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Tuesday 8th October 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

# BRAY IS NOT A CRIME BLACK SPOT

## CRIME MEETING HEARS OF REDUCTION OF GARDAI NUMBERS IN BRAY

More Gardai on the street and better use of Garda resources are needed: this was the take home message from the public meeting on crime held by Deputy Stephen Donnelly in Bray last week.

The meeting, held alongside Fianna Fail's spokesperson on Justice, Jim O'Callaghan and former Garda, Greystones councillor Gerry Walsh, was attended by some local residents and traders keen to put forward ideas as to how the increase in crime can be addressed.

Deputy Donnelly stated that recent figures showing an increase in crime in Bray do not mean that Bray is a crime blackspot, but rather is one of many

towns forming part of an overall worrying national trend. He wanted to hear from traders and residents he said, to hear how crime impacts their lives and livelihoods, and receive feedback about the issues they would like him to pursue at national level. He also urged people to submit their suggestions via the 2020 Policing Plan submission process by emailing bray\_DV@garda.ie.

Donnelly said that

while some very good police work is being carried out, the fact is that resources have been depleted and there has been a significant reduction in gardai in Bray and other areas in County Wicklow. With Brexit looming, there is a fear that any additional resources will go towards the border region, a concern echoed by Deputy O'Callaghan later in the meeting.

The new divisional plan



Challenge yourself and hang upside down for Mental Health Week, with an 'anti-gravity yoga' event in Bray with Anna Bootski Camp. See page 2 for details

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- which will see Counties Wicklow and Wexford merged and the HQ moved from Bray to Wexford Town is worrying for the people of Bray he said.

Donnelly added that he intends to be the 'squeaky wheel' to ensure that Bray and other towns in Wicklow do not get left behind.

Fianna Fail's spokesperson for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan, addressing the meeting, opened by stating that there are no easy solutions to crime issues. In opposition, Fianna Fail can put forward legislation and hold the government to account he said. He cited the recent changes to the Parole Act as an example of their success in getting a private member's Bill passed. This will see the minimum amount of time served for serious crimes

before being eligible for parole extended to 12 years, with the victim's family members having a statutory say.

They are also seeking to strengthen the law on knife crime along with measures to address anti-social behaviour where the gangs are congregating he said.

Deputy O'Callaghan said that he spoke to Garda Commissioner Drew Harris about the new divisional plan and was assured that there would be no downgrading of service to Bray, in fact the town should see benefits, as the reorganisation would free up more Gardai from administrative tasks.

He urged people to 'give it a chance', however, later in the meeting Deputy Donnelly said he would like the decision 'looked at' if it was not yet definite.

Oifig Fointair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office  
Cill Mhantáin - Wicklow

### Does your website need to be updated?

- Do you have a limited online presence?
- Do you have less than 10 employees?
- Do you have less than 2 million turnover?
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- Will you be in business for at least 6 months at time of drawdown?



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Date: Wednesday, 16th of October 2019  
Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Location: Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow  
Book: [www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/)



Guest Speaker  
Noel Davidson  
of **the entrepreneurs academy**

**f** @localenterprisewicklow  
**i** @leo\_wicklow  
**t** @LEOWicklow

European Union European Regional Development Fund

Kilas na hÉireann Government of Ireland



Dylan Cloke, Fionn Nally, and Zak Waldron in the Woodwork room at the Arklow CBS Open Evening last week

## Newtown Tidy Towns AGM

The Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns AGM will be held on Wednesday, 9th October in the Parkview Hotel Ballroom at 7:30pm. Discussed will be an update on the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, and a focus on caring for the environment. All members of the community are welcome to participate.

## MS Readathon

The 2019 MS Readathon will take place from 11th October to 11th November. Children, young people, teachers, schools and parents are asked to visit [www.msreadathon.ie](http://www.msreadathon.ie) to register. Funds raised by young readers around the country directly support vital services, for example the MS Ireland Information Line, (enabling one-to-one support for those newly diagnosed), physiotherapy and exercise classes to help people with MS remain independent, and respite care. The MS Care Centre is the only national respite and therapy centre for people with MS in Ireland.

## Bray Wheelers Cycling Club celebrate 70 years

Founded in 1949, Bray Wheelers CC is this year celebrating 70 years since it's foundation. On October 19th an evening with dinner, chat and music will take place in Bray Golf Club at 7:30pm to mark the occasion. They would love to see past and present members on the night. For ticket information please contact Mark Murphy at 0868104648 or Gillian Peelo at 0863628280

## Express your views about policing, safety & security

Co Wicklow PPN is inviting people to express their views about Policing, Safety & Security. The 2020 Policing Plan for Co Wicklow is now open for consultation. Co Wicklow PPN is inviting community groups and individuals to come to a meeting and have their voices heard in a Co Wicklow PPN community submission. Meetings will take place on Monday 14th October at 7.30pm in Kilcoole Community Centre and on Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm in Baltinglass Parish Centre. To book a seat contact Helen on 087 189 5145 or Grainne on 086 048 7434 or Email: [council@wicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:council@wicklowppn@gmail.com)

## Free dementia talk

There will be a Free Dementia talk on 15th October at 7pm in the Martello in Bray. Book tickets on Eventbrite.ie. Bluebird Care is launching the Understand, Respect and Respond with Care in support of the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign.

## Hollywood Notes

### Friendship Club

Every Wednesday afternoon in Hollywood Centre 2.15pm to 4.15pm. New Members always welcome.

### CAD Community Against Drugs meeting

This is a very important Meeting for Parents/Guardians/Mentors. If you care, be there, in the Hollywood Centre on 16th October 7.30pm. Speaker Bernie McDonnell, MSc Chairperson CAD.

### Date for your Diary

Hollywood Senior Citizens Committee is holding a Mini Christmas Fair end 30th November and 1st December after all Masses. Crafts and Christmas Fayre.

**ST. COEN'S**  
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**SCHOOL OPENING**  
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by  
Mr. Joe McHugh, Minister for Education

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# Hang upside down for Mental Health Week

Challenge yourself and hang upside down for Mental Health Week, with an 'anti-gravity yoga' event with Anna Boots Camp on Friday 11th October at 9:30pm at The Anchor on Bray Seafront.

World Mental Health week takes place 7th - 11th October. World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is on October 10th and this year's theme is Suicide Prevention. The crew at The Anchor, Bray's newest pub on Bray seafront has teamed up with Anna Boots Camp Bray to raise funds for Mental Health Ireland to help our local communities in Bray and throughout Wicklow.

Join Anna, local business in Bray for 10 years and certified AntiGravity Yoga expert - to have a go yourself and hang upside down at The Anchor on Friday 11th October from 9.30pm.

Mental Health Ireland volunteers will be onsite to collect donations. There will also be raffle tickets and prizes for the best Instagram photos. The hammocks will be safely hung from a Truss Rig from Extreme Structures and participants will be shown how to 'hang' safely by Anna.

Antigravity Yoga uses specially designed hammocks more commonly seen in 'silks' performances in the circus. The hammock is used to suspend and move the body in mid-air, similar to trapeze artists - but don't worry, it's completely safe and suitable for anyone who is already familiar with exercise. As you can imagine, it's fun, different and seriously effective.

## Bray Area Partnership Education Grants Scheme

The cost of attending college can sometimes be a big challenge for students and families on a low income. Bray Area Partnership's Education Grants Scheme provides small one-off grants of €100 towards college registration, course or exam fees for low income students living in the Bray and Greystones areas who are enrolled on a further or higher education course.

The scheme is funded under the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). Qualifying criteria apply and priority is given to low income students living in particular areas of Bray, Greystones, Kilcoole, Kilmacanogue, Delgany and Newcastle North. See [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie) to find out more or call Lorna Lafferty on 01 286 8266. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 29th November 2019.

## Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin

### Boys' Hurling Blitz Day

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

### 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

Send results, reports or photos to [pro.cnmb.wicklow@gaa.ie](mailto:pro.cnmb.wicklow@gaa.ie). Keep up-to-date with all Cumann na mBunscol news in Wicklow on [www.cnmbwicklow.ie](http://www.cnmbwicklow.ie)



Pictured is the Ardmore Rovers Under 10s team with their new jerseys sponsored by Shane Allen of Allen & Associate Solicitors. Shane asked for the Purple House logo to be printed on the jerseys to raise awareness. Also pictured are team coach Stephen Guerin, Purple House's Conor O'Leary, and coach Richie Egan.

