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Tuesday 21st January 2020

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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NO 'GREEN' LIGHT FOR N11

The tens of thousands of Wicklow commuters stuck in the traffic nightmare on the N11 every morning and night will be concerned at recent statements by the Green Party on the proposed upgrade of the N11 M11, according to Independent councillor and general election candidate, Joe Behan.

"The Greens want to halt or delay any proposed upgrading of the carriageway thus prolonging the agony of families who are forced to endure long hours apart because it takes so long to get to and from work in Dublin every day," he said.

"We all agree that any improvements must be accompanied by enhanced public transport and park and ride facilities all along the N11 at Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones and Bray. It is a disgrace that there is no joined up thinking by Government to implement this.

"It is also a disgrace that the ultimate decision

on this project will be made by An Bord Pleanála not by local councillors. I cannot accept that the people currently stuck in their cars now in 2020 should suffer any further unnecessary delays in upgrading the capacity of the N11 M11.

"While I don't doubt the sincerity of the Greens in their reasons for seeking to delay the project, I believe it is not in the interests of the hard-pressed Wicklow commuters and they should reconsider their position on this major issue for the county."

At last Monday's

Wicklow County Council meeting, Green Party councillor Steven Matthews called for a detailed transport study to be carried out on providing an improved rail service frequency between Arklow and Bray, the provision of local bus public transport between towns and improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure through towns to transport hubs, schools and places of employment before proceeding with Phase 2 route selection of the N11/M11 improvement scheme.

Greystones Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott said "Given the



Pat Casey TD with Julie New and Micheal Martin at the launch of Deputy Casey's campaign in Arklow last Friday. Pic: Michael Kelly

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environmental sensitivity and importance of the area we are also asking that all necessary environmental impact assessments be produced for each proposed route to enable the public to be fully informed of the likely environmental damage before being asked to select preferred road options. We would like to see Wicklow County Council take the lead by assessing the carbon footprint of the Phase 2 options and demonstrating how any of the proposed options will reduce transport emissions contributing to climate change."

Cllr Matthews concluded: "It seems apparent from this week's meeting that most parties just want the road built regardless of the environmental consequences or the fact that widening a road will do nothing for the

commuters of Wicklow."

There was not much enthusiasm for Cllr Matthews' proposal from Fine Gael or Fianna Fail councillors. Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG) said he was "reluctant" to postpone Phase 2, and Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (FF) said he was against any deferral. "Sixty percent of the working population in Arklow are commuting. The people I represent don't want any deferral on the project," he said.

Cllr Gerry Walsh (FF) agreed that postponing it would "send out the wrong message". Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran said he did not recommend postponing it as it would mean "We would go back to the end of the queue".

Cllr Behan, said he was against any delay:

(continued on page 3)

Cllr. STEVEN MATTHEWS

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Wicklow needs a Green TD

Join the Green Wave!

Steven Matthews
Green Party
[@stevensgreen1](https://twitter.com/stevensgreen1)
Email: steven.matthews@greenparty.ie



The McEvoy family - Luke, Ruby, Tara and Daragh - present cheques to Jim Schofield of NILMDTS (Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep), and Joan Tuthill of Feileacáin in memory of their daughter Pippa. Funds were raised by coffee mornings, by Daragh running in the Dublin City Marathon, and events organised by work colleagues.

Life saving 'Message in a Bottle' idea from Wicklow Lions

Members of Wicklow and District Lions Club say they are very proud to be part of the National Lions project called 'Message in a Bottle'.

'Message in a Bottle' is a simple idea that encourages people to keep their basic personal and medical details in a common place, for example in their fridge, where in cases of emergency, the emergency teams can easily access them and possibly save their lives.

The information required is very basic but necessary. The personal information form is self-explanatory; however one may like to ask a relative,

friend, neighbour or carer to assist in completing the form.

The bottle which is totally free of charge is actually a plastic container complete with a personal information form and three self-adhesive pharmacy style logo green stickers which are stuck to the front and back door.

In the event of an accident or incident within the home, the first responder/emergency services on the scene will be alerted to

the bottle by the label on the door.

The bottle, which is normally kept in the fridge or press, can then be located by the attending service. They quickly read the vital information on the form and act accordingly.

The bottles are available free of charge from any Lions member throughout the district or from pharmacies, garda stations, the fire service, first responders, doctors surgeries, etc.

Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in a community, anyone can have an accident in the home, so this scheme can benefit anyone.

Message in a Bottle is now also available to golfers. A metal disc /tag is placed on the golf bag to indicate that a bottle is contained in the top pocket of the golf bag, proving once again how much a life saving idea this is, created by Lions.

Birdwatch Ireland events

January

Saturday 25th: Outing to Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. Meet at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve at 10.30am. Car-pool from Greystones Park and Ride at 8.30am. (contact birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com if you need a lift)

February

Tuesday 11th: "Dippers, fishers, goosers and wags" - Birds of the Avonmore River Catchment. A presentation by Oran O'Sullivan, Glenview Hotel at 8pm.

Saturday 15th: Wicklow County Bird Race. Meet at the car park at the southern end of Bray seafront promenade (by the amusements). Time: 7am (for team registration). Race Start: 7:15am (sharp). Race Finish: 6:45pm at The Beehive Inn, off the N11 south of Rathnew. Teams of 3-4 people per car at €5 per person (fees cover organisational costs of the event with proceeds going to the BirdWatch Ireland Wicklow Branch). Objective: To record as many species of bird as possible in one day within the Wicklow County boundaries.

Saturday 22nd. Joint outing to Altamount Gardens, The Pottle, Co. Carlow with the Carlow Branch BWI. Meeting at Altamount Gardens at 10.30am. Car-pool from Greystones Park and Ride at 8.30am. (contact birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com if you need a lift). Please note there is a €3 entrance fee per person to the gardens.

Tiny €5 flutter in Wicklow scoops €7,500 profit in lotto winnings

The champagne was popping in County Wicklow last Tuesday night after a lucky punter transformed a small stake into a whopping four-figure windfall following a burst of Lotto luck.

The anonymous punter placed a €5 treble in a BoyleSports shop in the Garden County and picked three numbers to be drawn in the EuroMillions Main draw.

All three numbers to be drawn were at odds of 1,500/1. When 25, 39, and 44 all dropped out of the machine, the odds were smashed and the big win was in the bag. The run of good fortune allowed them to return to the shop and exchange their bet slip for an amazing total of €7,505.

Leon Blanche, spokesperson for BoyleSports said: "Sometimes just a small stake can go a long way and we have to hand it to our customer in Wicklow for their ambitious approach. We wish them huge congratulations on an amazing start to the new year."

