



FLORENTINE PROGRESS
page 8



SAOIRSE RONAN'S HOUSE
page 9



SECRETARIES PROTEST
page 10

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Tuesday 24th September 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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LABOUR SWITCH HORSES

The County Wicklow Labour Party Constituency Executive decided at a meeting last week to recommend that Wicklow Town-based Cllr Paul O'Brien should replace the veteran Trade Unionist Jack O'Connor as their candidate for the next General Election.

The decision was made on the proposal of Jack O'Connor himself. Both Cllr O'Brien and Jack O'Connor confirmed that the plan now is to hold a selection convention as soon as possible. To this end they'll be working closely with the National Executive of the Party but they both reiterated that the selection of a candidate is ultimately entirely a matter for the membership here in Wicklow. With O'Brien's support base being in and around Wicklow Town, it raises the question of whether Labour will also run a candidate in the north of the county. Many

Labour veterans believe that a two-candidate strategy is needed to secure a seat.

Former TD, Cllr Anne Ferris has declared that she will not be running in the General Election, which has led to speculation that Labour might also run Ian McGahon who narrowly missed out on a seat in Bray's West Ward in the Local Election in May or indeed former Bray based councillor Ronan McManus.

Speaking last week, Cllr O'Brien stated "Our Executive Committee yesterday evening decided to endorse Jack's

proposal to recommend that I would replace him as our party's candidate for Wicklow in the next General Election. Therefore, I will be seeking the nomination at a selection convention. While this opportunity is coming a lot sooner than I had expected, I could also not let it pass me by. I will continue to work as hard as I can as a Councillor for all the people in the Constituency. However, I firmly believe that Wicklow Town, the surrounding areas and indeed the South East of our county have suffered from the absence of a



To celebrate joining the Neville Hotel Group, Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Resort held an exclusive event to showcase their brand-new outdoor venue 'The Woodland'. Pictured at the event are Aimee Moriarty and Laura Cunningham



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locally based TD since Liam Kavanagh's time in the Dáil. Saying that if I am elected, I intend to represent the entire County to the best of my ability.

"My colleague Cllr Anne Ferris has decided not to run this time and I greatly appreciate her support and indeed that of our other former TD and Minister Liz McManus at last evening's meeting. Jack O'Connor made it clear from the very outset of his involvement here in County Wicklow, both at Constituency Council meetings and in various media interviews etc, that he would only accept the nomination if no one from the local Labour Party organisation was prepared to contest.

At that time, we were severely demoralised having lost all our public representatives in the elections of 2014 and

2016. Since then we have been rebuilding and last May we took an important step when we returned two County Councillors for the first time in a decade. Moreover, Ian McGahon came in a close 5th in the Bray East four-seater and Anne Waitera Burke almost doubled our vote in Greystones, even though we only decided to contest that area three weeks before the election.

"Across the major population areas of Bray and Wicklow we polled more than 9% of the first preference vote, double our performance in 2014 and 2016. Indeed, Labour was the only party which won two additional seats in Wicklow in the recent local elections and we came from a position of having no representation at all.

Continued on Page 3

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JJ Byrne gets ready to race to the beach for the 'Men's Dip in the Nip' in aid of Wicklow Hospice, at Brittias Bay.

Cake Sale

A cake sale in aid of Bray Seniors Christmas Party will be held in Villa Pacis after the 10.30am and 12 noon Masses on Sunday 29th September. Organisers are asking everybody to come along and support this worthy cause.

Open Door Golf Classic

The recent Reggie Corrigan Open Door Golf Classic was a great success. Following the competition the players enjoyed a meal, raffle and the prize-giving. The winning team comprised of Gerry Lyster, Martin Walsh, John Lyster and Tony Schofield with Reggie Corrigan, Ken Doherty, Breffni O'Rourke and Paul Morris taking 2nd place. 3rd prize went to Ann Irwin, Pat Irwin, Paddy O'Sullivan and Bernie O'Sullivan. "Many thanks to all the players, sponsors and those who donated raffle prizes. All funds will go towards activities for adults with physical disabilities at Open Door Day Centre, Vevay Road, Bray. Next year's competition is booked for September 18th 2020.

Kilcoole mental health support group

Kilcoole Mental Health Support Group will be holding three coffee mornings as part of their 'Listening Week' where the community can talk to them about mental health in the area. Everyone will be entered into a free draw. It takes place in Nicky's Village Market on Monday 30th September 10am-12pm; Wednesday 2nd October 2pm - 4pm; and Saturday 5th October 12am -2pm.

KILA

KILA are returning to Greystones on Saturday September 28th to the Hot Spot Music Club. Their playing is, as always with Kila, energetic and inspired, while the band - still led by the O'Snodaigh brothers, Colm, Rossa and Ronan - retain their wonderful sense of musical adventure. Doors open 8pm. Tickets on sale now. Limited Seating. Tickets www.thehotspot.ie. Phone 087 291 7519

Woodenbridge bible meetings

On Sundays in the Civil Room in the Woodenbridge Lodge, from 6pm to 7pm, the life and teachings of Jesus are presented, ministering freely from the Bible. These talks are to appreciate the life of Jesus and to try and find true peace and happiness. Feel free to come and listen. The speakers are Avril and Jenita (086 662 7681).

Sustainable gardening course

Bray Tidy Towns have partnered with Wicklow County Council to be able to offer you a Sustainable Gardening Course at Killruddery gardens.

This course is sponsored by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council and Bray Tidy Towns with the support of Killruddery House and Gardens. It is open to all Tidy Towns groups, residential groups and individuals interested in community gardening to improve Bray area.

The course, which was featured several times on RTE Nationwide in 2019

will run for five sessions. The course offers participants the chance to learn how to live more sustainably, alternatives to spraying, pollinator friendly plants for every situation, how to create wildflower meadows that last, create and maintain allotments, how to improve hedgerows for local biodiversity.

Two workshops will be held each Sunday and par-

ticipants will need to choose either the 10am - 12pm slot or 12.30 - 2.30pm. Participants must be able to attend all 5 sessions. To get a free place you need to email aoife-munn@gmail.com and write Killruddery in the subject line. Please indicate if you would like the 10am or 12.30 slot in your email.

Purple House Camino 2020 Information Evening

Make walking the Camino one of your goals for 2020 and help Purple House to support families living with cancer.

On Wednesday 25th September at 7pm in Purple House Cancer Support Centre, Aubrey Court, Parnell Road, Bray, there will be a short Information Evening to hear all about their Camino 2020 Trek.

The trek will take place from the 23-30 May 2020 will include a fully guided trek over 6 days from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela.

"Come along to our Information Evening to hear from our Tour Guide Company Follow The Camino, as well as the experiences of previous participants. For more information or to register your interest, contact Stephanie at Purple House on 012866966 or email info@purplehouse.ie."

Attention all Teachers and Students in Bray!

The Rotary Club of Bray are running their Youth Leadership Development Competition again this year.

This is part of a national competition to select 24 young people to represent Ireland at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Students between 15 and 17 years of age are eligible to enter, and there have over the years been many notable winners from Bray schools.

For more information contact Una Whelan at 0868091117.

Two Marys Golf Classic raises €8,200

The total amount raised by this year's Two Marys golf classic was €8,200, with the proceeds going to Greystones and District Cancer Support. The Two Marys has now raised over €80,000 for Greystones Cancer Support since starting the event.

The Two Marys memorial golf classic has now become one of the largest participating charity golfing events in Leinster.

This event was set up by family and friends due to the tragic death of the 'Two Marys', namely, Mary Nolan and her daughter, Mary Bradshaw in 2003. They both suffered from Cancer and died within one week of each other.

A record entry of 52 teams topped off an outstanding day at the 17th annual golf charity

drive for Men was won by David Martin while Paula Brennam won the ladies longest drive. Nearest the pin was won by Simon Bryan.

We would like to thank all our Sponsors and especially Greystones Golf Club for their generosity and support in hosting this event. The support from our Sponsors enables the event to take place and raise much needed funds for this very worthwhile local charity.



At the cheque presentation to Greystones Cancer Support were (back row) Philip Nolan and Martin Nolan, and (Front Row); Liz Nolan, Kathleen Kelleher (Greystones Cancer Support) and Eadaoin Kinsella.

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WICKLOW ONE OF IRELAND'S WORST AFFECTED COUNTIES FOR BURGLARIES

A total of 9,104 burglaries have occurred in Co.Wicklow over the past decade, according to new analysis carried out by PhoneWatch. This is equivalent to one in every five homes or businesses in the county experiencing a break-in during this time.