## Glen of the Downs Garden Centre

**Horkans Garden Centre:** Pot Plants, Trees, Shrubs etc.  
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**Premier Timber Domestic Garden Sheds:**  
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# BRAY'S AIR QUALITY FAILURE

**"1,180 ESTIMATED PREMATURE DEATHS IN 2016 DUE TO POOR AIR QUALITY."**

A report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the air quality in Bray has caused concern, with the town failing to meet the standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO) due to 'particulate matter'.

The recently published EPA Report was based on air quality tests carried out from 2013-2018. The report states that particulate matter is a 'problem pollutant' created by the burning of solid fuel for home heating. "Particulate matter are very small particles which can be solid or liquid. Some of these particles occur naturally, and many are man-made," it states. The report states that "These WHO guidelines are the new benchmarks for good air quality globally, and so exceeding them is a cause for con-

cern, particularly with respect to pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM2.5). This pollutant has been highlighted by the European Environment Agency (EEA) as being predominantly responsible for most of the 1,180 estimated premature deaths in Ireland in 2016 due to poor air quality."

According to the report, PM 2.5 particles (particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in diameter) are smaller and more dangerous than the PM10 particles. In Bray there was found to be a spike of PM

2.5 in late 2016/early 2017, the winter heating season, when the amount of PM 2.5 in the air exceeded the WHO air quality guidelines.

Bray failed to meet WHO standards despite its ban on the sale and use of bituminous coal and being part of the Gas Network. However, from the Spring of 2017 to the Spring of 2018, the amount of PM 2.5 in Bray's air had fallen below the WHO's guideline.

Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly TD voiced seri-

ous concerns over the report.

Deputy Donnelly said "Unfortunately, these tests indicate that we still have an issue with the dust that comes from burning solid fuels. The other major factor is the pollution that's undoubtedly coming from all the traffic on our roads. This is a very disappointing result as Bray banned the use of smoky coal specifically to improve our air quality. Bray's failure has to be a wake-up call for all of us who care about the environment."

## Wicklow remains the most expensive county to buy a home

According to the latest MyHome.ie Property Report, Property prices in Wicklow have risen by €10,000 in the last year.

The report for Q3 2019 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county now stands at €330,000. This was up 0.3% in the last quarter from €329,000 which contributed to an annual increase of 3.1% to leave prices €10,000 up on this time last year.

Wicklow remains the most expensive county to buy a home in with the latest increasing leaving prices at their highest level since they stood at €339,000 in Q4 2010..

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow fell back in the last quarter by 2.3% from €435,000 to €425,000

but was still up 17.2% on this time last year when prices stood at €362,500 - an increase of €62,500.

The average time for a property to go sale agreed in the county after being placed up for sale now stands at 5 months.

The price of the average three-bed semi in County Wicklow fell by 2% over the past three months, according to a national survey carried out by Real Estate Alliance.

According to a national survey carried out by Real Estate Alliance the price of the average three-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow town fell this quarter by 3.1% to €310,000, with time on the market increasing

to €284,200 over the past year, the REA Average House Price Survey found.

"There is a noticeable decrease in viewings and prices achieved over the last quarter in Wicklow Town," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin, North Wicklow.

"We feel that this is due to a high volume of new homes in the market, mortgage lending, and purchasers holding off until Brexit is finalised."

The price of the average three-bed semi-detached house in Blessington also remained unchanged this quarter at €295,000, with the average time to sale standing at six weeks.

from 10 weeks to 11.

Prices for the average three-bed semi in North Wicklow and Bray fell by 2.8% this quarter to €306,000 and €340,000 respectively, with average time to reach sale agreed rising for both areas from 10 weeks to 11.

Average three-bed semis in Baltinglass were static in price this quarter and are currently on the market at €170,000, with the time taken to sell remaining at 12 weeks.

The price of the average three-bed semi in Blessington also remained unchanged this quarter at €295,000, with the average time to sale standing at six weeks.



**Wicklow Darkness Into Light raises nearly €35,000**

The community of Wicklow and surrounding areas who took part in the Darkness into Light 5K walk/run event should feel very proud as the total amount raised has just been announced. A cheque for €34,741.87 euros was presented to Cathy Drummond from Pieta House recently at the local Colaiste Chill Mhantain school by members of the organising committee. Cathy thanked the people of Wicklow for getting up so early on May 11th and giving their support to Pieta House. She also thanked all the volunteers especially the students from CCM and the organising committee plus the huge support of the members of Wicklow Lions Club.



Shelia Busher and Stephanie Wright are pictured at the launch of Noel Fallon's exhibition of brushless paintings in the Arklow Visual Arts Gallery

## Major housing development planned for Delgany

A 'Strategic Housing Development' application has been lodged for 426 dwellings (a mixed development of houses and apartments) at Farrankelly and Killincarrig, Delgany. The development would also include a crèche, residential amenity building, over four hectares of active open space, and greenway.

The application was submitted by Cairn Homes Properties Ltd, and a decision is due to be made on the application by November 14th. Submissions on the application are being accepted until 24th October.

The proposed site is bounded by the Kilcoole Road to the east and Priory Road to the west, and Eden Gate and Glenbrook Park to the south. The site comprises most of the Farrankelly Action Plan area approved by the Council.

The development will consist of 245 houses (3 bedroom, 4 bedroom and 5 bedroom) and 181 apartments (1 bedroom, 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom, and 2 bedroom duplex and 3 bedroom duplex).

A 'strategic housing development' is one that's fast-tracked to An Bord Pleanála to speed up the application process in the delivery of larger housing proposals. This new type of application was introduced as part of 'Rebuilding Ireland'.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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**PLEASE NOTE: WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL WILL NOT  
CARRY OUT CLEAN UPS AFTER ILLEGAL BONFIRES  
AND WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF ANY  
CLEAN UPS AFTER ILLEGAL BONFIRES.**





*With the Brexit deadline looming, Faile Ireland provided a platform for one of the largest group tour operators in the UK, Albatross Travel, to learn more about Ireland's Ancient East as they prepare to sell a new tour of the region in their 2020 itineraries. Pictured at the networking evening at Tracey's Hotel, Enniscorthy, were Deirdre Byrne, Faile Ireland, Aoife O'Driscoll, Powerscourt Estate, Janine Cuff, and Cara Ogden, Albatross Travel UK.*

## 'Budget must provide Wicklow SME support fund to shield from impact of Brexit'

**Fionna Fáil TD Pat Casey has said that this week's budget should include specific financial aid for the SME sector in Wicklow due to the adverse impact of Brexit.**

Deputy Casey explained, "The Government must commit to supporting our Wicklow indigenous businesses in the forthcoming budget. It is expected that other sectors will have financial supports delivered and it's only fair the SME sector are included in any Brexit budget.

"ESRI studies lay out a chilling prediction of increased unemployment due to Brexit with up to 80,000 job losses in Ireland. Lower economic output will see a reduction in Irish exports to the UK by a third, with agricultural and food products, textiles and traditional manufacturing most affected.

"The Government must step up and do more than it has to date. Creating greater awareness and ensuring sufficient financial and resource contingency planning should be a top priority.

"The budget must also deliver for entrepreneurs and strengthen their operating environment in order to make Ireland

approval at EU level to revise state aid rules and petition for transitional aid measures to safeguard Irish export enterprises and jobs that will be impacted by a hard Brexit.



Pat Casey TD

as competitive as other countries in attracting start-ups and scaling up of existing enterprises. Reform of the Capital Gains Tax (CGT) needs to be examined. At 33 per cent, the rate of CGT in Ireland is very high when pitted against the risks associated with starting a business.

"The self-employed need to have full tax equity with the workers they employ so movement on the earned income tax credit will be key", concluded Deputy Casey.

### Breakthrough in School Secretaries Dispute

**Fionna Fáil TD Stephen Donnelly said that his Party used a special debate in the Dáil last week to get a commitment from the Education Minister to enter negotiations to end the School Secretaries dispute.**

Deputy Donnelly explained, "Minister Bruton finally bowed to pressure from Fianna Fáil to begin meetings at the Workplace Relations Commission with the trade union Forsa. Forsa as most people know, represents secretaries at schools around the country, including those in County Wicklow who recently took to the picket line to highlight their unhappiness with their working pay and conditions.

"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 dragged its heels when it came to finding a resolution to this issue. While the Workplace Relations Commission had mandated that talks take place between the government and union reps long ago, there had been no sign of any urgency on the government's part to make those talks happen.