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The launch of the 43rd Bray One Act Drama Festival took place in the Mermaid Arts Centre last week. Actors from the participating groups, along with patrons and supporters of the Festival and committee members were all in attendance. Also there on the night, were representatives from the charities which will benefit from the festival this year. Tommy Gordon (WH 5 Loaves) and Jimmy Fearon (Deborah Ireland) addressed the crowd giving information on their charities. Festival Director William Mansfield launched what promises to be another great week of drama, comedy and entertainment. The Festival runs from Tues 28th Jan - Sat 1st Feb in the Mermaid Theatre. Tickets are available from the Mermaid at 012724030 or online at www.mermaidarts-centre.ie. Pictured are Jean Kelly, Ger Gilroy, William Mansfield, Beth Holmes, and Tracey Byrne

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Times

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Just seven IDA visits

There were just seven IDA site visits to Co. Wicklow in the whole of 2018 and the first three quarters of 2019, according to data released in response to a Parliamentary Question. This makes Wicklow the joint second lowest in terms of site visits from the direct investment agency.

Labour General Election candidate, Cllr Paul O'Brien from Wicklow Municipal District, has said it's time for the IDA to "get away from their bubble in Dublin".

In 2018 there was just one IDA site visit to Co. Wicklow, the fewest in the whole country, and there were six in the first three quarters of 2019. IDA site visits to Co. Wicklow over this period amounted to less than one percent of the total of IDA site visits around the country. Over 40 percent of site visits were to Dublin. Details of the number of site visits for the whole of 2019 will be available soon.

Wexford, Longford and Monaghan also received just seven IDA site visits during this time period, while Roscommon has the least amount with just five site visits.

The matter was raised at last week's meeting of

Wicklow County Council by Labour General Election candidate Paul O'Brien. Chief Executive Frank Curran said he will pass on Cllr O'Brien's concerns to the IDA.

"Over the years it is very clear that Wicklow has been consistently let down by the IDA," Cllr O'Brien recently stated after seeing the figures. "Wicklow has poor public transport, clogged infrastructure, and job losses being announced. We need the IDA visiting and promoting Wicklow. We live in one of the most diverse, scenic, and educated counties in the country, yet we have been consistently let down. I'm calling on my fellow councillors and our TDs to park our political differences, to work together and do what is right for everyone in our county. We should be collectively demanding that the IDA get down here, away from their bubble in

Dublin, and get working on bringing jobs to Wicklow."

The Parliamentary Question came from Fianna Fail Deputy Aindrias Moynihan, who asked the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the number of IDA visits by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

In response, Minister Humphreys said "Regional development is a key priority for my Department. We understand the importance of achieving the best possible spread of employment and investment across the country and we have been working hard towards that goal. Significant progress has already been made, with 58% of all IDA client-supported employment now located outside of Dublin. This figure represents the highest such figure in the history of the Agency. Our aim

remains to increase this percentage further by the end of this year.

"When it comes to foreign direct investment (FDI), site visits do represent a valuable tool through which investors can be encouraged to invest in regional areas. However, as I have said before, site visit activity does not necessarily reflect investment potential, as a significant percentage of all new FDI comes from existing IDA client companies."



Julie New of Plain & Pearl in Arklow with her children's Knitting & Crochet class, making mittens, joey pouches and nests for wildlife in Australia that have been injured by the fires.

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☒ I am the only Wicklow TD who voted No confidence in the Housing and Health Ministers

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BRADY

No. 1

NO 'GREEN' LIGHT FOR N11

(continued from page 1)

"Tens of thousands of people are struggling to get home to their families because of the N11. It's not good enough to say that we're going to delay this. Parents are away from home 12 hours a day. I won't agree with stopping the process."

After last week's meeting Cllr

Mitchell said "Councillors did not want to 'postpone' the N11 study as the Green Party wanted at Monday's council meeting. The problem is urgent and the study has already been redirected in 2019 to study public transport more. The Council's Transport Committee will, next Monday, hear from the Study chiefs about the new objectives."

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Pictured last week with General Election candidate Independent Councillor Joe Behan were supporters Independent councillors Peir Leonard, Mags Crean and Mary Kavanagh.

BUS EIREANN CEO QUESTIONED OVER 133 RELIABILITY

Bus Eireann CEO Stephen Kent has acknowledged the problems with the much maligned 133 bus route service and is hopeful that a new timetable will help to improve the service.

Mr Kent and other representatives from Bus Eireann attended last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council to give a presentation and take questions from councillors, who voiced strong criticism of the reliability of the 133 service.

Mr Kent admitted that the company "have not been delivering an optimal customer experience" with the 133. "We recognise there are issues of punctuality on the route," he said, "due to increased traffic congestion in the Greater Dublin Area. Traffic congestion has been the biggest bugbear for us."

He noted that there have been differences of 18-20 minutes between the timetable and real time, according to equipment on the busses which monitor time between stops.

However he maintained that 98% of journeys were delivered on the 133 last year, a figure which Cathairleach Irene Winters said she found "hard to believe".

The 133, which makes 300 trips per week between Wicklow Town and Dublin Airport, is the most complained about of all Bus Eireann's routes, receiving 889 complaints

per 100,000 passengers in 2018 (compared to an average of 40 complaints per 100,000 passengers on the company's other routes).

Mr Kent said that the company has "great ambition to improve the service", and plans to implement a new timetable on March 22nd.

He said that the company has "spent months with the National Transport Authority" devising the new timetable, and believes it will be "more reliable and more efficient, informed by the data we have collected".

Included in the changes will be increased frequency in the morning and evening at peak times to every 20 minutes instead of every 30 minutes, and the service will run from 5am to midnight.

Speaking at last week's meeting, Social Democrats General Election candidate Jennifer Whitmore described the 133 service as "a huge problem". "Something has to be done, people have had to change their jobs or buy a new car because they couldn't rely on the 133. Hopefully the new plans will achieve improvements." Cllr Whitmore also called for the 133 to be extended to Aughrim.

Cllr Mary Kavanagh, who recently submitted a petition to Bus Eireann with over a thousand signatures calling for improvements to the 133, said last week: "Here in Wicklow town the bus service is vital; we have no Dart, we have no Luas. People are dependent on the bus for college, work, hospital appointments, and they are at the end of their tether. One of the comments included in the petition was from a woman who said that her husband's mental health was being affected from being constantly late."

West Wicklow councillors used the opportunity last week to complain about the bus stop at Hollywood Cross, which some drivers acknowledge and others don't. The Bus Eireann officials explained that the stop is not an official designated stop but that the company will enter dialogue with the NTA to make it one.

Cathairleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District Gerry O'Neill said that the stop has been there for a long time but that "it's hit and miss as to whether the driver stops there. It seems to depend on the driver and whether or not he wants to stop."

Speaking after last

week's meeting, Councillor Avril Cronin said "As a commuter and a regular on the 132 bus, I am frustrated with the ongoing issue regarding the stop at Hollywood. Traditionally, the Bus Eireann 132 route has always stopped at Hollywood Cross, which has become a vital service for many in Hollywood and surrounding areas. Recently an issue has occurred with the bus route and the bus is no longer stopping at Hollywood. This is a major loss to Hollywood and surrounding areas such as Vallemount and Dunlavin."