The analysis shows that when compared to the nationwide burglary rate of an average of one in every seven homes or premises being burgled Wicklow is one of the worst affected counties for burglary. There's been 36% increase in burglaries to nearly 400 so far this year.

With 2,657 Bray Garda Station recorded the most burglaries of any of Wicklow's Garda stations. Greystones (1,502) and Arklow (895) were the second and third highest respectively while with just 109, Avoca received the lowest number of burglary reports for the county.

While the darker months have shown higher levels of burglary for many years, this has become a more pronounced trend in recent times. Over the past decade, the research shows that when the clocks go back, until they go forward again, burglary

rates have been 31% higher.

Overall, November is the highest month for burglary for many years, accounting for 11% of break-ins on average. In most recent years, there has been a rise in burglaries in January and February, with burglaries during these two months almost doubling over the past decade.

There is positive news in how people are improving their home protection over the past decade. Today, 49% of Irish homes have an alarm. There has been a considerable increase in the number of people opting for a monitored alarm system. 36% of alarms are now monitored by a professional 24/7 service for added peace of mind.

Stephen Donnelly has said he's calling a public meeting in response to increasing crime figures in the county.

"I attended a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee this

month which had some shocking statistics. In Wicklow We're lucky to have such dedicated and hardworking Gardaí. Unfortunately, their numbers and resources have been depleted in recent years. So, despite their hard work crime figures are on the rise in Wicklow. We need to do something about this as a community. I will continue to push nationally for more Gardaí in our county, as well as more resources for those Gardaí."

Right now, new plans are being drawn up for the 2020 Wicklow Divisional Policing Plan. This means anyone who wants can submit suggestions to help improve policing and safety, and tackle crime, in our area. People who'd like to hear more, or to share ideas, are welcome to come to our public meeting on Monday 30th September at 7:30pm in the Royal Hotel in Bray", concluded Donnelly.

Labour switch horses

Continued from Page 1



Jack O'Connor

"Jack played an important role in the progress we have made, but he is strongly of the view that as we now have two elected Councillors, we should offer the people a candidate who is from the County and who they have already endorsed at the ballot box."

"I am also delighted that he has agreed to stay involved in the Constituency as I think he still has a role to play. He intends to run for the voluntary position of County Organiser for the party at the upcoming AGM and I hope he will be elected unanimously."

misery will not be addressed by the, 'Leave it to the Market' approach of the two dominant Conservative Parties, which now operate a very unhealthy virtual comfortable cabal. They actually enjoy a huge seat bonus here in Wicklow with 80% of the Dáil seats on less than 50% of the first preference vote. We have no time to lose.

"Paul has demonstrated enormous commitment and strength of character both in his personal life and in the political and community area. Having suffered defeat in 2014 he stuck with the idea of building a real Labour

Party in Wicklow, despite disagreeing with many of the decisions of the last Government. Like myself he considers the endless



Ian McGahon

Commenting on the decision Jack O'Connor said "While we have made some progress in rebuilding The Labour Party in Co Wicklow, we know we still have a distance to go. Winning two seats on the Council and coming so close to a third was an important step. Now that we have local Councillors elected again, it is important to take the next step by offering the people a local person who they have already endorsed at the ballot box, as a candidate for the General Election."

"Crucial issues around the provision of decent sustainable well-paying secure jobs, housing, childcare and eldercare as well as ending commuter

division among those on the Left as completely counter-productive. He came back to win a seat on the Council comfortably last May. He is an experienced and a skilled representative, serving among other things as the national President of the Irish Soccer Referees Society and is a strong Community person. He will represent the people of Co Wicklow excellently in Dáil Eireann, if they choose to elect him."



Cllr Anne Ferris said she will not run



Cllr Paul O'Brien will seek nomination at the selection convention



Reece Henderson with Jordi and Joni Butterworth at the Student Climate Strike at Carysfort National School in Arklow. Speaking last Friday, Social Democrats Councillor and Chair of Wicklow County Council Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Group, Jennifer Whitmore, said "It's been very exciting seeing how engaged the young people of Wicklow have been on this, as it is their future that it will impact."

Wicklow farmer running for IFA presidency

Cattle, sheep and tillage farmer Angus Woods from Ballinabarney is running for the position of Irish Farmer's Association President, taking over from Joe Healy from Galway.

Angus, the youngest candidate at 48 years of age, farms a total of 117 hectares in a mixed enterprise, consisting of 60 suckler cows, 370 breeding ewes and 27 ha of spring barley.

According to the IFA website, "As National Livestock Chairman, Angus Woods represents Irish Livestock farmers on the Meat and Livestock Board of An Bord Bia (Irish Food Board), the national marketing and promotional body for beef and sheep. Mr. Woods is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Commission Civil Dialogue Group on Animal Products (Beef, Sheep and Beekeeping) and represents Irish livestock farmers' interests as a member of the COPA/COGECA Beef Working Party."

Angus's other achievements outside of farming include representing Ireland in the senior World Championships for rowing. He joined the National Livestock Committee in 2011 and by 2015 was elected as its Chairman. For the position of IFA President, Angus is running against candidates from Cavan, Cork and Tipperary. Co-ordinating his campaign is Alice Doyle from Co. Wexford. There will be more than 20 debates taking place around the country as part of the campaign, before the IFA members (73,000 people) cast their votes in December.

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Students from Arklow CBS striking for climate action on Friday

Councillor calls for designated poster area

Green Party Councillor for Greystones Municipal District, Lourda Scott, is calling for designated poster areas with equal space for candidates for the next Local Elections.

Scott says, "The majority of election posters are made from corrugated plastic, a single-use material that can take over 400 years to biodegrade. With candidates printing anything from 50 - 150 posters each, this sort of plastic waste is unacceptable. In addition to their visual impact they often provide a hazard to cyclists, pedestrians and other pavement users."

"People made it very clear to me during the recent campaign that they are sick of posters being used during local elections. This feeling is echoed nationally with a survey by Claire Byrne Live/Amárach Research in 2018 showing that 77% of Irish people thought the current use of posters during election campaigns should be banned. This result was confirmed locally through an online survey from Greystones Tidy Towns.

"I have tabled a motion for the next Greystones Municipal District meeting to discuss how we can introduce European style designated poster areas for the next local elections. These areas will be managed by the local authorities, giving equal space to each candidate while still allowing people to familiarise themselves with who's running and serving as reminders of the elections taking place. I am raising this issue now so that we have time to prepare make candidates and voters aware of this change well in advance. I would hope that it will also give time for other Municipal Districts across the County to follow our lead. I believe that this change at a local level will lead to a cleaner, more environmentally friendly and ultimately more democratic process."

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Councillor Bourke appeals solar farm decision

Cllr Sylvester Bourke has lodged an appeal with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) following Wicklow County Council's refusal to grant permission for a solar farm on his land at Killinskyduff, Arklow.

Cllr Bourke lodged an application in June for a solar farm on a 0.86 ha portion of land on his poultry farm (including substation building and ancillary site services and works) adjoining Templarney Stream, to the south of Killinskyduff ESB sub-station. There are four other solar farm developments in the immediate area.

It would be a 'micro-generation' (the generation of electricity on a small scale for domestic use) solar photovoltaic (PV) farm consisting of groups of solar PV panels erected on steel frames.

The Council refused

permission, stating that the site is located within lands zoned for Open Space in the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan 2018, and should be maintained in its current undeveloped natural state in the interest of visual and natural amenity.

The Council's decision also took into consideration that the development would require the extensive removal of existing trees and natural habitat. The Council's decision also noted that the application lacked a detailed Environmental Report to outline and quantify the impacts of the proposed solar farm on the surrounding area

and justify the development, including a visual impact assessment, glint and glare assessment, habitat & wildlife assessment, surface water assessment, and flooding assessment.

The Council's decision states that "it is considered that the proposed development would lead to the unnecessary removal of an important local habitat, would detrimentally impact upon the visual amenity of the area, could prejudice the future development of surrounding lands and impact upon the current and future residential amenities of the area, could give rise to a public health risk

and flood hazard and prise. I'm hoping to connect it to the grid. Solar energy is the direction the Council wants to go in itself; it has just approved the solar panels for the car park at county buildings and the roof of Arklow swimming pool also has solar panels. It's a no-brainer.

The Council turned it down as they say it's zoned for Open Space and will require the removal of trees. I'm disputing this, the trees are felled every few years anyway as they grow close to the power lines overhead."