"It is imperative that the Minister now ensures that these negotiations begin as a matter of urgency. 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."

# NOT TOO LATE TO CHALLENGE RATES VALUATION

**The clock is ticking to appeal their commercial rates valuations as the deadline for appeals approaches on Monday 14th October.**

Stephen Donnelly TD explained, "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, recently issued Certificates to Wicklow premises (Monday 10th September) indicating the bills that

than double.

"The advice I'd offer these people is not to give up yet. They have a few days left 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: 1.) 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; 2.) 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; 3.) 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; 4. 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", concluded Donnelly.

## Wicklow business women scoop accolades at Network Ireland Awards

**Wicklow's Joanne Costello of Xmedia won the Arts Award at the recent Network Ireland Businesswomen of the Year Awards. Also Jean Evans of Highline Office Technology and also from Wicklow won a Highly Commended Award in the Employee Shining Star category, and Wicklow native Chupi Sweetman, the owner of jewellery brand Chupi, was announced as the winner of the Large SME Owner Businesswoman of the Year.**

Network Ireland is Ireland's longest established and leading female focussed business network. The conference and awards are taking place at the Celtic Ross Hotel, West Cork.

President of Network Ireland, Helen Wycherley said: "I am delighted we brought our national conference for women in business to West Cork. Through the conference we help to empower women to step up to the challenge, grow their confidence, seize opportunities and drive their personal and professional development. While at the same time leading and inspiring others. Our awards recognised the outstanding success and achievements of our members, it was a night of real celebration."

Chupi has gained a huge following in Ireland and internationally. She even showcased her jewellery at a pop up in Macy's in America. Chupi launched her company 2013 and before that she spent six years at Topshop.

Members of Wicklow Network Branch were in West Cork on Friday for the awards and conference.

The event took place in West Cork and also on the night a Cork lady won the Trish Murphy Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution. This award

was created in memory of a woman that excelled in her field. Trish Murphy was a past Network Dublin President and Network Ireland National President.

This year the Network Ireland President decided to bestow the Trish Murphy award to a young woman from West Cork - youth activist, Alicia O'Sullivan. Alicia is an 18-year-old young woman from Skibbereen, West Cork, Ireland.

Network Ireland President Helen Wycherley said: "Alicia is

an ambitious, motivated and determined young woman who hopes to pursue studies of law next year and a future in politics. She wants to continue her advocacy journey and incorporate this work in every part of her life."

More than 250 delegates attended the Network Ireland National Conference and Awards Ceremony on 27th of September. The conference was hosted by TV presenter Sonya Lennon and is one of the biggest of its kind in Ireland for professional women.



**Members of Wicklow Network Ireland at the Network Ireland National Conference and Businesswomen of the Year Awards which were held in the Celtic Ross Hotel in Co. Cork**

## Signs of Lymphoedema

- Lymphoedema can occur as a result of cancer treatment
- Swollen Arm, Hand, Leg or Foot?
- Heavy Limb?
- Swelling Worse at the End of the Day?
- Have You had Surgery and/or Radiotherapy?

**HELP IS AT HAND**

[www.lisalinton.ie](http://www.lisalinton.ie)  
Lymphoedema is a treatable and manageable condition

Lisa Linton, Clinical Specialist Lymphoedema  
Wicklow Lymph Clinic, Sheltonville Surgery,  
Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
Ph: 0402 23383

# 'The Government has failed to get to grips with the causes of homelessness'

There were 32 people in emergency accommodation in Co. Wicklow in August, according to the Department of Housing's official homeless figures which were released last week.

In total across the country there were 10,338 people living in emergency accommodation in August. Responding to the figures, Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "the number of children and families living in emergency accommodation in August this year shows how the government has failed to get to grips with the causes of homelessness."

"The figures published this morning by the Department of Housing show an increase in the number of children growing up in emergency accommodation. In August there were 3,848 children in Department of Housing funded emergency accommodation across the State." "In Wicklow there is a shortage of emergency accommodation and that is adding to the problem. In Kildare there are 184 people in emergency accommodation and in Meath

there are 111, these counties are experiencing similar pressures to Wicklow but have considerably higher recorded as homeless because unlike Wicklow they have emergency accommodation."

"For the seventh month in a row the number of people officially classified as homeless across this state has remained above 10,000 with a total of 10,338.

"These figures do not provide the full picture and do not women and children in domestic violence shelters funded by Tulsa, adults and children in hostels not funded by Government departments, rough sleepers and those still living in Direct Provision despite having secured their leave to remain.

"We need to stop these families becoming homeless and with the Budget coming up Minister Murphy and his counter-

part in Fianna Fáil has the opportunity to demand more resources to build more public houses.

"Sinn Féin has called for an increase in investment in social and affordable homes built on public land and faster delivery time for these homes."

"We are calling on both Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael to drop their opposition to the Focus Ireland amendment as this is the best way to keep families from becoming homeless as it restricts the landlord's ability to seek vacant possession notices to quit."

Homeless accommodation was opened in Bray last week for Hurricane Lorenzo, however Deputy Brady has called for on Wicklow County Council to put the necessary funding in place to allow the Simon Community to operate this emergency accommodation throughout the Winter period. We have a growing housing crisis in County Wicklow and we must ensure that those who are in need of shelter at the very least can have a bed as the weather gets colder. We do need permanent emergency accommodation in Wicklow and I will continue to work towards achieving that," he concluded.

He said "I have been informed that this homeless accommodation will only open for a couple of nights to provide shelter during the Storm. It is expected to close and reopen as part of the Cold Weather Initiative, at the end of the month or in early November. I am calling on Wicklow County Council to put the necessary funding in place to allow the Simon Community to operate this emergency accommodation throughout the Winter period. We have a growing housing crisis in County Wicklow and we must ensure that those who are in need of shelter at the very least can have a bed as the weather gets colder. We do need permanent emergency accommodation in Wicklow and I will continue to work towards achieving that," he concluded.

He commented, "It was with great fanfare that Budget 2019 announced additional funding of €55 million last October and I find it incredible that 11 months on so much of the funding is being held

Pictured are Amber Collie, Hotelbeds; Joyce McElroy, Tourism Ireland; and Aoife O'Driscoll, Powerscourt Estate, at Flavours of Ireland 2019 in London. Flavours' is Tourism Ireland's annual B2B tourism workshop, where tourism companies from Ireland meet and do business with around 120 top UK inbound tour operators. Now in its 17th year, Flavours of Ireland aims to grow Ireland's share of the huge worldwide travel market.



## Parts of Wicklow with little or no mental health service

**Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey says that some €25 million of the Budget 2019 allocation for mental health services is still being held back by the Department of Health, while part of Wicklow have little to no mental health service.**

back. This money was meant to enhance community mental health teams for adults and children and to support new initiatives around e-mental health, digital technologies and tele-counselling. The people of Wicklow desperately need this funding.

"However, when the HSE Service Plan for 2019 was published we were told that the release of the money by the Department of Health was contingent on approval of implementation plans and commencement of specific developments.

"Also, why do Government Ministers announce funding without knowing if plans are in place to actually use it effectively? The lack of mental health services for young people and for isolated people in rural Wicklow is astonishing

and yet the money is there. This beggars belief and is very disheartening.

"At this stage of the year there has got to be real concern that this promised investment in mental health services in 2019 will not happen and that the money will actually be held back to shore up the HSE finances. This would be a very retrograde development.

"The fact is that demand for mental health services is not going to diminish and we need to see this money used to provide those services in all parts of Wicklow," concluded Deputy Casey.

## The search is on for Wicklow's student entrepreneurs

**As schools across the county settle in for the academic year, the search for Wicklow's Student Entrepreneurs begins again as the National Student Enterprise Programme for 2020 gets into gear.**

The Student Enterprise Programme, co-ordinated nationally by 31 Local Enterprise Offices, is the largest programme of its kind, involving over 27,000 students from 620 secondary schools every year. The programme supports second level students as they set up and run their own business. It runs from September to

May, with the Wicklow County Final taking place on the 26th March. The winners of the County Final will go on to represent Wicklow at the National Final on the 1st May in Dublin's Croke Park, where they will compete with their peers from all over the country to become Ireland's Student Entrepreneur of

the year. Wicklow's programme is growing every year this year to 19 Schools.

The Student Enterprise Programme is excited to introduce two individual competitions which all participating students are welcome to enter.