"I have raised the issue on numerous occasions and have asked both Bus Eireann and Wicklow Council Council to ensure that Hollywood becomes an official stop on the 132 Bus Route. Living in West Wicklow we lack public transport. We do not have the luxury of a train service, a luas line or even a frequent bus service, in fact we don't even have a motorway. Many people have become reliant on the 132 bus which services areas along the N81 from Bunclogh to Dublin City Centre, stopping at Tallaght Hospital on route."

'Additional capacity needed for rail commuters'

John Brady TD has argued the case with the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, for additional Irish Rail capacity for commuters on the Dublin-Rosslare line.

Raising the matter in the Dáil, Deputy Brady said: "Every day Wicklow commuters traveling into Dublin for work face overcrowded trains with barely enough room to stand, let alone sit down. This overcrowding is forcing commuters off public transport and into their cars leading to major traffic on the N11."

"We know from the 2016 Census that 1,750 people from Arklow and 4,339 people from Wicklow Town commute to Dublin on a daily basis for work yet, this is not reflected in the train service provided. There are only five train services through Wicklow to Dublin daily and the train times are awkward for commuters with only two morning trains between 6am and 7am."

"At a time when people are being encouraged to use public transport and when many are prepared to make changes and do their bit for climate change, they simply cannot do so in Wicklow. We know that Irish Rail have ordered 41 carriages which will arrive in 2021 however, it does not appear that any of these carriages will be used to provide additional capacity on the Dublin/Rosslare line. This is completely unacceptable."

"I have met with and asked Irish Rail directly to extend the Short Hop Zone to Arklow to allow commuters to avail of the leap card fares yet, I am told they cannot for fear more people would use the train and they cannot cater for any more passengers. This is madness. We need to see additional capacity on the Dublin/Rosslare line urgently. Minister Ross must begin prioritising public transport over motorways and invest in a proper public transport system," concluded Deputy Brady.

ANDREW DOYLE^{TD}

Putting Wicklow 1st

I am running in the General Election and I will be asking for your support. I hope that myself or my campaign team will have a chance to meet with you during the next few weeks.



FINE GAEL

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Eilís Ni Heailaithe from St. Gerards, Bray, with sister Meabh and mother Aine, and Trinity College Dublin Registrar Paula Murphy at the celebration of Entrance Exhibitioners

'Nine health care centres are a massive investment in local health care services'

In advance of the general election Minister for Health Simon Harris TD outlined the progress by Fine Gael in delivering Primary Health Care in Wicklow since 2011

Minister Harris said "Since Fine Gael went into government in 2011 four Primary Care Centres - Blessington, Wicklow, Newtownmountkennedy and South Wicklow have opened.

"County Wicklow will have another five Primary Care Centres in the next few years: Construction of the Bray Primary Care Centre is nearly complete. Equipping the building will commence in March with the centre due to be operational in summer 2020; Construction of the Baltinglass Primary Care Centre will be complete in Summer 2020, and the centre will be operational in Q3 2020; Construction of the Rathdrum Primary Care Centre are imminent with the developer informing the HSE that works are planned to commence on site this month.

"The Arklow Primary Care Centre received a conditional grant of planning in December 2019 and a final grant of planning is due by the end of January 2020 and works are scheduled to commence in 2020.

"The HSE and Wicklow County Council are working on a masterplan for the development of the Greystones Primary Care Centre on council owned lands. The Council have confirmed to the HSE that a Primary Care Centre will be allowed for in the master plan.

"Delivery and investment of Primary Care in Wicklow has been and remains a major priority for me. Nine Primary Care Centres in Wicklow since 2011 is a remarkable transformation and a huge investment in County Wicklow frontline services.

"Fine Gael's work in fixing the economy has allowed increased investment in local health services and I am seeking Wicklow people's number 1 vote to ensure this progress continues."

Property prices up by €5,000

Property prices in Wicklow have increased by €5,000 in the last quarter, according to the latest MyHome.ie Property Report.

The report for Q4 2019 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county has gone up to €335,000 from €330,000 in Q3. It also increased by €15,000 compared to this time last year. This is the highest price recorded since Q4 2010.

The asking prices for 3-bed semi-detached houses in the county have fallen by €5,000 this quarter, to €320,000. However, prices for this house type have increased by €21,000 compared to this time last year, when they stood at €299,000.

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow have gone up by €10,000 in the last quarter, and now stand at €435,000. The price went up by €60,000 compared to this time last year.

The number of proper-

ties for sale in Wicklow on MyHome.ie decreased by 25% in the last quarter and by 14% compared to this time last year.

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

The author of the report, Conall MacCoille, Chief Economist at Davy, said that the slowdown in house price inflation was to be welcomed and was inevitable given stretched affordability.

"Central Bank rules have stopped first-time buyers taking out too much mortgage debt and should lead to more realistic asking prices. Our analysis shows that the average residential transaction in Ireland (€292,000) is now 6.8x the average income of €43,000. This is only slightly below the UK's

ratio of 7x. This is the first time since 2012 that Ireland's house-price-to-income ratio has declined.

"While there has been a 13% fall in new instructions to sell and an 11% drop in the total number of homes listed for sale, there are positives in the market. Mortgage lending to first-time buyers is up 15% in the first three quarters and transaction volumes in the €300,000-€400,000 price range are up 7% in the capital," he said.

"It is also encouraging to see homebuilding completions rose above 20,000 for the first time in the 12 months to September, and housing starts went above 26,000."

Angela Keegan, Managing Director of MyHome.ie, said it was welcome that clarity was emerging regarding Brexit and Central Bank mort-

gage lending rules. "For most of the year, we understandably saw prospective purchasers being reluctant to take the plunge due to these two unresolved issues, leading to sluggish house price inflation. The clarity we now have will likely lead to more settled price expectations and a stabilisation of residential transactions in 2020.

"It remains to be seen how the Central Bank's decision to keep mortgage rules unchanged and indeed Brexit will affect the Irish market in the long term, but at least now purchasers can plan without being fearful of any sudden shocks."

According to daft.ie's q4 Report FOR 2019, prices in Co. Wicklow in the final quarter of 2019 were 4% lower than a year previously, compared to a rise of 6% seen a year ago.

Wicklow's young scientists awarded

Wicklow students were awarded at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition awards ceremony. The young scientists who are students at Gerard's and Avondale Community School impressed the judges and took home 3 awards from the Social & Behavioural Sciences and Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences categories. A total number of 10 projects represented Wicklow at the exhibition this year.

Cormac Harris and Alan O'Sullivan, both aged 16, fourth year students from Coláiste Choilm, Cork, have taken home the top prize for a project entitled "A statistical investigation into the prevalence of gender stereotyping in 5-7 year olds and the development of an initiative to combat gender bias". The coveted prize was presented to the winners this evening in the BT Arena by Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh TD, and Managing Director of BT Ireland, Shay Walsh. Cormac and Alan presented their project in the Intermediate section in the Social and Behavioural Sciences category.