ABP is due to make a decision in January 2020.

Carnew National School is top of the class for battery recycling

Carnew National School has become top of the class for battery recycling in Wicklow, as part of the WEEE Pledge battery recycling programme.

Tidy Towns groups awarded grants to tackle biodiversity loss

Through The Community Foundation for Ireland's Biodiversity grant round, 56 organisations covering each county in Ireland have been awarded funding to carry out local biodiversity studies.

In Co. Wicklow, the successful applicants were Greystones Tidy Towns and Arklow Tidy Towns.

Arklow Tidy Towns stated that they are "delighted to receive this generous philanthropic grant. Our community won best kept large town in 2019 and working with the local farmers on biodiversity was a big part of our recent success. This funding will enable us to catalogue, restore and preserve our town's diverse and abundant habitats for our proud town flora and fauna over many years to come."

Successful applicants were awarded grants from €5,000 to €10,000 to conduct local biodiversity studies with a trained ecologist and to engage others in the area including farmers to get a clear picture of the biodiversity needs in their communities.

At the start of the year €200,000 was earmarked for the Biodiversity grants from The Community Foundation for Ireland's own funding and due to demand from community groups €100,000 was added to the fund from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, along with an additional €70,000 from a private donor. Minister Josephine Madigan commented on the additional funding "The Department was delighted to be able to contribute €100,000 to The Community Foundation for Ireland's Biodiversity Fund, which has provided grants to help communities develop local biodiversity plans. Biodiversity is a pressing social issue in Ireland and it is important that everyone is involved, not just government. This fund is a great example of how Government, communities and philanthropy have come together to create real, on the ground impact."

Almost €1 million in funding was requested from applicants, highlighting the desire to and restore the native biodiversity of communities. The majority of applicants were from Tidy Towns groups and local grass roots organisations.

Ireland aims to bring the environmental programme onto the school curriculum and inspire the next generation to become guardians of our planet. This will include a new set of educational assets for schools and parents, with lesson plans, activity sheets and other materials being provided to help in educating children around e-waste issues, and to support the continued growth of the WEEE Pledge programme.

The WEEE Pledge programme continues to go from strength to strength as one of Ireland's most successful environmental schools' education programmes. The programme's explosive growth continues apace, and now encompasses a network of more than 2,500 schools.

Phenomenally, students and teachers in schools across the country collectively diverted from landfill the equivalent of almost 1 million AA batteries in 2018.

Heading into the new academic year, WEEE

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Pupils at Carnew National School with their collected batteries



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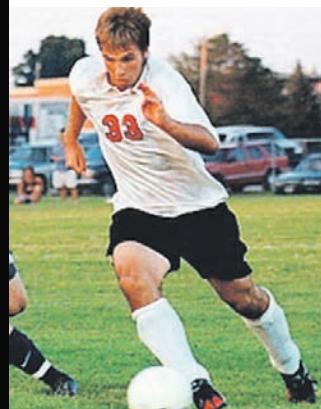
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Florentine site visit shows development on target for early 2020 opening

A delegation of Bray councillors and council management visited the Florentine site (now known as Bray Town Centre) last week to view the new development.



Pictured during a site visit to the Bray Town Centre (Florentine) development are Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Councillor Steven Matthews, Enda Donahue of Oakmount and David Forde, Bray Municipal District Administrator.

Speaking after the site visit, Councillor Steven Matthews Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District said "Throughout the entire process of planning, design and construction of this development, councillors have been kept informed and have received monthly progress reports. This visit gave us an opportunity to view firsthand the entire site from lower basement to roof level.

"There has been consistent progress made on the construction timeline and at this stage it looks to be on target for construction to be practically complete by the end of the year. It will then require a fit-out which is dependent on the needs and shop layout of each retail tenant and this process should lead to a full opening in early next year.

"I was very impressed with the internal layout and construction method which creates an inviting openness and good circulation throughout the centre. We've been



CGI of Proposed Scheme off Main Street



CGI of Proposed Scheme

informed that there are high levels of interest for tenancies and many units are at advanced stage of uptake.

"Bray has been waiting over 20 years for this centre and when it opens it will substantially increase the retail offering for our town and should increase footfall for all other business throughout the town centre."

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Calls for government to increase funding to local authorities

Councillor Steven Matthews of The Green Party is calling on the Government to increase funding to all Local Authorities in the State to be used for a targeted campaign towards urban regeneration. The Greens are seeking an increase in the 'block grant' allocated towards local authorities each year to be ring-fenced specifically towards heritage led urban regeneration, town centre living and innovation in retail and building use.

As Local Authorities across the State decide on varying the Local Property Tax (LPT), Green Party Councillor Steven Matthews criticised property tax as 'a crude and unbalanced means of funding local services' and noted that Irish public spending through local authorities was among the lowest in the EU.

"The EU average spend of public monies through Local Government is 23%. In Ireland it stands at 8% and this is simply not sufficient or good enough to allow Councils carry out regeneration works and town improvements. We are being let down by central government with Wicklow faring particularly poorly and this badly effects how much we have to spend on our local communities," said Cllr Matthews. "We would like to see a much more



Cllr Steven Matthews

targeted approach to town centre regeneration; Business Improvement Districts, addressing urban living, activating start up and incubator units in town centres, improving pedestrian routes and overall accessibility around our towns.

We have very little wriggle room within the existing financing of local government and many funding sources are piecemeal and require match funding. If we can't provide match fund-

ing we can't apply for these grants."

He said that the evaluation of the Local Property Tax will prove geographically challenging given the variance across all local authorities and that future Governments needed to focus on broadening the income stream for councils and that this should include an incremental increase in the block grant towards the European average, coupled with increased devolution of powers to Local Authorities.

"Many of our regional towns are in a state of stagnation and decline. Yet templates exist to lead a sustained and creative programme of regeneration; much of which could be supported by organisations such as the Heritage Council. For example, 'The Scottish Town Centres First' model could well be replicated here but it will

require resources and we are asking the Government to consider a Town Centre Fund ring-fenced in grant form to all councils commensurate with need, population and ability to deliver. Coupled with this we would advocate the establishment of an EU Unit in every local authority to help source match fund and to learn through urban networks from urban centres across Europe.

"Our town centres have a vital role to play in transitioning towards a zero carbon economy; they are also places of social exchange that should be vibrant and alive. Current policy is failing and local government is best placed to lead and inspire transformation; all we need are the resources to do it," concluded Cllr Matthews.

Wicklow defies national trend

The latest Residential Property Price Barometer launched by IPAV, the Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers, shows while house prices in a majority of locations have dropped slightly, apartment prices in most areas have increased.

The study, which covers actual prices achieved by auctioneers in the first six months of 2019, for the three bestselling property types - three and four-bed semis and two-bed apartments - finds, when compared with the previous six months, there has been a drop of -1.34pc for 3-bed semis and -1.68pc for 4-bed semis. Two bed apartments have, on the other hand, seen an average increase of 1.35pc, with the cities of Cork, Galway and Kilkenny experiencing a much higher increase for this property type.

However, in Wicklow the change in the six month period has been: - 8.58pc for 2-bed apartments; - 1.52 pc for 3-bed semi-detached houses; - 4.73 pc for 4-bed semi-detached homes.

Pat Davitt I.P.A.V. Chief Executive said it is still the case that second-hand properties in many areas of the country can be bought for less than the cost of building the same property. "In some areas the difference is substantial," he said.

And he said there is no question of a new property bubble emerging. "The factor that led to the quick ramping up of prices is the same one that is now prompting would-be buyers to hold back. It's a question of confidence, people want to buy at a reasonable price but on the other hand there is a

fear of paying too much and getting caught in negative equity, a sentiment that runs very deep and has become intergenerational since the financial crisis."

IPAV, in a pre-Budget submission, called on the Minister for Finance to support that the 3.5 times loan-to-income threshold for mortgages be increased to 4.5 times income, to ensure those on lower incomes who can afford mortgage repayments are able to access mortgage finance and not be forced into the rental market where rents far exceed the price of servicing a mortgage.

Mr Davitt said the outcome of I.P.A.V.'s Property Barometer would appear to indicate that the rules are pushing buyers to purchase apartments or to locate in areas with comparatively lower prices.

"Young people are severely disadvantaged in the current market," Mr Davitt said. "At a time when they are but starting in their careers large numbers of them are paying rents at levels way beyond the price of servicing a mortgage and are trying to save for a mortgage deposit at the same time, an impossible task for many.

"For those on incomes of €30,000 - €40,000 it is practically impossible to buy any form of property even though they can well afford to."

