes place on Monday 22nd April at 1pm (Doors 12.30pm) and 3.30pm (Doors 3pm) Tickets €10. [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie)





At the launch of an updated alcohol prevention education tool for working with young women by Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Service and the East Coast Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force were Saoirse O'Keefe, Ellie Minto, Rebecca Carey, Mia Longmore, Kayla Evans, Ella Mackey and Amy Dowd.

# YOUNG WOMEN TACKLE ISSUE OF DRINKING

**An updated alcohol prevention education tool for working with young women is being launched by Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Service and the East Coast Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.**

A report on alcohol consumption commissioned in 2013 identified that over half of young women in Ireland start drinking before the age of 18 years, and that it was a problem that society needed to address.

## Redcross 'rush hour': community highlights concerns

**The traffic problem in Red Cross is now so bad that the small village now has a 'rush hour' for the first time, local residents have said.**

Members of the local community in Redcross addressed the recent Arklow Municipal District meeting and highlighted ongoing issues that are affecting life for people in Redcross.

Councillors heard that commuters coming through Redcross to access the motorway are merging with the regular traffic and agricultural vehicles used by local farmers. The concern is that emergency vehicles run the risk of being unable to access the village during these times.

A representative from the community explained that in recent years, Redcross is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination.

While the residents welcome this increased activity, a strain is also being put on the infrastructure in the locality. The community narrowed down the worst affected aspects of this problem to roads, including issues with levelling, potholes and lack of road markings. Another issue is footpath safety as some footpaths in the village are dangerous for prams as well as wheelchairs, and there is also lack of

*By Cathy Lee*  
pedestrian crossings. The residents are also concerned about the masonry arch bridge crossing the Redcross River, as the road here is particularly unsafe for unfamiliar drivers as well as pedestrians given that it is quite narrow.

The residents felt that the village has been neglected by the local authority for some time now, and poor roadworks have resulted in the village needing to be tarred again. But the residents did highlight the need to restore and protect the cobblestone in the village as this is part of the heritage of the area.

Cllr Pat Kennedy said that it was "great to see that the community want to protect this heritage, as it is unique to here". The Redcross community representative described road markings in the village as 'non-existent' and raised concerns over the danger associated with this issue. It was also highlighted that parking is a major problem in the village, particularly when the village is most busy on Fridays and Saturdays with visitors. The com-

munity representatives suggested that a professional should test and review the main street from a traffic calming perspective. The main street was highlighted as a concern, as it is used by visitors but also commuters.

The seriousness of flooding in the village was highlighted. With the village being located in the valley, flash floods are something that the area is prone to. This has resulted in the blocking of gullies, that now appear to be ineffective in places and aren't being maintained or restored. Lighting in the village was described as 'not good enough'. The masonry arch bridge at the bottom of the village is a major concern to the community, particularly around warning signs as there is currently no signage around the narrow width of the bridge. The community representative said that locals would like to encourage those using the bridge to think about safety before entering it.

To sum up these issues, the representative said that "things aren't fit for purpose in Redcross anymore".

Some young women in Wicklow are doing something about it.

A group of young women from Kilcoole came together in 2013 to do their part to tackle the issue, and now that mantle has been taken up by young women from a range of different youth projects across East Wicklow.

Young women are looking for support and correct up-to-date information about alcohol use, and are relaunching a new and improved resource aimed at addressing this issue.

Six groups of young women have worked with Bray Youth Service,

East Wicklow Youth Service, Wicklow Travellers Group and Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project to produce and pilot the updated resource pack.

They recently came together in Newtownmountkennedy to officially launch the resource pack. The resource was officially launched by Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Chairperson of the East Coast Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

The resource consists of a series of twenty photographs, each addressing a different issue relating to young women and alcohol. The photographs cover themes such as alcohol and the law, safety, preparing for

a safe night out, taking care of friends etc.

Every picture has a series of discussion points on its reverse side; the aim is to stimulate discussions about the topics with young women, to challenge incorrect information and unhelpful assumptions, and to give space for discussions about alternatives to alcohol use and harm reduction techniques.

In the updated version of the resource the photographs are linked to a series of activities which are designed to draw out learning through interactive workshops. These activities cover topics such as alcohol harm, rights and values, consent, harm reduction etc. Speaking at the launch,

Chairperson Aoife Flynn Kennedy praised the resource, saying "I am proud to launch this updated resource, the young people and their youth workers have produced a professional, versatile and vital resource for addressing the issue of alcohol use with young women."

Kim Whelan, one of the young women that produced the original pack in 2013 highlighted the benefits of the pack to young women: "Some of the things we learned when doing the resource pack, I wouldn't have ever thought of before. These lessons were so beneficial to us as teenagers because we can carry them into our adult lives and have a safer and more well informed

relationship with alcohol."

"I feel better able to respond to peer pressure," said Angel, aged 14.

"It was great to learn the recovery position and now I know what to do if one of my friends is unwell," said Una, aged 13.