The Junior and Intermediate Category is "My Entrepreneurial

Journey" where students are asked to imagine a time in the future and tell the story of their fictional business and what they have learned in their many years as an entrepreneur. The Senior category for the most "Creative Business Idea" focuses on sustainability and "Going Green". Head of Enterprise at

Local Enterprise Office Vibeke Delahunt, had this to say as the search begins for the best student entrepreneurs in the county:

"This programme enables students to explore the world of business, starting in the classroom. The Standard of entries in Wicklow is extremely high with is a credit to students and teachers in schools across the county."

There are currently 15 schools registered, if your child wishes to take part in this programme, their school can register now by contacting Serena Bryans, Student Enterprise Co-ordinator at Wicklow Local Enterprise Office ([studententerprise.ie](http://studententerprise.ie)).

For further information please contact Serena Bryans on 086 411 9200 or Annette Rowsome [rowsome@leo.wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:rowsome@leo.wicklowcoco.ie) tel: 0404 30800.



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# Rathdrum and Ashford show their best sides to Enterprise Town Awards judges

The very best of what Rathdrum and Ashford have to offer was showcased to a panel of judges who visited last Monday as part of the National Enterprise Town Awards 2019.



Teresa Kelly, Denis Carter, Jesper Peterson, Karen Kelly, Padraig Smith and Audrey Whelan at Avondale House during the judging of the Enterprise Town Awards last week

Following on from lunch in Avondale House, the judges visited the town for a three-hour period taking in the market, meeting local businesspeople and community groups.

Centra kindly hosted a presentation event where Denis Carter from Avon Motors; Michael Tierney from Tierney's Pharmacy; Liam Kinsella from Rathdrum Tidy Towns; Bernard McQuaid from Little Dinners and Karen Kennedy, the community representative, all spoke about Rathdrum and what it has to offer.

A number of videos in Zoetis, Cllr Pat

featuring local businesses and community groups were also shown highlighting Rathdrum at its best. The judges then took a tour of the town which included visits to Comerfords Drapery, Hidden Valley and Zoetis.

The committee which has been working diligently on this project since Rathdrum was selected in June, put their best foot forward for the town. Despite the inclement weather, the rain did not dampen the community spirit and pride in the town.

The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony in the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny, on 5th December.

Judges also visited Ashford on Monday last. Ashford was nominated to represent County Wicklow in the Small/Medium popula-

Kennedy expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the judging day. He also said that if Rathdrum were successful in the competition the prize fund would go towards a Health Check for the town with a view to addressing the issues around traffic in the town centre.

A dedicated committee worked hard to ensure that Ashford will shine

tion (2001 to 5000) category of the competition.

among the many towns entered nationwide. The judges visited Ashford over a three-hour period, including a tour of the area taking in the beautiful location, range of businesses and strength of community spirit.

A presentation was held in the Ashford Community and Heritage Centre where members of the Ashford Community Forum demonstrated the uniqueness of the town, the community involvement, business interaction and their current and future plans.

Mr Phil Thompson, CEO, Tiglin Residential Treatment Centre, discussed the work carried out by the Centre in the treatment of individuals with life controlling addiction problems and their integration back into the community. Ms Mari Humby from Chester Beatty's spoke about their success in achieving a lifetime goal to develop a successful business in the town.

The judges were also brought on a tour of Mount Usher, Ashford Film Studios, Martswort, Bel Air Hotel (site of the Ashford Fair), and Devils Glen Equestrian



Linn Berta, Anne Moore, Robin Bradley and Margaret Traynor during the judging of the Enterprise Town Awards in Rathdrum last week

Centre. They also visited Ashford's Park and unique playground where some duck herding was on display.

"I want to congratulate everyone involved", said Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, "I feel the busi-

nesses visited this morning certainly impressed the judges."

Mr Maurice Ramsay, Chairman of the newly-established Ashford Community Forum, commented: "I am delighted that Ashford was nominated for this national competition as it has

given the town 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 dedicated community volunteers."

## Delivering root and branch conservation in Knockree

A 24-hectare farm in the remote Glencree valley on the Wicklow Way is being restored to its original native glory, thanks to volunteers from An Óige, one of Ireland's oldest environmental groups. An Óige, the Irish Youth Hostel Association, is implementing a five-year conservation plan for the 24-hectare Knockree Youth Hostel site, purchased by the Association 80 years ago.

The project is supported by a 6,000 Heritage grant funded by the National Lottery.

"Ireland is one of the least forested countries in Europe with only 10 per cent tree coverage and only one per cent of that is native, broad leaf forest. This new native woodland scheme will almost double the size of the woodland at the site," explained Philip Hayden, Head of An Óige's Conservation Group.

One important investment was the purchase of scythes to tackle the overgrowth of bracken and plans are underway to soon restore 500 metres of historic native hedgerows. Also, 10,000 native Irish trees have been planted in a new native woodland scheme covering 4.5 hectares of the site.

"The overall objective of the plan is the restoration and enhancement of the various habitats found at the site but we also want to develop people's engagement with this special place through our volunteer programme," added Philip.

Plans are also afoot to develop the educational potential of the site as a resource for groups interested in learning about the environment, using the existing hostel facility.

Founded in 1931, An Óige had 50 hostels around the country at its peak. Today the number has dwindled to eight but with thriving activity groups such as its conservation group, Philip is confident that An Óige's role of providing responsible access to the countryside for all is as relevant today as ever.



Philip Hayden, An Óige Knockree Conservation Volunteers Group, Wicklow

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# 33% increase in burglaries in Wicklow

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) last week released their quarterly research on crime and burglaries in Ireland, showing an overall 4% decrease in burglaries nationwide since the same period last year.

The Eastern region of Ireland had an increase of 5% in burglaries; the biggest individual increase in break-ins was in Wicklow, which is up 33% this year compared to the first half of last year. Laois, Offaly and Meath all saw a minor decrease in burglary rates this year.

In Laois/Offaly there were 208 burglaries, a decline of 8%; In Kildare there were 480 burglaries, an increase of 7%; In Meath there were 253 burglaries, a

decline of 13%, and in Westmeath there were 130 burglaries, an increase of 12%.

Dublin also saw an increase in burglary rates with a 2% increase in Q2 last year.

Every other region nationwide had a decrease in break-ins, with the biggest being in the West, which decreased by 24% yearly. The West also remains the safest region, with just 270 burglaries recorded in the area.

It is interesting to note that despite these declining burglary rates, many people are not activating their alarms each time they leave their homes. According to the latest research conducted by HomeSecure, 29% of those surveyed with house alarms, do not activate their home security systems every time they leave the house, as advised. 60% of research respondents said they only activate the alarm when leaving

the house at night-time. Almost half of those surveyed reported that they personally know someone whose home had been broken into in the past year, illustrating just how frequently burglaries occur.

When it comes to choosing a home security system to protect against burglaries, 87% of respondents said that they felt that a monitored alarm system offers greater security than a legacy alarm.

## Over 732,000 visit Glendalough

Glendalough has been named one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country. Over 732,000 people made the trip to the monastic settlement in the last year making it the second most visited site in the country, beaten only by Kilkenny Castle which had three-quarters of a million guests.

Stephen Donnelly TD welcomed the news and said that it was 'no surprise'. "I can see the appeal of Glendalough. Not only is it of huge historical importance, as the 6th Century home of St Kevin who founded the monastery, but it's also a place of stunning natural beauty given its geographic position in a large glacial valley."

"Huge praise of course must go to the staff of the award-winning visitor centre in Glendalough, run by the OPW, who really add to the visitor experience."

"It's very heartening to see that Wicklow is holding its own as a tourist destination. This can only be interpreted as a good sign for the thousands of people who benefit both directly and indirectly from the money generated by the sector", concluded Donnelly.



Pictured at the recent meeting in Bray to address crime were Councillor Gerry Walsh, former Councillor Kathleen Kelleher, Deputy Stephen Donnelly and Fianna Fail spokesperson for Justice and Equality Jim O'Callaghan.

## Sinn Féin councillors call for review of Differential Rent Scheme

At the recent Bray Municipal District meeting, Sinn Féin Councillors called for a review of the Differential Rent Scheme.