IPAV has also called on the Minister to extend the Help-to-Buy scheme, due to expire at the end of this year, for a further two years.

"Historically home ownership has delivered personal wealth and security into old age for Irish people. However, the risk now with recent trends is that such wealth will pass to vulture funds and other institutional purchasers of developments," he said.

"In the current market the Help-to-Buy scheme is a beacon of light for young aspiring buyers very many of whom would not otherwise be able to purchase their own homes," he said.

Home ownership rates in Ireland are falling from the high levels of over 80pc to 70pc today and could be expected to drop to 60pc in 10 years' time, unless current policy changes, I.P.A.V. warns in its pre-Budget submission.

IPAV is also calling for the scheme to be extended to cover second hand homes, saying it would encourage a more natural movement in the market. The Help-to-Buy scheme provides for a refund of Income Tax and DIRT paid over the previous four tax years, limited to a maximum of 5pc of the purchase price of a home up to a value of €500,000. The refund is capped at €20,000.



Saoirse Ronan's Greystones house 'Pine Lodge'

Saoirse Ronan's Greystones house on market for €1.5m

If you're looking for a luxury home in one of the most sought after areas in the country, with an added splash of Hollywood glamour, you're in luck, as Saoirse Ronan's Greystones home Pine Lodge has just been put on the market.

Bought in 2017 for €1.4m from economist Alan and Caroline Gray

of Gray's café, the five bedroom Edwardian home is now on the market for €1.5m.

It is thought that Saoirse is spending more time in New York and London after buying a €1.5m property in Notting Hill last year.

Galvin Property who are dealing with the sale say 'a property of this calibre and distinction is not often available in

such a private setting and prestigious location.'

Built in the 1970s

Pine Lodge is just under

5,000 sq ft and has been

redisigned and modernised by Saoirse Ronan in the last two years. The result is a luxurious stylish home with touches of New York décor.

Entry to the property

is through private electric gates along a tree lined avenue, with manicured lawns and mature

greenery. On the ground floor there are interconnecting reception rooms with sliding doors and a dining room to the front of the house with three windows overlooking the front garden and two to the side. The kitchen features a large island with white marble counter top and baby blue units. There is an unusual reading room opening to the rear patio through French doors.

The rear garden is secluded and dominated by a granite flag patio and a series of raised beds surrounded by box hedging and containing fruit trees and herbs.

Viewing of Pine

Lodge is with Galvin Property and is by appointment only.

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WICKLOW SECRETARIES STRIKE!

School secretaries across Co. Wicklow staged protests last week, demanding an end to their "humiliating" pay and conditions, which see most earning just over €12,000 a year, while being forced to sign on during school holidays. Hour-long demonstrations took place at around 250 schools across the country, after talks between trade union Forsa and the Department of Education broke down earlier in the week.

Forsa said the dispute is over the government's refusal to address a two-tier pay system that leaves most secretaries earning just €12,500 a year, with irregular, short-term contracts that force them to sign on during the summer holidays and other school breaks.

Felicity O'Dowd, the school secretary at St.

by Nick Bramhill

Kevin's N.S. in Greystones, said she felt she had no choice but to strike. Flanked by teachers and parents, the popular staff member explained: "I am working 22 years and I am entitled to no sick pay and no pension. I have no recognised pay scale and every year have had to

argue my case to get decent pay.

"In the beginning this was very tough to do. Now I do it and usually fall out with people over it. I am humiliated every year asking for what should be a right."

Under the current pay regime which is in operation since 1978, only a minority of school secretaries are employed



John Brady TD supporting the school secretaries protest at St Brigid's National School in Greystones

directly by the Department of Education, giving them full rights to sick pay and pensions and other benefits. However, the bulk of staff - such as Felicity - are hired by school management boards.

Highlighting what she describes as "the reality of no sick pay", Felicity recalled: "I have never had sick pay, a right other members of the school community are entitled to. For me, this meant that during my working life I underwent 26 hours of radiotherapy without missing a day of work."

She added: "I also sign on for five weeks over the summer. Anyone who has done this will know that the process is totally humiliating and time-consuming. I am the only member of staff in my school who has to sign on."

Meanwhile, the government said Forsa's pay claim is a "follow-on" claim from the current pay agreement", which

runs until the end of the year, adding that the union's claim will be considered shortly. Forsa's head of education, Andy Pike, said: "The two-tier low-pay regime for school secretaries has been in force for more than four decades. In that time we've seen little if any serious engagement from the Department of Education."

Social Democrats Cllr Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Education and Skills to bring school secretaries across Wicklow under the remit of the Department of Education and employ them directly.

Cllr Whitmore said "Any parent of school-going children will know that school secretaries are the heart of any school community. They are the first people our children see in the morning, and they are people that help ensure the smooth running of any school. What

many people won't be aware of though, is that most school secretaries are employed by their local board of management, often on poorly paid and irregular short-term contracts. In fact, most school secretaries are not entitled to basic things like sick pay or pensions, and have to sign on during the school holidays.

"There were schools taking part in the protest today all across Wicklow, which included St. Kevin's and St. Brigid's in Greystones. I was delighted to see the local support that the secretaries received at the school gates this morning, with many parents and teachers taking the time to stand with them. This reflects the high regard with which our school secretaries are held, and acknowledges their often unsung but hugely important work.

It's time that the Department of Education value the important work that these secretaries do and ensure they are treated fairly and directly employed by the Department."

Speaking after visiting a number of pickets in County Wicklow on Friday, John Brady TD said "Our School Secretaries are invaluable members of our school and our communities, often working above and beyond their job requirements. They work on the front line, and are the first port of call for parents and students. Without them, our schools would simply not function."

"I want them to know that they have the full support of myself and Sinn Féin. Their claim is entirely justified. All they ask is to be employed as public servants, with the same contractual security as their colleagues. They have low pay, no holiday

pay, no sick pay, no real job security, certainly no occupational pensions, and no access to public service salary scales. The state should be a leader in providing fair pay and conditions for employees, but school secretaries have fallen through the cracks."

Fianna Fail's Stephen Donnelly TD also announced his support for school secretaries. He commented, "While school secretaries are commonly the longest serving, most trusted and often the most indispensable members of staff, they are utterly neglected under the current model of employment."

"At present, just 10% of school secretaries are employed directly by the Department of Education, with the remaining 90% being paid out of school funding. Many spend the summer months on social welfare and face serious restrictions when taking sick leave. The current model therefore denies secretaries the kind of

security that workers in this country should be able to take for granted.

"Most worryingly, the government appears to be dragging its heels when it comes to finding a resolution to this issue. While the Workplace Relations Commission has mandated that talks take place between the government and the Unions, there has been no sign of any urgency on the government's part to make these talks happen."

"It is imperative that the Minister ensures that these negotiations take place as a matter of urgency and that the Department engages meaningfully with a view to finding a solution to this issue."

"While the Minister has stated that he recognised this as a matter of concern in the past, talk is cheap and real action is now needed if the future employment prospects of school secretaries are to be protected", Deputy Donnelly concluded.

'Arklow ideal location for new Garda Divisional Headquarters'

Billy Timmins, Fine Gael election candidate, stated that Arklow is the ideal location for a new Garda Divisional Headquarters.

"With the Garda Divisions of counties Wicklow and Wexford about to be amalgamated following an operational review of the structures there will be a necessity to develop a new Headquarters," said Timmins.

The respective headquarters are currently in Bray and Wexford town (a time distance of about 80 mins). Arklow is midway between both and is ideally located to cover both counties."

Timmins said that he was an advocate of the original change to county structures and he is hopeful that the new proposals will improve Garda operations.



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore supporting the secretaries' strike, with Felicity O'Dowd, School Secretary of St. Kevin's National School in Greystones

kwetb

KILDARE AND WICKLOW EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Invites expressions of interest from persons interested in becoming **Members** of its

Finance Committee

Candidates for appointment must submit written expressions of interest setting out their suitability, including finance/accounting and governance experience.

Further information is available on our website: www.kwetb.ie

Closing date for applications is **Friday 27th September 2019 at 12:00 noon**.