Head Judge of the Social and Behavioural Sciences Group category, Professor Joe Barry said about Cormac and Alan's project, "Despite awareness of the lower percentage of females relative to males pursuing study and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), we still do not understand exactly why this is the case.

The aim of Cormac and Alan's project was to determine how early gender stereotyping can be identified. They conducted workshops with 376 5-7 year olds from a range of school settings with a number of different tasks including: choosing between gender-specific and gender-neutral toys; drawing and naming an engineer, and; rating male and female competency at a number of gender-specific roles. One of the most striking findings emerging from the research was that 96% of boys drew a male engineer while just over 50% of girls drew a female engineer. This, along with the other data, indicates that gender stereotypes emerge in young children and that they are particularly strong among boys. Cormac and Alan's findings are important as intervention typically focusses on girls, but the project recognises the need to focus on all children, boys and girls, from a young age, in order to combat the development of gender stereotyping. The project is particularly impressive in that Cormac and Alan also created very pertinent and useable resources for primary school teachers to combat gender stereotyping among young children."

The 2020 BT Young Scientist & Technology winners received the BTYSTE perpetual trophy and the top prize of €7,500. The lucky winners will also represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists, which takes place in Santander, Spain in September 2020. Cormac and Alan will also get to attend the 62nd Annual London International Youth Science Forum later in the year.



Ruth Murphy, Legal Director, BT, presents the Social and Behavioural Intermediate individual 3rd place award to Brendan Conroy



John O'Connor, CEO of the Housing Agency, presents the Housing Agency Award to Evan Dargan Hayes from St. Gerard's

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MINISTER SIMON HARRIS

For Wicklow's future

vote
no. 1

Dear Wicklow Resident,

Thank you for allowing me the honour of being your TD. It is a role I take very seriously and give it my all. Working together we have achieved much across our county - but there is so much more I want to do. Please lend me your No. 1 vote on Saturday, 8th February so together we can make more progress. As always, please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

FINE GAEL

continue your preference Andrew Doyle and Billy Timmins.



The Launch of the 43rd Bray One Act Drama Festival took place in the Mermaid Arts Centre last. The Festival runs from Tues 28th Jan - Sat 1st Feb in the Mermaid Theatre. Tickets are available from the Mermaid at 012724030 or online at www.mermaidartscentre.ie. Pictured are Maeve Edwards, Noel Connolly, and Marie McCourt, Square One

Rathnew content creation hub gets €1.43m funding

A content creation hub planned for the Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew has secured funding of €1.43m under the Government's Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF).

The funding was announced last week by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Heather Humphreys TD.

The Content Creation Enterprise Hub will provide 10,000 sq ft of private and co-working spaces and is hoped will boost job creation in the content creation sector and spin out services feeding into these industries.

It will also offer a collaborative social space, conference centre, podcast studio and screening facility along with access to a range of existing meeting rooms and training facilities on the larger Clermont campus.

The hub will incorporate the Courtyard buildings, the second floor of the existing campus building and the Chapel which will be refurbished and renovated. It will also include a newly built two floor extension to the Courtyard buildings.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "We welcome the announcement by the Minister of the approval of our application. This is a really positive development for Wicklow County

Campus. It's also positive for the future growth of a strong local screen industry. Stakeholders and development agencies as well as training providers in this sector have been widely consulted and are extremely supportive of this innovative project. We're aiming to start construction this year in order to open the hub in 2021".

The Regional Enterprise Development Fund aims to support projects that drive sustainable job creation in the regions. Twenty-six successful applicants representing all regions of the country have been approved for funding of over €40m.

Minister Humphreys said: "The Irish economy has had a remarkable turnaround in recent years, but we cannot rest on our laurels. Although we have made a lot of progress with six out of 10 jobs created outside Dublin since 2016, some parts of the country are not recovering as quickly as others.

"The Regional Enterprise Development Fund is about supporting every region to build on its unique strengths and ultimately create sustainable jobs. Collaboration is at its core - among the public and private sectors, within and across regions.

"The projects we are funding today are at the cutting edge of innovation. I am confident that they have the potential to make a real and lasting impact on enterprise development at both regional and national level."

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CANDIDATES ADVISED TO AVOID POLITICAL JARGON

With the general election set for Saturday 8th February, we will be hearing a lot more about fresh mandates, manifestos, swing voters, fiscal space, building an Ireland for all and a future to look forward to.

In response to all this jargon, the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) have a 'Plain English Guide' to the way politicians and political commentators speak.

It explains the well-worn phrases used in election campaigns that are often misunderstood, such as the hustings, tallyman and marginal seat.

"Politics is awash with terms and phrases that are beloved of commentators and politicians alike. That's why we wrote this guide - to help people to better understand what is being said. But we also encourage political parties to use less jargon and to be more aware of the issues faced by the 1 in 6 adults with literacy difficulties in Ireland. While political jargon allows politicians to talk about issues in a quicker, coded way, it can also act as a real barrier for people accessing information," said Dr Inez Bailey, NALA CEO.

explained from NALA's Plain English Guide to Political Terms.

Bandwagon effect: The tendency for a popular candidate or proposal to gather even more support simply because they appear to be winning; also called the "snowball effect".

Canvassing: Trying to win votes by contacting voters directly, for example, by going door to door.

Mandate: The authority to represent people's interests and take action on their behalf.

Manifesto: A document stating a political party's values, goals and intended actions.

Quota: The number of votes that a candidate needs to win a seat under the proportional representation (PR) system.

Swing voter: A person who votes, but whose support can switch from one political party to another, depending on the issue at stake.

Jargon: What's out for the election

- **Drive:** Politicians shouldn't 'drive' anything out (unless it is cattle) or 'foster' (unless it is children).
- **Slimming down** (processes don't diet)
- **Deliver** (pizzas, post and services are delivered - not abstract concepts like 'improvements' or 'priorities')
- **Key** (unless it unlocks something. A subject/thing isn't 'key' - it's probably 'important')
- **Strengthening** (unless it's strengthening bridges or other structures)
- **Tackling** (unless it is rugby, football or some other sport)
- **Going forward** (unlikely we are giving travel directions)

Here is a selection of some of the political phrases

This plain English guide focuses on political terms as part of NALA's ongoing campaign on literacy and political participation. The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) is seeking the support of all political parties for greater action on adult basic education - literacy, numeracy and digital skills. Specifically we are seeking the following commitments in their manifestos:

- Develop and implement a 10 year Whole-of-Government Strategy for adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills (to provide opportunities for those with the least education)
- Enact a Plain Language Bill to require that all information for the public from government and State bodies is written and presented in plain language (so that those with low literacy levels can access public information).