Speaking about the proposal, Cllr Grace McManus said "Bray has a different scheme to the rest of the county, with some benefits but also some drawbacks. This scheme was decided I believe in 2014, before most of the new Councillors of Bray were elected. I would say this offers an opportunity to stop and take stock. What we are calling for is a formalisation of this information sharing, a review to outline the similarities, differences and impacts of these between the Wicklow and Bray scheme. This would give us a starting point from which to analyse the strengths, address the weaknesses to ensure we are ultimately delivering for our tenants". Cllr Dermot O'Brien added "We need to take into consideration that a large number of constituents who voted in Bray West during the local elections are not included in the Bray scheme. We need to reconcile the formula used to calculate the rents with the increase in the cost of living and the various other factors that impact on tenants in the Ireland of 2019. We need to listen to our tenants and understand the struggles they face and combine that with the expertise and insight of those working behind the scenes."

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Ryan Scanlon shows Jamie Lyons and Maxim Hannon a science experiment at the Arklow CBS Open Evening last week

## Harris welcomes progress on St David's extension and refurbishment

Minister Simon Harris has met with the Department of Education to seek an update on the vital delivery of an extension and refurbishment at St David's Secondary School.

Minister Harris reported positive progress to the *Wicklow Times* following the meeting: "I was pleased to be briefed that the fast track pre-qualification tendering process has been complete. This means the school can now move to tender with just a select number of companies allowed to participate in the process. This will dramatically speed up the tendering process and help us get building under way as soon as possible."

Minister Harris continued: "There have been a number of challenges along the way on this project but we have a fantastic school community who have continued to work with me to push for progress. I am pleased that the Department of Education are supporting efforts to speed up the pre-build process and I will continue to push for each step to be achieved as quickly as possible."

Minister Harris is a past-pupil of St David's and was instrumental in securing agreement from the Department of Education that an extension and refurbishment project was needed. He has been working with Principal Mary O'Doherty to push the Department to get this important development completed for Greystones.

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# Online survey ends for patronage process of new post-primary school

The online survey seeking input from parents regarding the patronage of the new post-primary school for the Greystones-Kilcoole area, closed on Friday 4th October after opening on 6th September.

The Department will now compile a report for the consideration of the New Schools Establishment Group (NSEG) and the NSEG will submit a report with recommendations for consideration by the Minister.

The new post-primary school to serve the Kilcoole & Greystones school planning area as a regional solution was initially announced to be established in 2021. Due to increased projected enrolments and capacity constraints in the area, the school will now open in September 2020. It will have 800 pupils.

A decision to establish a

new school can be taken where projected growth in a single school planning area may not warrant provision of a new school but where combined demographic increases in the region indicates sufficient demand for a viable school.

These schools, identified as being Regional Solutions, are planned to serve more than one school planning area.

An Foras Pátrúnachta, Educate Together, Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), and Scoil Sinéad Limited are all seeking patronage of the new school.

Parents and guardians were able to use online survey to select which model of patronage they prefer and whether they would prefer English or Irish as the language of instruction.

Minister McHugh said: "We are fortunate to have a growing population and a Government that is investing heavily in new schools. But we need parents' support to ensure we reflect the views of families in the areas where we have younger and growing populations.

"It is a great opportunity for mothers and fathers and guardians to help to shape the education of the

future. The wishes of parents and guardians, together with the extent of diversity already available in these areas, will be key to deciding the type of schools we will have in the future."

The patronage process for new schools is overseen by the independent New Schools Establishment Group (NSEG). This group, which was set up in 2011 to advise the Minister on the patronage of new schools, will analyse the report on the online surveys and consider other criteria before issuing a recommendation to the Minister.

## History subject given new special core status at Junior Cycle

All children in Wicklow are set to benefit from learning History as it is to be given special status as a core Junior Cert subject.

Minister Andrew Doyle said: "History became optional in all schools in September 2018, as part of the roll-out of the Junior Cycle Framework. Up until then History was mandatory in about half of post-primary schools, although around nine out of ten students took the subject.

"The Minister for Education and Skills has now decided that History should be given a new special core status in the Framework for Junior Cycle meaning that History will no longer be an optional subject and every child will study the subject.

"The Minister for Education and Skills has taken the decision after careful consideration of a review of the optional status of History under the new Framework for Junior Cycle which was carried out by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

"Minister McHugh will now request the NCCA's support in devising a new structure for the Junior Cycle Framework which gives History a special core status. The exact nature of what students will learn, and how, will be decided in that process.

"I am very pleased that History now has special status as a core Junior Cert subject. Giving Irish students an education in Irish and world history remains as vitally important and relevant today as it has always been.

"It was also really positive to hear that the Minister has requested the development of a Young Historians' Competition at primary and post-primary level. This could be a great opportunity for students in Wicklow to further develop their love of history in a fun and innovative way."

## Wicklow Educate Together students welcomed to Leinster House

Students from new Wicklow secondary school, Wicklow Educate Together, were welcomed to Leinster House recently by Minister Simon Harris for a tour of their parliament and to discuss with him the development of the school.

Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School is a new school sanctioned by the Department of Education to meet the demand for places in the Wicklow area. The school, which was established this academic year has been first set up in temporary accommodation.

Minister Harris met the staff and students of the new school to discuss the progress and offer assistance in the development of the school as it goes forward. Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to welcome the new school, Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School to Leinster House this week. It is so important that our young people learn about their parliament and their democracy."

"The new school is a very welcome addition to our local education community and our priority now must be to ensure the patron engages to select a site and get the permanent school built as soon as possible. I look forward to working with the Principal, staff and board to progress the development of the school."



Minister Simon Harris with pupils from Wicklow Educate Together secondary school

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From 7pm to 10pm on Wednesday 9th October there will be live music from Carron, wine and nibbles, a live fashion illustrator, style retrospective, a fashion showcase, and goodie bags for those in attendance. RSVP to shop@fishers.ie or call (01) 2819404. It promises to be a joyous, fun evening with the Harrison family.

After decades of selling top quality clothing, Fishers has now launched its 'Fishers Inspired' own brand of clothing and accessories to celebrate their 40th anniversary. Entitled 'Fishers Inspired Collection', the new range features menswear, as well as a wide range of accessories for ladies and men. The men's shirt and knitwear offerings consist of classically tailored designs, along with some bolder styled items, while the range of soft chinos are the perfect base for any contemporary outfit. The 'Fishers Inspired Collection' also features an exquisite array of beautifully woven merino, cashmere and lambswool accessories such as scarves, capes, throws and blankets. More products will be added to the collection in the coming months.

Fishers already features



an extensive range of ladies' smart, casual and lifestyle clothing, a menswear shop, children's clothing, a giftware and homeware department as well as an extensive accessories section featuring jewellery, scarves, wraps, bags, hats, belts and lots more. Brands stocked include Magee, Eden Park, Olsen, Columbia, Joules, Riverwoods, Part Two, Rabe, Baileys, Brook Taverner, Bruhl, Hatico, Seasalt, Noa Noa, Bianca, Betty Barclay, Red Cuckoo, Ria Organics, Jo Browne and Ireland's Eye. All Collections are

available both instore and online at [www.fishers.ie](http://www.fishers.ie).

To coincide with their 40th anniversary, Fishers is hosting a wide range of in-store events in the coming months such as: Fashion shows showcasing the new collection; Styling workshops with Joanne Costello and Jill Blanc - featuring lots of advice and tips on how to embrace your individual style; A rugby, wine and menswear event with Ollie Campbell, the former Irish rugby player, wine expert Peter Crosse and Lynn Temple from Magee; 'Natural Skincare' featuring

demonstrations from local brands Jo Browne, Meadows and Ria Organics; 'Silk Scarf Painting' - make your own silk scarf to take home; 'Wire Art' - make your own wire sculpture to take home.

A range of special offers (check out [www.fishers.ie/40](http://www.fishers.ie/40) for all details) will also be available in the coming months to mark the 40th birthday.

Renowned for exemplary service, Fishers employs 22 people, with the entire team trained in all aspects of styling and image. A personal shop-



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ping service is available to customers at no extra cost, while an in-house seamstress offers an alteration and personalisation service for any garments bought in the store. A customer loyalty programme also offers a range of promotions, discounts and invitations to all in-store events.

The business recently carried out a significant upgrade of its store and grounds to enhance the overall shopping experience. Future plans include doubling the car parking facilities. And for those who can't bear to leave the beautiful surrounds of Newtownmountkennedy, the old Schoolmasters House at Fishers, a charming self-catering cottage, is now available to rent.