Signed: Dr. Deirdre Keyes
Chief Executive

**Kildare and Wicklow ETB, Level 5,
Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park,
Naas, Co. Kildare.
045 988000**

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27th - 29th SEPTEMBER 2019
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PATCHWORK EXHIBITION

An exhibition of work by members of Wicklow Patchwork Group will take place at

**St Matthews Church
Newtownmountkennedy
Co Wicklow**

Friday 27th September to Sunday 29th September 2019

12.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. Friday

10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Saturday

12.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. Sunday

This free exhibition shows the diversity of work by members of Wicklow Patchwork Group from the enthusiastic beginner to the very experienced quilter. The Group meets monthly in the Community Hall in Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow

A raffle will be held during the exhibition for a Collaborative Quilt made by members in aid of our 2019 Charity – Lakers Social & Recreational Club.

All welcome!

www.wicklowpatchwork.ie | admin@wicklowpatchwork.ie

Community groups facing closure due to insurance hikes

Soaring insurance premiums and increased rates are threatening community groups across Co. Wicklow. Co Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) has warned that rising insurance costs and increased red tape are threatening the county's community and voluntary groups, as the Public Participation Networks published the results of a major survey which clearly illustrates the grip the insurance crisis has taken on Irish society. Nearly half of community and voluntary groups have had to reduce their activities due to rising insurance costs.

Commenting on the publication Helen Howes of the Wicklow PPN said "The figures in this survey merely confirm what we are hearing every day of the week. The infrastructure of volunteering in Ireland is being threatened by spiralling insurance costs, unavailability of insurance cover and increasingly unreasonable exclusions and conditions. While SME's typically close if they are hit with massive premium increases, community groups tend to wind down key activities and soldier on. This means much of the impact of this crisis has been hidden up to now because they are not closing. In this context it is shocking to see 47% of survey respondents saying they may have to close up."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said much more urgency is needed from government to tackle soaring insurance premiums that are damaging small businesses and social enterprises around the country.

"Voluntary groups are the backbone of our communities, providing play spaces, activity centres, and community,

recreation and sports facilities. The government is standing by while they are being driven into the ground by rising insurance premiums. If these soaring insurance costs continue unabated, it will have a devastating impact on the fabric of communities all around the country.

"In Wicklow, small groups are finding it increasingly hard to pay for insurance costs. It is made even more difficult by the fact that many of the grants available from the Government to provide these essential community services cannot be used for administration costs, such as insurance.

"The withdrawal, in August, of British insurer 'Leisure Insure' from the Irish market is also hitting Wicklow's leisure sector hard and many are at risk of closure because of difficulties in sourcing reasonably costed insurance for their activities. One example given to an Oireachtas Committee earlier this year showed that that a child's train operator for shopping centres faces an annual insurance bill of around €30,000 in Ireland, but

Sinn Féin TD, John Brady, described the insurance industry as one that "lacks transparency, accountability, regulation and is forcing businesses in Wicklow close due to the unjustified insurance premium hikes".

Deputy Brady said "Consumers and businesses are seeing their

insurance premiums rise. This is leading to many households being squeezed and businesses across Wicklow facing closure as a result of soaring public liability premiums. I have been working with a number of Wicklow based businesses that provide outdoor leisure and adventure activities and they have seen their insurance premiums rise to completely unsustainable levels. In one case their insurance has increased from €2k to over €30k in a six year period."

Brady continued "It is not just businesses that are affected; the recent survey by Public Participation Networks has cast a light on the depth of the insurance crisis in the voluntary and community sector too. In the recent survey it was revealed that 83% of groups in the sector have faced high insurance premium hikes in the past 3 years, with a significant number seeing their premium costs more than double.

"Of these groups, 30% are now paying more than €1,500 annually for insurance cover. As a result, groups across the State that run community centres, sports clubs and services for older people are facing imminent closure or a wind down in their operations. The Government has failed to act with any sense of urgency, communities, jobs and the local economy in Wicklow and across the State are being destroyed by their inaction.

"It is time for drastic action to tackle an insurance crisis. In the adventure and leisure industry alone 135 businesses across the state have either closed or are facing closure in the coming months due to Government inaction. If immediate action is not taken more businesses will close, this will impact on tourism and the local economy across Wicklow. It could also decimate the community sector and the fantastic work that is done in every town and village in Wicklow."



Cormac Breslin from Arklow (2nd from right) is commencing ESB's prestigious Graduate Development programme. Cormac is pictured at his induction in The Castleknock Hotel in Dublin with Jerry O'Sullivan, Deputy Chief Executive of ESB, Aoife Mulvaney, and Adrian Doyle. They will be joined by 74 other graduates who will excel their careers in a range of disciplines including Finance, IT, HR, Commercial, Marketing and Engineering across the organisation.

'WE WILL SIMPLY GO BROKE'

In more bad news for County Wicklow's small businesses, many were informed they are facing increased commercial rates next year as certificates were issued by the Valuation Office this month.

Fionnán Fáil TD Stephen Donnelly said "I have been contacted by some amazing businesses in our county who've warned me they'll simply go broke if they're forced to pay the kind of rates that they're currently facing. The Valuation Office, which decides the size of the payments, issued Certificates to Wicklow premises indicating the bills that people will be hit with next year. Since then I've been inundated with worried phone calls and emails from local businesses to say that their rates are due for massive hikes which have the potential to make them go under. In some cases, the charges are set to more than double.

The advice I'd offer these people is not to give up yet. They have until the 14th of October to appeal their quote to the independent Valuation Tribunal. In the meantime, I have written to the Valuation Office and the CEO of Wicklow County Council calling for an urgent review of the current rates revaluation of all non-domestic property in County Wicklow.

"I believe there are four simple steps we can take to avoid more problems in this area. We want the level of rate increase on an individual business to be capped.

Any hike should be staggered at the discretion of the Local Authority over a five-year period. This will mean the increase is limited and spread over time rather than the current process of a single, large increase.

"We want to see properly planned Rate Relief Schemes for Town Centres. We need to secure balanced regional development. We propose putting a rate relief scheme on a statutory footing to allow Local Authorities to reduce or eliminate rates on new businesses in town centres and rural areas for up to two years. Businesses that convert upper floors into accommodation should also be eligible for rate relief.

"We want an Inability to Pay Clause. Many businesses struggle with cash flow issues or short-term profitability problems. We propose putting in place a formal appeal mechanism for businesses to the local authority to restructure debt payments on the basis of an inability to pay.

"We want to see Increased Efficiency. The Government should ensure that every local authority should prevent job losses and allow for enhanced data collection, choice of direct debit payments rather than two tranches of payments to help business cope with cash flow issues. This will save jobs, boost efficiency, help raise revenue for local services and enable businesses to plan better. Remember the new rates won't apply until January 1st 2020. It's not too late to change this."

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Audit and Risk Committee

Candidates for appointment must submit written expressions of interest setting out their suitability, including finance/accounting and governance experience.

Further information is available on our website: www.kwetb.ie

Closing date for applications is **Friday 27th September 2019 at 12:00 noon**.

Signed: Dr. Deirdre Keyes
Chief Executive

**Kildare and Wicklow ETB, Level 5,
Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park,
Naas, Co. Kildare.**

045 988000



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

National Women's Enterprise Day takes place this year on October 17th with the theme of 'Making It Happen'. Although women have always contributed to the economic productivity of Ireland, they are still under-represented in the corporate world. Fewer women are self employed and start up their own businesses.

For this reason, it is vital for women to come together and support and promote women led businesses. There are many networks where women in business can meet in a supportive environment. Usually these groups will offer networking opportunities as well as training, mentoring and opportunities for women to call on other women with specialist expertise for help.

There are many businesses across the county being set up and run by inspirational women. This feature focuses on just a few.

Local Enterprise Offices are organising 17 entrepreneurial events across the country under the theme of 'Making It Happen', funded by the Government of Ireland in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and Local Authorities.

To mark National Day-time Emmy nominee, award winning author, noted TV chef and innovative business organiser an event in woman. Figures released by Local Enterprise Offices to coincide with the launch reveal that 21, 859 female participants took part in training programmes with their LEO in 2018, an increase of 18% on 2017 figures. There was also a big increase in the number of female

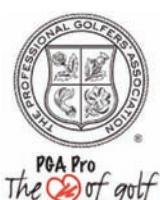


Pictured is Joanne Hession, Entrepreneurs Academy; Lorraine Greene, Programme Manager, AIB Women in Enterprise Programme and Etáin Moran from Wicklow based 'Oxygen Care' who was a finalist in the Strategic Growth category at the AIB Women in Enterprise Awards 2019. Almost 80 companies took part in the eight month programme which kicked off in December 2018 and saw businesses take part in a series of masterclasses across Ireland which aimed to enable participants to improve their leadership and communication skills.



Louise D'Arcy PGA took over the Pro shop and coaching at Wicklow Golf Club in December 2017.