Aontú
LIFE • UNITY • ECONOMIC JUSTICE

VOTE #1
SÉAMUS CONNOR
FOR WICKLOW

BREAKTHROUGH FOR AONTÚ
Aontú is a new all-Ireland political party with core values of Life, Unity and Economic Justice, led by Peadar Kirby TD. Aontú is delighted that Séamus Connor will contest the general election in Wicklow.

HEALTH CRISIS IN WICKLOW & MENTAL HEALTH
As a TD, Séamus will make mental and physical health priority issues and hold those in power to account for their shortcomings.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTY WICKLOW
Séamus is highly passionate about the environment, nature and cares deeply about climate change. In 2007, Séamus founded, and is Chairperson, of Bray CoastCare Group and also facilitated the setting up of Brittas Bay and Arklow Coastcare Groups.

SPORTS AND RECREATION
Séamus has been a strong advocate over the last two decades for sports and recreational facilities. Throughout Séamus' career of 14 years as a secondary school teacher, he has voluntarily set up many groups for young people.

THE HOUSING CRISIS AND UNAFFORDABLE RENT PRICES
Séamus wants to work hard to sort out the mess in regards to the housing crisis and unaffordable rent prices in Wicklow.

VOTAL #1 SÉAMUS CONNOR
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- More Gardai and resources to fight crime and drugs in all Towns and Villages

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Please continue your preference for **Stephen Donnelly TD**





Stephen Donnelly TD signs a petition at BIFE's Open Day against the proposed development on the campus, with student Melissa McAnaspie

Site has been purchased for St Catherine's Special School

Minister Simon Harris last Friday announced that the Government has purchased a site for the permanent home for a new school for St Catherine's Special Needs School.

Minister Harris has been leading a campaign with parents and staff in St Catherine's to finally secure a site for this new school building project and ensure a state of the art school building for St Catherine's. Minister Harris said, "I am so delighted that we have purchased a site in Kilcoole for St Catherine's. This will deliver a brand new school and state of the art facilities for the children in St Catherine's. They deserve the very best and we have been working towards this for so long. "It has been an honour to work so closely with the Board of Management, parents and staff in the school to secure this result. I know this will significantly assist so many children with special needs and their families in our community. "I look forward to the school building project now progressing and continuing to work closely with the school on this, concluded Minister Harris.



Minister Simon Harris

Keddy sets out his stall as he confirms he is to run again

Kilcoole man Charlie Keddy has again put his name forward as a candidate for the general election. He recently contested all 4 bye-elections as well as the local elections.

He claims he is "The only socialist independent who has campaigned for many years to stop abortion. To the people who voted no in the referendum to let the unborn live: Don't give up! I am Charlie Keddy and not a turncoat. My principles are the same today as they were on my first venture as a Labour candidate many years ago. Being a mudguard for capitalist parties wasn't my thinking. Because I stuck to my principles against water charges and service charges in general, with the help of my wife, Una, we kept the Labour branch alive, and always paid to keep it so. To shut

me up, a coup was arranged.. I have been independent ever since that day.

"I am almost twenty years trying to stop corruption within Wicklow over the illegal development of my area. The 2000 Planning Laws protected Kilcoole and Newtownmountkenedy. I reminded the Council several times, I even took the County Council to Court, and to date the corruption continues. The Regional Plan 1999 and the 2000 Planning Laws made both areas greenbelt, what do you think?"

"I want to stop the tax on the owner living in their own home. I went to stop the two-tier health

system we have. I went to stop all parking charges in public hospitals and in all public places when your car is taxed to be on the road. I want much more effort going into the promotion of our language.

"I am well aware, as a socialist, of many ills the capitalist governments, with some help from the Labour and Green parties, since we nearly became an independent country, have made us suffer. We in Wicklow are very unlucky to have two TDs with forked tongues, one: the minister for health, and the other: the FF spokesman on health. When the minister stood for election he was



Charlie Keddy

tried to make a case to make him right in supporting the downgrading of our hospital, St Columcille's. He said his granny told him, 'you give the ambulance driver £20 not to stop at St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown'. I now want him to publicly name which of his grannies told him this, and I hope the driver comes forward.

"When I was invited to make a submission for the first local Kilcoole plan, I covered all the points to protect the environment. I covered all aspects of which the born-again environmentalists have discovered. I didn't have to wait until 2019 for a child suffering from depression to tell me how to protect our environment."

against abortion. I think to be the minister and to do a U-turn to campaign to allow abortion was an awful thing to do. Stephen Donnelly is the FF spokesman for health. He is well-known for changing parties. Did you know that on the Late Debate radio program he

Meet Wicklow's election candidates

Elected representatives take up positions that can make a real difference to the lives of people and the communities in which they live.

Therefore, Co Wicklow PPN and Disability Federation Ireland have invited the candidates to meetings to give Co Wicklow citizens the opportunity to meet the people that could have an influence on the policies and proposals that will have a direct impact on their lives.

The first meeting will take place in The Cornerstone Church, main street Bray (opposite the Royal Hotel) from 11am to 1pm on Friday 31st, January. The second meeting will take place in Glenart Community College, Arklow from 8pm to 10pm on Wednesday 5th February.

Co Wicklow PPN is a network of 300 community groups covering the 5 Municipal Districts of Co Wicklow. One of the functions of the PPN is to promote and encourage citizen engagement in local plans, policies and decision-making and ensure that community voices are heard. The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) was set up to make Ireland fairer for people with disabilities and to strengthen their voices.

For more information and to book a seat Tel Helen 087 189 5145, Grainne 086 048 7434 or Email countywicklowppn@gmail.com

Helen Howes Resource Worker for Co Wicklow PPN said, "We'd also like to highlight that Co Wicklow PPN member groups are taking the initiative of hosting Meet the Candidate events in their local communities. Community Pool for West Wicklow is running one on Tuesday 4th February at 8.15pm in The Avon and Delgany Community Council is running one in the Glenview Hotel on Wednesday 29th January at 8pm. We hope people will go along to a meeting close to them to have the opportunity to hear and be heard."

INDEPENDENT

KEDDY

NO

TO Abortion
TO Home Tax
TO Parking charges
at hospitals
TO corruption

VOTE NO. 1

Charlie





Kilcoole Primary School played host to the latest Cumann na mBunscol Young Whistler training course on the 16th January. Pupils from seven different schools across the North East of Wicklow participated on the day. Philip Campion, GDA, delivered the course with assistance from Breda Donnolly representing the Camogie Association and Kevin Spain. Pupils discussed the rules of the game, identified the qualities of the good referee and role played match situations. Each Young Whistler was then presented with a certificate on completion, a whistle and a Cumann na mBunscol referee's jacket. The newly qualified referees will take charge of hurling and camogie games in their schools and Cumann na mBunscol blitzes in the coming year. The schools participating schools included: St. Laurences Greystones, St. Cronan's, Scoil Chualann, Newtownmountkenedy PS, Gaelscoil Uí Cheadaigh, Greystones Educate Together, Kilcoole Primary School.