Rebecca Harrison,

Managing Director of Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy, says the 40th anniversary is a significant milestone for the store, and developing the new 'Fishers Inspired' own brand collection seemed

a very appropriate way to mark the occasion.

"Having worked closely with our customers for over four decades, we have gained a unique insight into their expectations of quality, sustainability and durability. We know they are price conscious and want to be perfectly styled.

The logical next step was to use this information to produce our own collection which, alongside our brand, will represent those same values. All of the items we sell are designed to stand the test of time as well as being timelessly stylish, and Fishers Inspired Collection will be no different. We love our new 'Fishers Inspired Collection' and look forward to adding to it in the coming months."



*The following special offers will be available in the coming months to mark Fisher's 40th*

- 20% off the 'Fishers Inspired' collection
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- Buy three items and get a fourth free
- A free scarf with every coat purchased
- Bottle of bubbly with every purchase over €100
- Fishers will also give customers a €10 gift voucher for every bag full of clothes donated for the 'St. Vincent de Paul Bag Drop'

Congratulations to Fishers on their 40th Anniversary



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Huge congratulations to Rebecca Harrison  
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# PROTECT YOURSELF with the Flu Vaccine



**S**easonal flu vaccine is available in Pharmacies and doctor's surgeries around Wicklow from now until the end of April 2020.

For most people, seasonal flu is unpleasant but not serious and they recover within a week. However, certain people are at greater risk of developing serious complications of flu, such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

These conditions may require hospital treatment. A large number of elderly people die from flu every winter. The seasonal flu vaccine is offered free of charge to at-risk groups to protect them from catching flu and developing serious complications.

You should get your flu vaccination from September to be cov-

ered for flu season. The viruses change each year, this is why you need to get a new vaccine each year.

People 18 and over should get the vaccine from their Pharmacist or Occupational Health Department. Younger people should get the vaccine from their GP.

The flu vaccine is free if you are in an at risk group but you may be charged a consultation fee, unless you have a medical card or a GP visit card.

The flu vaccine doesn't contain any live viruses - it cannot give you the flu.

The flu vaccine helps your immune system to produce antibodies to the influenza virus. If you have been vaccinated and you come into contact with the virus, these antibodies will attack it and stop you from getting sick. The flu vaccine starts to work within two weeks.

Community pharmacies are the most accessible part of the healthcare system with pharmacies situated in nearly every town and villages throughout the County. They are also the most visited health service provider with 85 million visits made to pharmacies every year representing 19 visits for every man, woman and child in the country.

As healthcare professionals, and the most accessible part of the healthcare system, many pharmacies provide a significant number of services to patients including the flu vaccination.

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virus. The symptoms cause serious illness recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) come on suddenly, and death. This year, the seasonal flu vaccine protects against the strains most likely to be circulating this season.

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  - an A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus.
  - a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage).
  - a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage)
- The 2019/2020 HSE seasonal vaccination programme is Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated) manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur.

The flu viruses that are circulating change each year. This is why you need to get a new vaccine each year. According to the HSE you should get your flu

The HSE is urging people in at-risk groups to get the flu vaccine.



They recommended the vaccine if you are part of the following 'at risk' groups:

- are 65 years of age and over or if you

- are pregnant
- are a child or adult with a long-term health condition
- work in healthcare
- are a household contact

- of anyone at increased medical risk of flu.
- live in a nursing home or other care facility
- are in regular contact with pigs, poultry or water fowl.

You should not get the flu vaccine if you have had a severe allergic (anaphylaxis) reaction to a previous dose.

Also, you shouldn't get the flu vaccine if you are taking medicines called combination checkpoint inhibitors.

Vaccination should be re-scheduled to a later date if you have an acute illness with a temperature greater than 38°C.

## Facts about flu.

- ✓ Flu causes death and hospitalisation every year.
- ✓ Flu vaccine is the best protection against flu for at risk groups and health care workers.
- ✓ You need to get flu vaccine every season as the viruses change every year.
- ✓ Flu vaccine contains killed viruses - it cannot give you flu.
- ✓ Healthcare workers are up to 10 times more likely to get flu.
- ✓ Healthy people can have flu without any obvious symptoms and pass it on.



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# Tidy Towns Special 2019

**I**t was another good year for Tidy Towns groups across Co. Wicklow, as the results and awards were announced last week at a ceremony in The Helix. This year, the standout town in the county was Wicklow Town, as it was awarded 336 points and received the town's first Gold Medal in Category E (towns with population size 5,001-10,000) and also received the County Award.

The town improved its marks from last year in all categories. It is a testament to the steady progress that's been made, with the town being awarded Bronze Medals from 2014 to 2017, and a Silver in 2018.

Arklow was close behind, also being awarded a Gold Medal in Category F (towns with population size 10,001-15,000) and was awarded 335 points. It improved its points tally by 13 from last year.

Aughrim, always a high achiever in the competition, took a Silver Medal in Category C (towns with population size 1,001-2,500) and was awarded 334 points.

On hand to present the prizes were Mr. Michael Ring, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development and Mr. Martin Kelleher, Managing Director of SuperValu, the competition's sponsor for the 28th year. The Helix was packed with representatives of TidyTowns groups from all over the country, eagerly awaiting the announcement of the winners.

## The medal winners...

### Wicklow Town - Gold

It was a landmark year for Wicklow Town, with its first Gold Medal and also being named the County Winner.

The report stated "Wicklow town is beautifully situated between the sea and the hills with a wealth of wonderful vernacular Irish architecture spanning several centuries and a proud marine heritage. All of these riches are well complimented by a strong community spirit with many volunteers giving back to the place they love and enhancing it for

all. Keep up your great work, this adjudicator looks forward to many return visits to Wicklow in the future."

In particular the report praised the community involvement in the town: "Wonderful news to see how some of Wicklow's newest residents have joined Wicklow TidyTowns' ranks. There are benefits all round as the group gains more volunteers and Wicklow's asylum seekers are getting to know their new neighbours and locality. Similarly, your 'adopt-a-patch' project is a great idea for keeping local involvement even for people who don't have

the time to commit weekly - well done on this initiative. Your liaising with Sunbeam House is also commended as another great idea. TidyTowns is all about communities working together to improve the quality of life for both residents and visitors alike and Wicklow TidyTowns are clearly doing a great job at that! Your work is also clearly appreciated by all the local businesses as can be seen by the extensive list who have financially contributed this year."

Wicklow also scored highly in the 'Streetscape & Public Places' category. The report praised the mural project at

Supervalu car park, maintenance work on ESB poles, and the archaeological study of Black Castle.

In the 'Green Paces and Landscaping' category the report commended the orchard garden project. "Projects such as these can be used to further educate the public about the importance of biodiversity in our everyday lives".

The Parish and Abbey Ground were praised as "a beautiful oasis in the centre of the town - how lucky Wicklow is to have them! Despite many, many previous visits to Wicklow Town by this adjudicator, we are sorry to say we have never vis-

ited the grounds before - not realising they were there. There is tremendous potential here for outdoor classrooms and community biodiversity events.

In the Sustainability category, the report said "Your persistence and determination on the sustainable energy community project is very admirable. Well done on keeping this up and keeping the project in the public eye. We very much look forward to seeing the fruits of this group's labour on into the future.

Keep up your good work on reducing the number of single use plastic bags and spread the word - this is great example for others. It is good to see that you acknowledge the plant pot problem - another reason to use perennials! Your work on recycling daffodil bulbs is very innovative, a great idea worth spreading to others."

The group's efforts at litter control were also praised: "Your work with regard to the bottle banks in the town is highly commendable. This sort of problem is occurring all over Ireland and is very disappointing - keep up the pressure on the authorities as it is the only way forward. You have been doing ongoing fantastic work in cleaning up of litter as your pictures amply demonstrate. This kind of work can be very demoralizing but be safe in the knowledge that you are making a huge difference!"

### Arklow - Gold

Arklow Tidy Towns' three year plan "shows lots and lots more projects lined up for Arklow TidyTowns on into the future," the adjudicator's report states. "The best of luck with all this work and well done on the huge amount you have done so far - Arklow is lucky to

another way TidyTowns can help the local community. This is



Wicklow Town, the county winner this year

have such a dedicated group of volunteers. We were delighted to hear that Arklow has just won the best large town award in the Ireland's Best Kept Towns competition of 2019 - many congratulations on this well-earned award".