Bringing her 25 years of coaching experience to the club, Louise has brought the Junior programme to Wicklow Golf Club and has coached approximately 250 junior golfers. In her short-time with the club, Louise has coached a lot of new beginners, both men and women, encouraging them to the game of golf.



The of golf

Louise is passionate about her sport and is really enjoying the retail side of her business that comes with the Pro shop. Louise offers private lessons, re-gripping and club repair services, along with all the golf equipment and apparel the avid golfer may need.

This month's shop special is an offer on all summer T-Shirts. Call in to see Louise or phone her on **087 7510727**.

Tel: 087 75 10 727 or email louisedarcypga@yahoo.ie

Pretty and Pampered

SARAHMARIE HOWES
AWARD WINNING MUA & BEAUTY SPECIALIST

Sarahmarie Howes of Pretty and Pampered make up studio in Wicklow Town is a multi-award winning make up artist.

Sarahmarie's most recent achievement was to be crowned with the 'Makeup Salon of the Year' award at the fourth Irish Hair & Beauty Awards in September 2019.

Sarahmarie gained vast experience working on the international t.v and film circuit before deciding to set up Pretty and Pampered in 2015. The makeup salon is based in Beefit Women's Centre, The Anchorage, Wicklow Town and is open by appointment.

Away from pampering the faces of Wicklow and film stars, Sarahmarie is a busy mum to her little boy.

To book your appointment phone/text 086 2271429 or email sarahmarieh@live.com or message on Facebook.



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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

entrepreneurs benefiting from business mentoring through their Local Enterprise Office last year - from 3,832 in 2017 up to 4,565 in 2018 (up by 19%).

Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation said: "Ireland has some of the world's finest women in business. We want to showcase their wonderful work to encourage more women to get into business. Supporting and fostering female entrepreneurship is a priority in Future Jobs Ireland, our whole-of-Government plan to prepare our businesses and workers for the future. Last year, the LEOs provided training to 22,000 female entrepreneurs but



we want to see these numbers grow even more."

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow said: "We want to highlight all the supports that can 'make it happen' for women in Wicklow that want to

start or grow their business over the next year. It's great to see that nearly 40% of new business owners in Ireland are women, showing that the gender gap is narrowing according to the latest Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report. Through

the 31 Local Enterprise Offices, we saw a higher take-up of supports by female entrepreneurs last year - from those that were looking to start a new business venture by themselves to those that wanted to grow an existing family business."

Accelerate the growth of your start-up

Enterprise Ireland's final Competitive Start Fund (CSF) of 2019 opens to all sectors for applications on Tuesday, September 24th. The €750,000 fund will provide up to €50,000 in equity funding for up to 15 successful applicants. The fund closes to applications at 3pm on Tuesday, 8th October.

The All Sector Competitive Start Fund is part of Enterprise Ireland's strategy for increasing the number of High Potential Start-Up companies (HPSUs) that have the qualities to achieve key commercial and technical milestones, including evaluating overseas market opportunities, building prototypes, developing market entry plans and securing third party investment.

Individual entrepreneurs, early stage companies or prospective businesses that are active in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors are being encouraged to apply.

Those operating within subsectors such as Internet, Games, Apps, Mobile, SaaS, Cloud Computing, Enterprise Software, Lifesciences, Cleantech and Industrial Products are also eligible.

The Manager of Enterprise Ireland's High Potential Start-Ups Unit, Jennifer Melia added: "In an increasingly challenging business environment, the provision of Enterprise Ireland's funding and advisory supports has never been more crucial."

Commenting on the announcement, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD said: "The funding supports offered by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation through Enterprise Ireland contribute greatly to nurturing the start-up eco-system in Ireland and supports like the Competitive Start Fund can often be the boost that a start-up needs to develop and realise the potential of their idea."

Full details on the All Sectors Competitive Start Fund, including the application form and eligibility criteria, can be accessed on the Enterprise Ireland website: www.enterpriseireland.com/CSFAllSectors


FINE GAEL
Cllr Irene Winters

Cllr Irene Winters was elected to Wicklow County Council in 2009 having been continuously re-elected, including in the most recent 2019 elections. Outside of politics Irene ran a successful travel agency alongside her mother in Wicklow Town for 20 years. Irene has served as a Director of Wicklow County Tourism. In June 2013 she became a board member of Wicklow Enterprise Park and Wicklow Gaol where she succeeded in re-establishing the right of the public to have representation on these boards in the future.

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 087 244 3610 |Winters@wicklowcoco.ie   

The Ultrasound Suite

BRAY - GREYSTONES - GRAFTON ST

The Ultrasound Suite is a private ultrasound service based within 3 GP clinics: the Bray Women's Health Centre, Greystones Medical Centre and Grafton Medical Practice.

Deborah Sudding, Clinical Specialist Sonographer, started the clinic 10 years ago with the purpose of offering immediate private ultrasound appointments at affordable prices in convenient locations. Examples of ultrasound scans they perform on a daily basis would be abdominal, pelvic, thyroid, fertility, early pregnancy, detailed anomaly, gender determination and 3d4d scans. The sonographers who work in these clinics are cherry-picked by Deborah and extremely proficient at what they do, offering patients a pleasant experience while producing high quality diagnostic scans.

www.theultroundsuite.ie

FLORAL AFFAIRS

Owner Anna Hayden has brought her daughter Chloe's dream of owning their own flower shop to reality after they opened the doors of floral affairs on 1st Dec 2018.

Anna brings her 10-years of experience as a qualified florist to the town, and her experience working in one of Dublin top florists has equipped her with the skills and knowledge that makes Floral Affairs so special & Personal.

Anna was delighted to have been short-listed for best new Business start up awards this month.

Delivery areas covered include Arklow, Aughrim & Avoca

32 Main Street, Arklow
Tel: 086 217 2659
E:floralaffairs.arklow@gmail.com






Well done to Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh player Kate Slattery who represented Wicklow, Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh and Bray Emmets (under 12 Camogie and football player) in Croke Park this summer. Kate played at half time in the GAA All Ireland Senior Championship hurling semi-final between Limerick and Kilkenny.

Cumann na mBunscol Wicklow

Wicklow Times Participation Day (5th and 6th Class Girls Football)

The opening fixture of the Cumann na mBunscol Year is upon us - The Wicklow Times Participation Day Blitz in Girls Football for 5th & 6th classes. The Blitz will take place in Bray Emmets GAA club on Thursday 19th September starting at 11:45am. There is no age limit and games are 9-aside.

There are no goalkeepers so scoring on the day will be points only.

Date: Thursday 19th September

Time: 11:45am

Location: Bray Emmets GAA Club

Rules: 9-aside, no goal-keeper.

Please let Ronan Keddy, Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Oifigeach Peil na mBan know through email/text (086 3021594) by Tuesday 17th September if your school will be in attendance and how many teams you will be sending. On the day, team mentors may be needed to referee games - thank you in advance for your co-operation. Hopefully we will see plenty of schools represented on the day.

Please note change of day for Blitzes is now Thursdays

5th and 6th Class Boys Football Participation Day

26th September at 11.45 a.m. in Bray GAA grounds and Kilcoole GAA Grounds/Venue to be confirmed - Boys' football blitz, nine-a-side and no age limit. Points only no goalkeeper.

Camogie League Day

3rd October at 11.45 a.m. in Bray GAA grounds. Nine-a-side and no age limit. Points only, no goalkeeper.

Boys' Hurling Blitz Day

10th October - at 11.45 a.m. in Bray GAA grounds. Nine-a-side and no age limit. Points only no goalkeeper.

Wicklow Times Participation Day (3rd and 4th Class Girls Football)

17th October at 11.45 a.m. in Bray GAA grounds - Girls' football blitz, nine-a-side and no age limit. Points only, no goalkeeper. 6th Class Young Whistlers can used.

3rd and 4th Class Boys Football Participation Day

24th October at 11.45 a.m. in Bray GAA grounds and Kilcoole GAA Grounds/venue to be confirmed - Boys' football blitz, nine-a-side and no age limit. Points only, no goalkeeper. 6th Class Young Whistlers can used.

Tráth na gCeist

Thursday 7th November at 7.30 p.m. in Lynhams, Laragh

Please send results, reports or photos to pro.cnmb.wicklow@gaa.ie. Keep up to date with all Cumann na mBunscol news in Wicklow on www.cnmbwicklow.ie

Roundwood boy crowned Mini Moto Champion

Eight-year-old Fionn Stephens from Roundwood was crowned Irish Mini Moto Champion 2019 after winning all three races at the final round of the Irish Minibikes Championship in Athboy on Saturday 14th September.