The resource pack is designed for use with young women in any setting where work with young people takes place. Flexibility is built in so that workers can choose the most important parts to cover with their group. The resource is available for download from [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie) and [www.ecdratf.ie](http://www.ecdratf.ie)



Pictured: Members of St. Kilian's Scout Group accept the award for Most Topical entry in the Greystones St. Patrick's Day parade from Cllr Jennifer Whitmore. Pic: Joe McQuillan



# JIGSAW STAKEHOLDERS MEET IN BRAY



Minister Simon Harris outside Bray Area Partnership for the announcement of the Jigsaw service for Co. Wicklow, with representatives from the Bray Area Partnership, the HSE, Children and Young People Services Committee, Be Well Bray, Youthreach, Cairdeas Clubhouse, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and St. John of God.

Local stakeholders gathered in Bray on Friday to meet Minister Simon Harris and representatives from Jigsaw and hear the much anticipated news regarding a new service for Co. Wicklow. The meeting provided Minister Harris and Jigsaw with the opportunity to confirm that Bray has been selected to be the site of the next Jigsaw Youth Mental Health Project.

Jigsaw is a network of programmes across Ireland designed to make sure every young person has somewhere to turn to and someone to talk to.

Minister Harris said: "I was thrilled to meet all the stakeholders and confirm the news that Co. Wicklow will be the location of the next Jigsaw Youth Mental Health Project. We have worked together on this for a number of years and this preparatory work has been key to the decision to move

ahead with Wicklow as the next location."

Minister Harris continued: "Jigsaw will make a fundamental difference to the lives of people in Co. Wicklow. Alongside the clinical, in-session work with young people, Jigsaw teams locally will work closely with schools, community groups, sports clubs and other local services to increase understanding about youth mental health, and where support is available to young people."

Supported by a network of Youth Advisory Panels, Jigsaw's work in the community adopts a holistic approach aimed at informing, supporting, educating and empowering a wide of our communities, enabling a better understanding of our collective responsibility in supporting young people's mental health. I am delighted that work will commence on the delivery of this service, based in Bray, this year."

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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 Certificate of Registration to operate a facility at Tober upper, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow for the importation and deposit of inert subsoil and topsoil for the purposes of constructing a berm.

The class of activity at the site in accordance with Part Two of 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.

The class of activity at the site in accordance with Part Two 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 works do not constitute exempted development within the meaning of Classes 11 (b) and 11(f) of Exempted Development – Rural within part 3 of the second schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001), and the total quantity of waste recovered at the site shall not exceed 25,000 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

We, Powertique Ltd, intend to apply for retention permission for development at the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The development consists of retention, at 50% diminution of light output, of internally illuminated signage and at 30% diminution of light output of internally illuminated glass frame window and door surround on the front elevation of the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for change of house type on site 19 of previously approved development under PRR 18/50 and associated works at Waverley Meadow, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow for Broomhall Estates Ltd. 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

• PLANNING • NOTICES • RECRUITMENT • PRAYERS

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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

S.B.; R.McG.

TO PLACE AN  
AD CALL US ON  
01-2869111  
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jennie@localtimes.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Gemma Losack intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, garage, new entrance, wastewater treatment system & polishing filter, new well and associate works at Castlekevin, Annamoe, Roundwood, 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.

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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 Ballymanus Lower, 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

I John Simmons seek permission for the following:

a) Construction of agricultural building to include milking parlour, livestock handling facilities, waiting yard, ancillary rooms along with slatted soiled water/parlour washings tank.

b) Erection of 2 no. of meal bins & 1 no. water storage tank along with associated site works at Ballyconnell, Tullow, 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 to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Barracuda Restaurant Ltd, wish to seek planning permission for elevational changes; internal stair connection between ground and first floor and first floor dining terrace to the south and west of existing restaurant; amendments to curtain walling; new bin store accessed from natural ground level to the south; signage; inaccessible deck and planters to raised stoned area (west); retention planning permission for existing escape stair to the west; together with associated site works at Finbrees, The Aquarium Building, Strand Road, Bray, 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 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

Seamus Connolly seeks permission for single storey Lean- To Extension to rear and side of 20 Thorndale, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Sinead Toomey intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, domestic garage, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance onto public road and associate works at Ballyclough North, Kilbride, 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

I Ashley Walsh intend to apply for permission for a new dwelling, garage, new entrance, wastewater treatment unit, soil polishing filter, new well and associate works at Knockaphrumpa Lane, Moneystown, Roundwood, 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: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling with waste water treatment system to EPA standards on site previously granted under PRR 07/1599 (for a replacement dwelling in lieu of fire damaged dwelling) and associated works at Ballykillavane, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow for N. Gregory. 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

Planning permission sought for variations to previously approved permission plan ref: 17/985, for extensions and alterations now including new second floor living area and terrace and all associated works at Cliff Cottage, Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow for Peshawar Ltd. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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