Arklow received particular praise for its Xeriscape and Moments in Time gardens: "Your Xeriscape garden is very impressive and clearly a huge amount of effort and work went into putting it together. All the different information notices are very important in getting the sustainable gardening message across. The Moments in Time garden is absolutely beautiful with herbaceous perennial flowers in gorgeous full bloom and lots of them were humming with bumblebees and hoverflies on adjudication day - amply demonstrating how pollinator-friendly they are. This garden is in a nice prominent spot which is fitting for such a beautiful and thought provoking installation."

Arklow also scored highly in the 'Nature and Biodiversity' category: "Helping to spread this knowledge is another way TidyTowns can help the local community. This is

a wonderfully apt entrance to Arklow echoing all your maritime heritage and providing a suitable welcome beacon to your town."

### Aughrim - Silver

"A visit to Aughrim is always a pleasure and it is great to see the TidyTowns group here going from strength to strength fostering and harnessing the clearly strong community spirit." That was the conclusion of the adjudicator's report for Aughrim, which always scores well in the Tidy Towns competition and received a Silver Medal this year.

In particular the village scored highly in the categories of Community, Streetscape & Public Places, and Green Spaces & Landscaping.

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Congratulations to all involved with Tidy Towns

**SIMON HARRIS**  
MINISTER

Well done to all the Tidy Towns Volunteers

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# Tidy Towns Special 2019

The report states that "Your long experience at a high level in this completion and indeed your history as champions of 2007 are evident in your organisation and involvement within the larger Aughrim community. This was clear on the ground on adjudication day with evidence right through the village of past and current Tidy Towns projects. Well done on all your hard work through the last year and indeed all that of your predecessors going back many years. "Aughrim is beautiful and distinctive - its moniker of 'The Granite Village' is well-earned and clearly demonstrated throughout from its bridges to walls to fencing to kerbstones not to mention many of its charming buildings. "Aughrim was lovely and tidy on adjudication

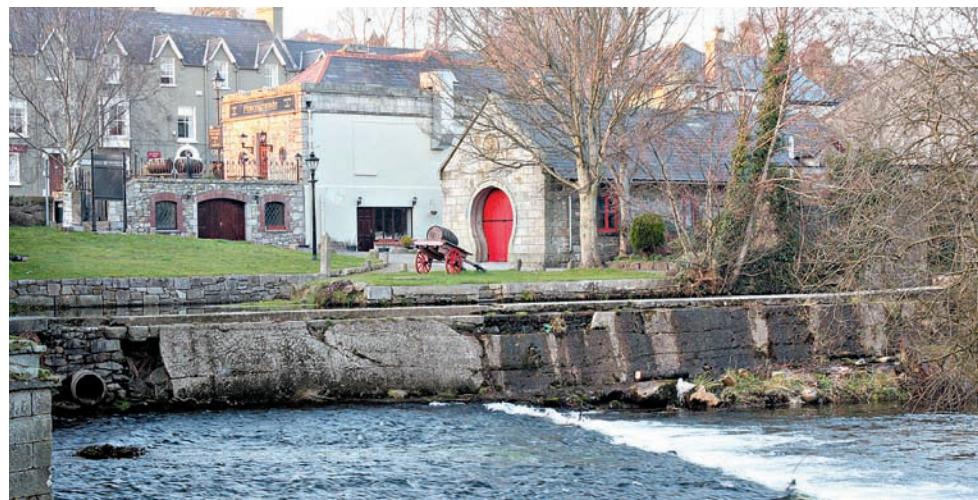
## Shankill - Silver

Shankill was awarded a Silver Medal in this year's Tidy Towns competition having improved its mark by 9 points from last year. It was the fourth consecutive year that Shankill was a medal winner, and is an improvement from last year's Bronze Medal. The judge's report stated that "Shankill's connection with the Dublin Mountain Way is invaluable to the local and wider communities and it is wonderful to note future plans to strengthen the existing link.

"Attractive container plants strategically placed at numerous locations throughout Shankill were admired for the colour and visual interest they bring to their surroundings; one at the entrance to Shanganagh Cemetery was especially

admired and flower displays on the retail side of the Main Street and shrub and trees on the residential side work very well together. "Shankill's endeavour to create community wide action with the aim of contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals is impressive. The range of activities engaged in on a daily basis by the committee and community plays an important role in Shankill's contribution."

"The water harvesting project will hopefully make Shankill self-sufficient at a future time in water for planted areas without recourse to the mains water supply. Your activities to promote reduce, reuse, recycle and upcycle are favourably noted."



*Aughrim, a Silver Medalist this year*

## All communities urged to apply for next year's funding

Minister Simon Harris has congratulated towns and communities throughout Co Wicklow for taking part in this year's Tidy Towns competition.

Minister Harris also urged communities across Wicklow to avail of funding for next year's competition. Minister Harris said: "For over 60 years the Tidy Towns competition has brought enormous improvements to our local towns, villages and rural areas here in Co Wicklow.

"Here in Wicklow the enhancements brought about by our local tidy towns committees give the whole community a lift." I was particularly pleased to see our own towns and villages doing very well.

"Some €50,000 in funding was awarded to 30 community groups across Wicklow for this year's competition. "This competition really shows us the importance of participation. Our local Tidy Towns volunteers are a credit to our community. I encourage anyone who feels strongly about our community and our environment to get involved with Tidy Towns."

The special allocation of €1.4 million announced today to support the work of individual Tidy Towns Committees around the country will assist them in their continued efforts to enhance their towns and villages. This is the third year in a row that Government has allocated this funding to support the work of the Tidy Towns Committees.

Minister Harris continued: "We are incredibly lucky in Co Wicklow to have such a tradition of volunteerism and community engagement. Our communities work extremely hard throughout the year to look after our towns and villages and this only highlights the brilliant work they do."

## Bray and Greystones excluded due to technical fault

Due to a technical issue, the Bray and Greystones Tidy Towns adjudications were not included with the others in the overall Tidy Towns report.

It's understood that marks will still be awarded reports will be issued.

In a statement, Bray Tidy Towns said "We have been informed that we will be included in the overall competition. Just to say we feel that great inroads were made this year into a number of the areas in Bray we connected with through our volunteers, local community groups, resident associations, schools, environmental groups, wildlife experts businesses and local authorities.

Work carried out by Bray Tidy Towns this year included enhancements of streetscapes and public places such as the DART station and war memorial; landscaping work and improving of green spaces at People's Park, Sidminton Park, the Dargle River Walk; cleanups at the Albert Walk and the '3 For the Sea' campaign encouraging members of the public to take discarded plastic from the beach; cleanups of residential streets, housing estate entrances, approach roads and lanes; work on community gardens at Headlands on the Putland Road and the Recycling Centre on the Boghall Road; and the wild meadow at Presentation College.

Greystones Tidy Towns has also been busy this year, with litter picks and tree and shrub trimming, beach cleans, gardening work in Burnaby Park and the train station, putting bark-mulch down at Shoreline roundabout, putting up marine litter signage, and painting benches at the seafront.

The Greystones Tidy Towns Open Evening will be held on Thursday 10th October at 7:15pm, upstairs in Greystones Library. Do you have ideas? There are vacancies on the committee and the group is looking for volunteers.

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**Congratulations to all Tidy Towns** [f](#) [t](#)

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Congratulations to all in County Wicklow involved in Tidy Towns

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Congratulations to all hard working Tidy Towns Volunteers

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# International Credit Union Day



For over 50 years, credit unions in Ireland have been trusted to meet the financial, economic and social needs of their local communities. They are central to the everyday lives of millions of members. Credit unions remain popular and continue to succeed because they have stayed true to their values and ethos. While the future will bring opportunities for growth and innovation, credit unions will be at the heart of communities, serving members' best interests.

International Credit Union (ICU) Day celebrates the spirit of the global credit union movement. The day is recognized to reflect upon the credit union movement's history, promote its achievements, recognize the hard work and share member experiences. International Credit Union (ICU) Day has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948.

This year, ICU Day will be celebrated on October 17th, and it will be the 71st anniversary of ICU Day. The theme for this year's ICU Day is 'Local Service, Global Reach'.

Through ICU Day festivities, credit unions raise awareness through outreach and volunteering in the community, organising contests, charitable fundraisers, and open houses, ultimately contributing to World Council's Vision 2020 goal of adding 50 million new members by the year 2020.

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial coopera-

tives that provide an effective and viable alternative to for-profit financial institutions for over 231 million members in 109 countries worldwide. More than 68,000 credit unions exist globally, providing a plethora of financial services for their members, recognised as a force for positive economic and social change.