It was an 8 round championship that kicked off in March in Mondello Park and took Fionn to various circuits in both the north and south of Ireland.

Fionn also took part in the world Mini Moto championship earlier this year which took place in Benidorm, and he took home a very credible 4th place.

Fionn is a third generation motorcycle racer, his father competed at national level in both short circuits and

Motox in the 90's and 00's and his grandfather competed on short circuit's and road races in the 70's and 80's, after racing motorcycles he turned his hand to jet skis and became multiple British champion.

In 2020 Fionn will be entering his 5th racing season with the aim of entering the British Cool Fab championship, and the European Mini Moto championship, and also defending his Irish championship crown.



Fionn Stephens races across the finish line

My day in Croke Park



Pictured is Eoin Lawlor at Croke Park

Cycling Ireland launch community bike rides in Wicklow

Cycling Ireland has partnered with AXA Insurance to create AXA Community Bike Rides, an exciting new programme that inspires people all over Wicklow to get out on their bikes.

Community Bike Rides are free social leisure rides for adults of all ages and abilities. A trained Ride Leader will ensure your cycle is both safe and enjoyable. Participants can choose from 'Easy Going' or 'Challenging' rides meaning there is a distance and pace to suit everyone.

Participants can earn free rewards when they take part. Rewards include buffs, water bottles and technical t-shirts and you can claim your first reward after just 10 rides.

Speaking about the programme Matt McKerrow, Cycling Ireland CEO commented: "AXA Community Bike Rides are a fantastic way for new and returning cyclists to enjoy the sport in a safe and supportive environment. We are looking forward to working with AXA to grow the AXA Community Bike Rides programme over the next 3 years and inspire even more people to enjoy the benefits of cycling."

AXA Insurance dac CEO, Philip Bradley said: "We're delighted to have partnered with Cycling Ireland to support local communities. AXA Community Bike Rides was developed with the purpose of inspiring people all over Ireland to get on their bikes and enjoy a healthier and better life. This local, free programme gives people the opportunity to get regular exercise in a safe and controlled environment, where the group are there to help and support each other."

AXA Community Bike Rides participant, Dermot Gaynor is encouraging people to sign up for a local ride: "It's great fun and a fantastic way to get regular exercise. You don't have to be an accomplished cyclist to join in, once you are comfortable on the bike you will enjoy it."

"The great thing about AXA Community Bike Rides is that you are looked after by the Ride Leader, you never feel like you're not able for it and you make lots of new friends."

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

There 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.

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.



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 Major Award in Employability Skills.

* Employer Based Training, which is a job seeking course, which leads to a QQI Level 4 or 5 in Employment Skills.

* Skills for Education & Employment which supports people to further education or to (re)enter the workforce. This is done in an encouraging learning environment that promotes wellness and increases confidence. This leads to a QQI Level 4 Major Award in Employment or Retail Skills.

* IT and Business Administration which leads to a QQI Level 5 Major Award 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. 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.

Lakers Sports & Recreation club

Lakers Sports & Recreation Club say they would like to "send a message of thanks to the community for its sympathy and continued support since the fire on 5th October 2018 that devastated our centre and burned our buses."

"Since then we have established ourselves well at the Old School House, and are making some great headway with building works, equipment, member activities and more. We even have two brand new buses. We couldn't have done it without you all! Without you our members would not have been able to continue their activities including sports, art, pottery, drama, computers, gardening and many more!"

We are commemorating the anniversary of the fire with our Annual Glendalough Walk where we hope to raise €5,000 to cover the cost of fuelling our bus service for the year, which is a vital service used to bring our members to and from their services to our activities safely. Our transport costs, especially insurance, have risen significantly since last year. Registration is free. We just ask walkers to raise funds or donate to our club for this great cause. Contact us by email (fundraising@lakers.ie) call or download a sponsorship form lakers.ie/lakers-glendalough-walk/

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 member's 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 for more information on how you can help support Open Door.

National Learning Network Need training to get a job?

National Learning Network in Bray has a range of free training courses to give you the skills you need to get and keep a job. Our courses combine classroom based learning and on-the-job training and offer you the personalised support you need to get a nationally recognised QQI qualification.

If you need extra support, if you have had an accident, illness or injury or have a disability or mental health concern, then NLN can help.

We are now enrolling for:

- Employer Based Training
- Vocational Skills
- IT and Business Administration

Find out more at:

01 2829643 | bray@nln.ie | www.nln.ie | facebook.com/NLN Ireland

Job seekers under 26 may receive a training allowance. These courses are funded by the KWETB. Eligibility criteria apply.



Free training
Enrolling now

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.

Ph: 01 286 7123
E: opendoor@eircom.net
www.opendoor.ie

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:
086 872 9255

LAKERS
A BIG THANK YOU: To the local community, businesses, volunteers, members, families and everyone who has supported us over the last 10 months!

GET IN TOUCH

Lakers Social & Recreational Club Ltd.
The Old Schoolhouse, Eglinton Rd.,
Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 P6X9, Ireland
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info@lakers.ie
www.lakers.ie
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Outgoing Wicklow Rotary President Tom Mulvihill with new President Donal Magner at the Wicklow Rotary Club's President's Dinner in Tinakilly House, Rathnew

Rathdrum and Ashford to represent Wicklow in National Enterprising Town Awards

Rathdrum and Ashford have been nominated to represent Co. Wicklow in the National Enterprising Town Awards.

Rathdrum has been nominated in the small (less than 2,000) population category. Ashford will represent County Wicklow in the Small/Medium population (2001 to 5000) category. On Monday 30th September, the judges will visit Ashford in the morning and Rathdrum in the afternoon.

Following a successful application to enter the awards, a small group of local representatives in Rathdrum have worked closely with Wicklow County Council to prepare for the judges visit on 30th September.

A Public Information Evening was held recently, kindly hosted by Avon Motors, with speakers from the Bank of Ireland, Arklow Municipal District and Blessington Town Team (Blessington won the Leinster title in 2017) along with Cllr Pat Kennedy.

Speaking on the night, Cllr Kennedy said: "Rathdrum is a town in which the business community and the greater community at large are intrinsically linked, each supporting and encouraging the other to grow and develop into a sustainable community that can continue to build together for years to come. Wicklow County Council is encouraging this synergy and are creating an environment in which it can flourish".

The judges' visit to Rathdrum allows the team to make a presentation showing why Rathdrum is an enterprising town; highlight activities in business, tourism, lifestyle, community, enterprise and look at ways in which these areas are intrinsically linked. Leadership within the town and partnership between groups in Rathdrum and Wicklow County Council will also be addressed. The team aims to present Rathdrum as a positive and productive place to do busi-

ness and a fantastic community in which to reside, work and spend free time.

The judges will visit Ashford for a three-hour period with a tour of the area taking in the beautiful location, range of businesses and strength of community spirit. The tour will be followed by a presentation to the judges and some time for them to meet local business and community representatives.

As part of the presentation Sean Treacy has agreed to produce a film focussing on the many and varied positive aspects of life in Ashford. Sean is a local 14-year-old who won Ireland's Young Senior Filmmaker of the Year at the Fresh Film Festival 2019 held in Limerick. He has a huge following on his YouTube channel Stellar. Ashford is extremely lucky to have such a talent assisting them with its Enterprise Town Awards entry.

Other highlights on the day will include a visit to Mount Usher Gardens, a private tour of Ashford Studios and an escape to the Ashford Park playground.

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow Municipal District, explained that "Ashford has a strong mix of both established businesses and dedicated community volunteers. This will prove invaluable when demonstrating all the positive attributes that Ashford possesses."

Mr Maurice Ramsay, Chairman of the newly established Ashford Community Forum commented: "I am delighted that Ashford has been nominated for this national competition as it gives an excellent opportunity to showcase all that has been achieved in the areas of enterprise and community by our collaborative approach with the local authority, local businesses and the wider community".

New president of Wicklow Rotary commits to supporting community projects

Donal Magner, the newly elected president of the Rotary Club of Wicklow told members and guests at the President's Dinner in Tinakilly House Hotel last Saturday that he aims to continue the club's social and charitable work in Wicklow.

Taking over from Tom Mulvihill "who has served Rotary with distinction," he said: "We have supported a diverse number of charities and local projects since the club was founded in 1988 and we will continue to support these but this year I'd like to place emphasis on two initiatives aimed at young people," he said.