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Jackeline Atkins-Quigley, Oscar Rigney and Liaorsa Scally-Bolger at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) Open Day last Friday.

Soup and Sandwiches

There will be a soup and sandwiches Lunch on Tuesday, 21st January from 12.30 until 2.00, in St. Patrick's Swann Hall, Greystones. Everyone is welcome to enjoy homecooked food, good company and lots of chat. Suggested donation of €5 to be given to local charities.

Another soup and sandwiches lunch will be held on Wednesday 29th January, in Killian House Family Centre, in Greystones. The suggested donation is €5 and all proceeds are given to local charities.

An Evening of Drama in Delgany

Delgany Dramatic Society are presenting an evening of drama in aid of Delgany Tidy Towns. Two plays will be performed on the night, Before Dawn, a comic drama by Terence Rattigan and The Game is a Footie, a comedy by Peter Robbie. A fundraising raffle will be held during the interval. Performances begin at 8pm in The Old School House Delgany. Tickets are available on the door and cost €12 or €10 for concessions.

Bray Guided Meditation Session

Learn and practice advanced guided meditation techniques to help enhance physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, reduce stress and feel calm and in control of your thoughts and emotions. Open to all over the age of 18. Monthly sessions take place in Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Boghall Road, Bray, 7-8pm on the last Tuesday of the month, Tuesday 28th is for the January session. No fee to attend (donation box only). For details ring/text Shideh on 0876710903.

Footloose at St David's

St David's Greystones proudly presents Footloose the Musical, taking place in the Main Hall of St David's between Tuesday January 21st and Friday January 24th at 8pm. Tickets cost €12 for adults and €8 for children and are available at the school office with a limited amount available on the door.

Glendalough Country Market & Car Boot Sales 2020

Encouraging local and non-local producers of plants, vegetables, crafts etc. The next event for 2020 will be on Sun 8th of March, open from 10am to 4pm. Bargains on practically anything from household items to garden additions, and even vintage or antique treasures. Vans must be booked in. Please pre-book indoor spaces early. Contact the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600, email brockagh-carboot@gmail.com if you wish to book an indoor space or if you prefer to sell outside just show up at 8am on the morning.

Election poster ban in Arklow

Following a successful policy in 2019 to keep areas poster free coming up to elections in the Arklow Municipal District, it has now been agreed that this should continue for the forthcoming General Election.

The poster ban will operate in all areas between Junction 20 and 21 (Hill's Garage to Knockmore Roundabout) and also in rural towns and village centres in Arklow Municipal District, ie. Rathdrum, Avoca, Aughrim, Redcross, Annacurra and Glenmalur.

Councillors felt that this would support and show solidarity with the Community Groups and the Tidy Towns committees who work so hard to promote their areas in the District.

They are appealing to the goodwill of the candidates and their agents to respect the wishes of their constituents and to adhere to this request.

Roundwood Variety Show

Brockagh Resource Centre will be hosting the ever entertaining and talented Roundwood Variety Show performers again this year from 31st January to 2nd February with Robin Hood, The Magical Pantomime Adventure. To buy a ticket visit www.roundwoodvarietygroup.com.

Reading the classics in Bray Library

How well do you know the classics? Do you know your Crime and Punishment from your Pride and Prejudice? What can a budding writer learn from the great writers? And was Mark Twain right when he defined a classic as 'something that everyone wants to have read and nobody wants to read?' Over the next eight months the great works of authors as varied as Jane Austen, James Joyce, Charles Dickens, Fyodor Dostoevsky, the Brontës, and Carson McCullers, will be discussed. Sessions will be chaired by award-winning writer and creative writing author David Butler, whose most recent novel 'City of Dis', published by New Island, was shortlisted for the Irish Novel of the Year (2015). The course begins in Bray Library on Monday January 27th at 11am and will take place on the last Monday of the month thereafter at the same time. Booking required - call 01-2862600.

Garda Youth Awards

Wicklow Garda Youth Awards nominations are now open. The awards celebrate outstanding young people between the ages of 13 and 21 years. Awards will be considered for nominated young people who, by their presence, make their communities: A better place to live; Or who have shown great determination in their own lives. Full details, rules and nomination forms from: Garda Emma Skinner, Juvenile Liaison Officer, Bray Garda Station, emma.j.skinner@garda.ie. Closing date 27th January 2020.

safeTALK and ASIST courses

HSE Community Healthcare East (Dublin South East, Dublin South and Wicklow) are holding safeTALK and ASIST courses for January to June 2020, starting on Thursday 23rd January.

For course details and to book, log on to www.bookwhen.com/che

This training is suitable for caregivers who regularly have contact with vulnerable groups in their work or role in the community.

ASIST stands for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and trains participants to reduce the immediate risk of a suicide and increase the support for a person at risk. It helps them seek a shared understanding of the reasons for suicide and reasons for living.

The workshop provides opportunities to learn what a person at risk may need from others in order to keep safe and get more help.

It encourages honest, open and direct talk about suicide as part of preparing people to provide suicide first aid. Participants also consider how person-

al attitudes and experiences might affect their helping role with a person at risk.

Participants will feel challenged and safe, work interactively with others in small groups, learn a suicide first aid model that provides a framework for skills practice and experience powerful audio visuals. Attendance at the full two days is mandatory.

ASIST helps people apply suicide first aid in lots of different settings - with family, friends, co-workers and in more formal helping relationships. Benefits can be found in everyday situations, professional work or volunteering.

Attendees will become better prepared to: Recognise invitations for help; Reach out and offer support; Review the risk of suicide; Work with persons at risk to develop a safeplan; Link with community resources.

safeTALK is an internationally recognised half-day training programme that prepares participants to recognise and engage with people who may be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them to suicide first aid resources. Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives. Through their words and actions, they invite help to stay alive.

safeTALK-trained helpers can recognise these invitations for help and take action by supporting people to connect with life-saving resources, supports and services.

January

Thursday 23rd: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Conference Centre, Clonskeagh Hospital

February

Monday 3rd: 2 days, ASIST (8:30am-4:30pm), Taylor Centre, Bray
Wednesday 19th: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Conference Centre, Clonskeagh Hospital
Thursday 27th, 2 days,

ASIST, (9am-5pm), Wicklow Primary Care Centre.

March

Monday 9th: 2 days, ASIST (8:30am-4:30pm), Taylor Centre, Bray
Thursday 19th: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Taylor Centre, Bray.

April

Wednesday 1st: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Conference Centre, Clonskeagh Hospital.

May

Wednesday 6th: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Conference Centre, Clonskeagh Hospital
Tuesday 19th: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Taylor Centre, Bray
Wednesday 27th, 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Wicklow Primary Care Centre.

June

Wednesday 3rd: 10am-2pm, safeTALK, Conference Centre, Clonskeagh Hospital
Monday 8th: 2 days, ASIST (8:30am-4:30pm), Taylor Centre, Bray.

Anam Cara Wicklow Parents Evening

Anam Cara Wicklow, will host a parent support evening in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at, Co.Wicklow 7.20pm on 20th January.