Credit unions are unique because they are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, member-owned cooperatives. Credit unions pool their members' assets to provide low-cost loans and other financial services in the best interest of the members, not to earn shareholder profits. Credit unions play a vital role in the economic development and stability of the communities they serve, helping people improve their lives through access to affordable financial services and making the world a better place to live. Across the island of Ireland, 3.5 million people enjoy the benefits of credit union membership.

## Celebrate International Credit Union Day at Greystones Credit Union

This year, Greystones Credit Union is celebrating its 50th anniversary; that's 50 years of service to the local community. That community consists of Greystones as well as Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy, where it also has offices.

Greystones & District Credit Union Limited together with its local offices in Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy, is a financial co-operative owned and controlled by its members who elect its Board of Directors and Board Oversight Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

This International Credit Unions Day, on October 17th, Greystones Credit Union will have a prize draw where there will be five prizes on offer in the draw, and light refreshments will be also be served in the Greystones office at 3pm as the prizes are drawn.





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Annika Chadwick with her teacher Eibhlín Úi Chonchobhair as she collects her Junior Cert results at Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Arklow

## Greystones Art Group AGM

The Greystones Art Group is holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 9th of October in Coolnagreina, Trafalgar Road, Greystones at 7.30pm. A demonstration will be held after the short meeting by artist Niamh Harding Miller. Harding Miller is a contemporary Irish artist.

She works in various mediums, oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, pencil and mixed media. During the demonstration she will be talking about the DNA of the colour family. The importance of base and how to mix without mud. All in a fun way to make remembering easy.

Greystones Art Group is currently open to new members and anyone who may be interested in joining or finding out more is welcome to come along.

Established in 1965, Greystones Art Group is one of Ireland's longest running art groups. It has a diverse set of members and is a fun and inspirational way to practice in a creative space.

The main purpose of the group was, and still is today, to encourage amateur artists. The aim is to advance members artistic knowledge and skills through on-going lectures and demonstrations. In addition there are also Annual Exhibitions of paintings and other works of art, for all members, both amateur and professional.

More information can be found at [www.greystonesartgroup.com](http://www.greystonesartgroup.com) including biographies and sample work from a variety of members.

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## Local hoteliers concerned about tourism performance

Hotels and guesthouses in Wicklow have voiced concerns about tourism performance this year and the challenges facing the sector, including Brexit and increasing costs of doing business. According to the latest national industry survey from the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF), 57% of hotels have seen a fall in overall business levels compared to this time last year while 33% report an increase.

Business levels from the UK remain very challenging for hotels, largely as a result of uncertainty around Brexit and the marked drop in the value of Sterling in recent years.

Some 78% of hotels across the country have seen a fall-off in business from Great Britain compared to last year while 60% report a decrease in business from Northern Ireland. Some 64% of hoteliers report that the weakness in the value of Sterling has had a negative impact on business levels while risks associated with Brexit have resulted in 73% re-examining investment plans and taking a more cautious approach for next year.

While tourism business from North America and the domestic market were stronger, results for these markets were very mixed: 36% of hoteliers report an increase in business from North America (30% report a decrease from this market) while 45% report an increase in business from Irish domestic tourism (30% report a

decrease from this market).

Commenting on the results, IHF Wicklow chair, Brian McNamara stated:

"Irish tourism has been one of the great success stories of the economy in recent years, supporting 270,000 jobs and promoting balanced regional growth across the country. Here in Wicklow it supports 13,900 jobs and contributes some 135m to the local economy annually."

However, we are now at a cross-roads and facing a number of pressing challenges including serious risks associated with Brexit, increasingly high costs of doing business in Ireland and ongoing difficulties in attracting visitors to the regions and extending the short tourism season. To help address these challenges, we are calling for additional supports from Government to assist tourism businesses, including a restoration of the 9% VAT rate."

"Brexit is particularly

challenging in light of our heavy reliance on visitors from the UK, which is even more pronounced for regional tourism businesses. A 'no-deal' outcome would cause enormous difficulties for the hotel sector, creating the prospect of a drop of over 10% in tourism revenues from UK visitors and a decline in Irish consumer sentiment, which would have a knock-on effect on domestic tourism activity."

"Furthermore, we continue to face increasingly high costs of doing business which have been compounded by the Government's decision to increase the tourism VAT in last year's Budget. As a result, Ireland now has a higher rate of VAT on tourism accommodation than 27 countries in Europe with which we compete, making us less attractive as a destination."

Mr McNamara acknowledged the progress made in recent years in new product development and market

diversification, including regional campaigns offering significant potential for tourism growth. "They can play a vital role in lengthening the tourism season, which is of particular importance to our local tourism industry. These initiatives must be more adequately resourced and this requires an increase in Government investment in tourism marketing and development," he added.

The IHF continues to press the Government to introduce a Tourism Satellite Account within the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to provide a full analysis of the economic activity in the Tourism industry and how much it contributes to each county throughout the country. "It will also provide independent verification to assist those who rely on the National Accounts, where tourism is not identified, to inform their deliberations on taxation and economic policy," Mr McNamara said.

## All rise for Childline

ISPCC Childline, Ireland's national active listening service for children, is calling on creches, schools, community groups, businesses and individuals in County Wicklow and across Ireland to host a breakfast this October (21st-27th October) and help raise vital funds to ensure Childline is always there to listen. The service is asking people of all ages and walks of life in Wicklow to 'All Rise for Childline' this October by hosting a breakfast for friends, family members or colleagues and raising much-needed funds for the listening service. Members of the public can register a breakfast by visiting [www.ispcc.ie/news/Childline-Breakfast-Week-2019](http://www.ispcc.ie/news/Childline-Breakfast-Week-2019). Breakfasts held will ensure Childline can continue to support and empower children 24 hours a day, every day.

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# Coming up at Whale Theatre

## Remi Harris Live

Remi Harris is an exciting Jazz & Blues guitarist from the UK who's unique style draws inspiration from artists such as Django Reinhardt, Jimi Hendrix, Wes Montgomery, Peter Green and Led Zeppelin. He has performed at Buckingham Palace, Montreal Jazz Festival, BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall with Jamie Cullum, on

## PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, entrance and associated works at Cunniamstown Beg, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow for A. Keogh. 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

I Mr. Harry Lyster am applying for Planning Permission for the construction of a new 14sq.m. ground floor extension and 7.5sq.m. first floor extension to the rear of the existing two-storey terraced dwelling with flat roof finish and to include ancillary works at 29 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County 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 (€20) within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Angela Byrne seeks planning permission for new two-storey, pitched roof house with corrugated metal roof and corrugated metal and render finished exterior walls, enlargement of existing site entrance to create new vehicle entrance, alterations to existing stone wall to road, new connection to existing foul drain services, new soakaways for surface water drainage, new driveway, new cement render finish garage with flat roof with grass finish, general landscaping and ancillary site works at site at Kilmolin, Enniskerry, 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 the Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, 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

Significant information / revised plans. I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning ref. no. 19/446 - Change of use (removal of planning condition number 2 of planning ref. no. 08/1256 and removal of condition no. 2 of planning ref. no. 04/2032 from restricted use as a dwelling to use by all classes of persons at Quill Road, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow for A. Kavanagh and G. Kelly. 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. A submission or observation in relation to the further information may be made in writing to the Planning Authority within a period of two weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation. Applicants should refer to Article 35 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2011.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, entrance and associated works at Laragh East, Co. Wicklow for A. Kavanagh and G. Kelly. 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.

# JOIN THE TEAM!



**Wicklow Times**, County Wicklow's biggest and best read newspaper, has the following vacancies in its Advertising Department.

## AREA FIELD SALES & TELESALES EXECUTIVES

Ideally, we are seeking candidates with previous experience of sales. Candidates should be hard working, conscientious and have the ability to work well in a team environment. An **attractive salary**, together with a **rewarding commission structure**, and where relevant, a **car allowance** is on offer.

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- CRAFTWORKER - PLUMBER  
(WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT)**  
REF: 29/2019 Salary: €643.52 - €752.99 (after 9.5 years) gross per week
- CLERICAL OFFICER**  
REF: 30/2019 Salary: €24,000 - €39,793 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

Application forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS  
12 NOON ON THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2019**

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

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Thomas Murphy,  
Director Of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate Services  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings, Wicklow  
Phone: 0404 20159  
Fax: 0404 20112  
e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

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