"These are the Youth Leadership Development Awards and Foróige's the Way Project. The Youth Leadership Awards provide opportunities for Wicklow third level students to debate with fellow students across Europe in forums such as Dail Eireann and the European Parliament. We also support the aims of Foróige and the Wicklow Youth Mental Health Initiative in providing services to assist

young people in raising self esteem and dealing with issues arising from poverty, social exclusion, youth crime, early school leaving and substance abuse."

He also outlined the club's international

dimension in educational and health programmes. "When Wicklow Rotary was founded, the crippling disease of polio was prevalent in 125 countries but today it has been eradicated in 122 countries

with a vaccine programme that has reached more than 2.5 billion children," he said. "We in Wicklow have joined with Rotary clubs around the world in this success story which has raised €1.4 billion over the years with help from the Gates Foundation."

Mr Magner paid tribute to Rotary members and local organisations for



Rev Trevor Sargent and Aine Sargent with Tedi and William Cross at the Wicklow Rotary Club's President's Dinner in Tinakilly House, Rathnew

Holyhead visitors in Greystones

The Greystones/Holyhead Twinning partners were in Greystones recently for a social visit and to finalise future travel arrangements.

Sue Williams and Dewi Thomas managed to catch up with old friends including former Mayors and Councillors, Stephen Stokes, Nicola Lawless and Kathleen Kelleher, former councillor Ciaran Hayden and Cllr Gerry Walsh, as well as Greystones Municipal District Administrator, Myra Porter and Kay Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District Secretary.

The highlight of the weekend was their evening at the Whale Theatre where they attended the Joxer Daly Esq. show featuring Greystones' own Phelim Drew.

Kathleen Kelleher said "We are always delighted to have our Holyhead friends to come visit us. They mixed business with pleasure as they were finalising future travel plans. The Holyhead Male Voice Choir will be over to see us on 23rd November. The Holyhead choir will join with Newtownmountkennedy Male Voice Choir. This will be a fabulous concert with both choirs will be held in Greystones Rugby Club.

"Holyhead Santa will also travel to participate in the Greystones Christmas Lighting Ceremony - another great weekend to look forward to!"



Pictured at Whale Theatre were Dewi Thomas, Sue Williams, Phelim Drew, Ewan Macadam, Kate Macadam and Kathleen Kelleher.

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Stephen and John Cullen of Multimetals Recycling Ltd with Dominican College students Mia Christian, Robyn Brennan and Sorcha Cronin who visited the facility for a tour last week



Rockhard Beauty has recently opened up in fit4less gym on the quinsborough Bray, Based on the third floor.

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Wicklow designer launches new eco friendly baby range

Lil & Izzy Boutique is the newest sustainable Irish babywear brand on the block and its creator is a Bray based designer and entrepreneur.

The online store, which launched successfully during August on lilandizzyboutique.com, offers high quality sustainable baby products with functional, unique and clever designs, designed using premium organic cotton.

Katie Brandon Byrne is the designer and creator behind Lil & Izzy Boutique. Katie said,

"After becoming a mother, I became much more eco-conscious. I started to really think about my options before buying from a brand. My youngest daughter Isabelle has hyper-sensitive skin and allergies and I found the

choice of sustainable and organic cotton baby products in Ireland very limited. So I went about designing my own. Several months later, Lil & Izzy Boutique was born! When we choose to buy organic natural fabrics over conventional fabrics, the impact is not just on our babies skin but on our planet too!"

The current product offering, now available online, includes a baby grow, bib, hat and blanket in boy, girl and gender neutral options. The range, which is certified by OEKO Tex, starts from €7 for an organic cotton bib.



Cannabidiol.ie

CBD Nutrition Ireland on South Quay in Wicklow Town wish to thank everyone for their support and custom over the last two years.

The store has been open one year and in business two years. To celebrate, next month they will be having a weekend of offers, 50 free gifts and a tasting information day.

Browse their wide range of Irish made products from Oils, Skin Salve, Pet Vet, Seeds, Protein, Vapes and much more or shop online for nationwide delivery. Call in for a free sample of CBD/Hemp tea and coffee.

Also in store they have hemp organic vegan clothing and accessories along with natural bamboo and coconut products; toothbrushes, straws, soaps & lots more.

For more information, see www.cannabidiol.ie, call 0404 71023 or email sales@cannabidiol.ie. They are open everyday from 10.30am to 5.30pm and also deliver nationwide. Follow them on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter for upsates

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Brush up on your digital literacy skills with CCR students

A digital training programme began in Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole last week that sees transition year students provide free one-to-one digital learning support to adult learners.

The 121digital program has been helping adults in Ireland to understand their digital devices, such as laptops, tablets, smartphones, e-readers, since 2010.

This programme is based on using the skills and enthusiasm of young people, who find the internet easy, and getting them to share their digital skills with local adults. The big benefit of this program is

that each learner is partnered with a transition year student, so the learning can be completely tailored to what the learner would like to know about. Some, for example, may simply like to know how to get online to read the news or perhaps to Skype with family that are overseas.

All local adults can join this program, the only requirement is that you

need to bring your own device. The program will take place each Tuesday over 8 weeks, commencing Tuesday, 17th September 2019 from 09.45 - 11.00 am.

Social Democrats Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore said "I would encourage anyone that is unsure of how to use their computer or tablet to get in touch with CCA to sign up. This is a great ini-

tiative, that not only gives the students experience in teaching but also enables adults to learn at their own pace.

There are still places available so if you are interested in learning more or signing up, please contact Margaret McCormack, TY Coordinator, Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole at 01 - 287 0198 or margaretmccormack@kwetb.ie

Appeal against Council decision on Newtown housing development

An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanala against Wicklow County Council's decision to grant permission for a housing development in Newtownmountkennedy.

The Council decided in July to grant permission for a development of 43 apartments and 28 houses on Church Hill, Season Park. The application was lodged by Knockree Development Ltd. The development would also include a creche and play area, cycle parking spaces, open space and landscaping. The apartment building would be four storeys high and set back 50 metres from the road. The site, currently undeveloped and divided into two fields, is located at the northern end of the village of Newtown. To the north of the site are the gardens of the 'Season Park' residential housing development, and a large detached period house.

The council's planners report notes that there are a number of protected structures located within the immediate vicinity of the site and a number of period properties contribute to the existing streetscape.

A number of third party submissions were received by Wicklow County Council, expressing concerns about the design, height and visual impact, the impact on flora and fauna, traffic and road safety, and its impact on adjoining properties.

The planners report states that the proposed residential units have a modern suburban feel that is considered acceptable. The report acknowledges that the 3-4 storey apartment blocks will most likely alter the established character of the area, as they are a departure from the 2-storey building height which currently characterizes the area. However, it states that the impact of these structures on the streetscape will likely only be experienced at a 'very local level from the adjoining road network'. It's understood that the appeal is grounded in concerns over the height of the proposed development, as well as concerns about the south-east boundary which borders a 19th century dwelling and farmyard. The case is due to be decided by ABP in January 2020.

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The students of Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa, Glendalough, protesting outside their school on Friday to highlight the need for Climate Change action.

CLASSIFIEDS

- RECRUITMENT•
- PLANNING NOTICES•
- PRAYERS•

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. 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. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen.

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

M.M. M.C. S.M.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Patrick O'Brien, seeks permission for conversion of existing domestic garage (37.485m²) to an independent living unit which shall include: 1. New side extension to existing structure (21.42m²) incorporating 1 bedroom with ensuite bathroom, 2. New rear extension to existing structure (6.87m²) incorporating W.C facility and utility room providing rear access, 3. Modifications to the west and south facing elevations of the existing structure including as part of the proposals a new relocated front door entrance, 4. Connection to the public sewer network and public water supply and 5. All other ancillary site works at Kilmacullagh, Newtownmountkennedy, 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 Conor Davis intend to apply for permission for CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DWELLING, WASTEWATER TREATMENT UNIT AND POLISHING FILTER, NEW ENTRANCE AND ASSOCIATE WORKS at Tinnapark, Kilpeddar, 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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Closing date: 27/09/2019 (17:00)

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Emmet & Ciara Wyley seek planning permission for works at the front of 4 Mount Pleasant Villas, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 K653 comprising a new Porch/Sunroom together with associated site development works and the removal of the existing front porch. 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

PERMISSION sought by Brian & Mary Montfort for works at the side elevation and the introduction of roof lights to the front, along with the construction of a new dormer roof space to the rear of the property at 11 Ballycrone Manor, Kilcoole, 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.

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS
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PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY



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