Nobody likes January. Christmas has come and gone. Its dark and cold with the brighter months still a long way away! Now imagine all that on top of the desperate reality that your son or daughter is no longer with you.

Sadly, over 2,000 families a year will lose a child and Anam Cara are there to support these bereaved parents at a time when they need it most. They provide a

safe and comfortable space in which to remember and to be open with your grief. Anam Cara parent groups provide support from other bereaved parents who know what it's like to feel shattered and isolated.

This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless the age of your child or circumstances of their death.

Bereaved parents can also visit www.anamcara.ie, where in their own time they can watch short videos with testimonies from bereaved parents and couples who have attended Anam Cara events. The videos, which are just four minutes each, show parents interviewed on topics like A Dad's Grief, Sudden and Traumatic Death, and The Grieving Family.



Eva Dreyer from East Glendalough School, with parents Susan and Kim Dreyer with Trinity College Dublin Registrar Paula Murphy at the celebration of Entrance Exhibitioners.

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Dáil candidate and Independent councillor Joe Behan is pictured signing the BIFE student petition against the proposed new development on the BIFE campus, with BIFE students Melissa McAnaspie and Niamh Dunne.

Planning application for new Greystones Coastguard Station lodged

Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the news that the office of Public Works has lodged plans with the County Council for the redevelopment of the coastguard station in Greystones.

Minister Harris said "My colleague the Minister for Public Works confirmed that it has finalised revised plans for the redevelopment of the coastguard station and have lodged them with the local authority.

"I have been pursuing this issue since I was in the Department of Public Works. The Greystones Coastguard do great work and provide a great service for our community.

"In parallel to the planning application work is continuing by the OPW on putting the construction works out to tender. The Minister for OPW expects construction to get underway in the last half of 2020 and that these works will take approximately 14 months. This will then allow for the refurbishment of Greystones Garda Station to get underway."

New report provides first national picture of Local Authority climate actions

A new report launched last Tuesday outlines for the first time the range of actions local authorities have undertaken nationally to tackle climate change and to promote climate action within their communities.

The research, carried out by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) has found that half of all local authorities will achieve energy savings beyond their 2030 targets and have invested more than 120m in energy efficiency projects, preventing more than 60,000 tonnes of CO2 from being produced.

The report looks at Wicklow County Council's solar panel project in the car park at County Buildings as a case study. The report notes that the project will provide "approx. 285,000kWh/year of 100% renewable energy. It is not currently anticipated that any of the electricity will be exported or lost to the grid. With anticipated increased staff and fleet uptake of EVs, the potential for renewably powered transport is significant. The canopy will have gutters that reduces surface pluvial flooding in the carpark and offers future potential for rainwater collection or attenuation, thereby providing a dual benefit.

"The expected amount of renewable energy is equivalent to the baseload, or 40% of County Buildings' requirement, saving an estimated 40,000/year in energy costs. The canopy is being considered on a power purchase agreement basis. However, project costings have indicated that the project would have a simple payback of 10 years before grants are considered. The installation comes with a 25-year warranted life expectancy. As a proof of concept, there is significant potential to replicate at virtually any local authority public surface carpark."

Outside of energy efficiency, the local government sector has also been proactive in areas including sus-

tainable transport development, flood risk management, water conservation, waste management, nature-based solutions and public engagement.

The actions outlined in A Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland were undertaken in the period 2011-2018, ahead of the sector being named as a key driver of change under the National Climate Action Plan and each council signing up to a Climate Action Charter last year.

The recently published Heads of Climate Action (Amendment) Bill requires all local authorities to prepare individual climate action plans outlining the mitigation and adaptation measures the authority intends to adopt.

The research released today shows councils are poised to meet that obligation, according to Paddy Mahon Chair of the CCMA Environment Committee, "Local authorities have been taking measures to reduce emissions and to position the sector to lead in the response to the climate crisis. We have extensive expertise and we plan to build on that now by training all 28,000 members of staff in climate action. This will involve technical training as well as training in leadership, community engagement and behavioural change. That is a measure of very wide view we're taking and the scale of ambition we have."

Dr Bernie O'Donoghue Hynes, LGMA Head of Research pointed out that the report provides a snapshot in time that allows for local authorities to learn from each other and to recognise where additional action might be taken, "The research shows that local authorities have been taking a proactive approach to climate and environmental sustainability for some time, prioritising the needs of their areas and basing their response on prevailing risks in their jurisdictions. The research shows what has been done and serves as an important reference for local authorities to examine what can be done,"

42 nursing home beds available to facilitate hospital discharges

There are 42 beds available in Nursing Home Ireland (NHI) nursing homes across Co. Wicklow to facilitate timely discharge of patients from acute hospitals to nursing home care, NHI told Wicklow Times.

However, NHI states that feedback from members is the discharge process within hospitals is disorganised, inconsistent and supports are not available to enable staff facilitate the timely discharge of patients to nursing home care, where required.

There are 18 NHI Nursing Homes in Wicklow and 841 total registered beds. With 42 of these available to facilitate the discharge of patients, this is an average of more than 2 beds available per Nursing Home in Co Wicklow. An estimated 2,000 beds are available in private and voluntary nursing homes across the country.

NHI undertook a snapshot survey on Tuesday 7th January asking private and voluntary nursing homes the number of available beds within their homes to facilitate

transfer of patients from hospital.

HSE figures inform circa 60% of the hundreds of patients clinically fit for discharge in our acute hospitals are awaiting long-term nursing home care. Recent figures state at the end of November, almost 700 patients within our hospitals were delayed discharges.

Tadhg Daly, NHI CEO states: "Engagement with nursing homes the past number of days has informed of huge level of frustration with regard to the discharge process within our acute hospitals. We have nursing homes informing us they are aware of patients requiring discharge to nursing home care but many of these patients are being deterred due to delays in accessing funding support or bureaucracy within the hospital.

We've hundreds of beds available to provide specialised care for people in our hospitals who need step-down care but these are not being utilised. Our Members are reporting extreme frustration that patients assessed as requiring nursing home care are experiencing unnecessary delays and are remaining within hospital for periods of days in many instances.

"Late Saturday, NHI fielded an urgent request from the HSE at local level seeking information regarding nursing home beds immediately available to facilitate discharges from two severely overcrowded hospitals. Over 20 beds from ten nursing homes surrounding the hospitals were identified within a matter of hours but only one bed has since been utilised. These hospitals remain severely over-

crowded.

"While discharges occur every day to nursing homes, the urgency and focus required during this national emergency is not evident.

"Nursing home care has a lead role to fulfil in alleviating overcrowding within our acute hospitals and engagement has been undertaken with the HSE at national level. But it is damning upon the Government that no engagement is undertaken with the nursing home sector prior to the Winter period with view to planning timely discharge of the hundreds of patients requiring nursing home care that are within our hospitals on a daily basis. Year-on-year it fails to comprehensively plan for the Winter period and the outcome is distress for hospital patients, their families and hospital staff."

Who will be crooned the best singer in the ICA?

Have you been told that you have a great singing voice? Well now could be your chance to prove it as Blackberry Hearing has teamed up with the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) on the search to find Ireland's next singing sensation!

The Blackberry Hearing Singing Voice of the ICA competition is giving ICA members a chance to show off their singing talent. ICA Federation members will compete against each other with the winner from each federation progressing to the National Regional Finals.

Each contestant will have 2 - 3 minutes to perform their chosen song. Participants will not be allowed to refer to the lyrics while singing and will be judged on the song selection, voice quality, clarity, rhythm and their appeal to the audience.

The name of each federation winner and the song entry should then be submitted to National Contest Secretary May Campbell, Doonamernan, Kenagh, Longford or email maycampbell113@gmail.com no later than Friday 31st January 2020.

Josephine Helly, National President of the ICA said "We are really excited about the Singing Voice of the ICA competition which will give our members a great chance to show off their singing talent. We are delighted to be partnering with Blackberry Hearing to bring this competition to ICA members and the best of luck to everyone that enters."

The ICA is the largest women's association in Ireland, with almost 10,000 members and over 500 Guilds across the country. The aims of the ICA is to provide a welcoming and fun organisation which offers support, friendship, personal development, education and lifelong learning.

Visit www.blackberrysinging.com and www.ica.ie to find out more.



Evelyn McKeogh, Blackberry Hearing, Josephine Helly, ICA (centre), and Matthew Gleeson, Blackberry Hearing, launching the Singing Voice of the ICA competition

'Fianna Fáil will deliver Insurance Referendum if needed to end compo claim culture'

Wicklow Fianna Fáil Candidate Pat Casey has said the Fine Gael Government are kicking insurance reform to touch because they just don't want to tackle the issue of monumental pay-outs for fraudulent and exaggerated claims that are crippling businesses, sporting and community groups in Wicklow.

Casey was commenting after Fianna Fáil's campaign commitment to holding a referendum to cap insurance pay-outs that have sky rocketed over the past number of years.

Deputy Casey said, "The only reason insurance reforms wouldn't work is because there is no will from the current Fine Gael Government for them to work. The Government are hell bent on protecting the legal profession and Insurance companies who are the real benefactors of fraudulent and exaggerated insurance claims."

"We know that there is a minority of legal and medical professionals who are fuelling excessive claims. These so called 'ambulance chasers' are the reason why businesses, sporting clubs and community groups the length and breadth of Wicklow are buckling under the strain of public liability and insurance premiums.

"It totally unfair for businesses in Wicklow to be expected to meet the cost of fighting fraudulent or exaggerated personal injury cases. Our tourism industry which is vital to Wicklow has been put



Pat Casey TD

under threat with unnecessary claims against walking trails which nearly shut down our billion euro outdoor recreation sector.

"As a Hotelier I have seen insurance rates for the hospitality sector skyrocket forcing smaller cafes and restaurants to consider closing. This is crazy. If there are no small businesses then there will be no insurance business."

"The Government needs to take action and support both Fianna Fáil Civil Liability and Courts (Amendment) Bills which would ensure that where a court dismisses a case on the basis that it is a fraudulent action, the court must refer the matter to the DPP and that legal costs be paid by the claimant.

"If fraudsters knew that they would be liable for costs, and a possible criminal conviction, as opposed to a slap on the wrist, they might think twice before bringing a case.

"I've used every channel available to me to force Government to delivery reform but to no avail. Fianna Fáil are going to deliver Insurance fairness for all in Wicklow if elected to Government in the coming weeks," he concluded.



Megan Byrne Holt from St. David's Secondary School, Greystones, with Minister Andrew Doyle and Martin Flynn, BT Ireland, at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in the RDS.

'Wicklow playing catch-up due to lack of resources'

Social Democrat's General Election candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore says high population growth counties like Wicklow are constantly playing 'catch-up' as resources are being stretched across communities experiencing increasing growth in population and demand for services.

Speaking on the General Election campaign trail, Whitmore says "much of the data compiled in research carried out by the Social Democrats confirms that Wicklow has a significant revenue problem and is one of the worst resourced counties in Ireland when it comes to Gardaí, pupil-teacher ratio, spending on fire services and the number of health staff available to communities.

"From our research, we found that Wicklow has the 5th lowest in terms of Garda numbers and the fifth-lowest in expenditure per capita. We have the third-lowest expenditure on library services in the country and the sixth lowest in terms of Government grants.

"Furthermore, our research confirms that Wicklow has the second-worst commuting times in the country and is well below average in areas such as adult literacy and Council spending.

"This certainly matches up with the experiences people are having in Wicklow as they attempt to get

their kids into schools, commute to work, or contact community health services. I have seen it myself as Councillor and the lack of resources at council level resulting in resources being visibly stretched as their communities expand and demand for services increases.

"Wicklow is not getting its fair share of public services and funding making it a Catch-Up County. I want to see this change and bring about a new resource allocation system that is balanced, transparent and meets the needs of individual counties like Wicklow.

"Ireland needs to remodel how we identify needs and allocate resources. We must allocate on the basis of population growth and need with pre-agreed criteria and keep the Ministerial remit completely outside the process. Meanwhile there needs to be sustained investment in public services to meet service deficits and growing populations in counties like Wicklow" concluded Whitmore.

'West Wicklow Pool must be in next county development plan'

Minister Simon Harris TD has made a submission to the Wicklow County Development Plan in support of a swimming pool for the West Wicklow Municipal District.

In his submission Minister Harris stated: "There is a clear need for this facility for people in West Wicklow. In fact, West Wicklow is the only Municipal District in County Wicklow which does not have a public swimming pool. This needs to be rectified.

"An incredible community group has come together and has worked so hard to drive this project forward. They need and deserve the full support of the local authority to make their plan a reality.

"An important way of showing this support is ensuring

the inclusion of this project in the County Development Plan.

"There are so many benefits to swimming for people of all ages, including significant health benefits.

"I very much welcome the fact that the feasibility study for a pool for West Wicklow indicates this is indeed a viable proposal.

"For my part, I will work with the community and with the County Council to help deliver this major public amenity for the people of West Wicklow".

2020 GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme



The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, last week announced the opening of the 2020 GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme.

This scheme funds the restoration and preservation of traditional farm buildings and structures such as historic yard surfaces, walls, gates and gate pillars. The Heritage Council administer the scheme on behalf of the Department.

€1.25 million was secured in the budget for this very important scheme which will continue to make a huge contribution to the conservation of our rural heritage and the enhancement of the rural landscape. The benefits of the scheme go beyond retaining the structures for future generations because it can also have significant biodiversity benefits.

The scheme is open to applicants who participate in the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme and it is jointly funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under Ireland's 2014 - 2020 Rural Development Programme. The grant available can range between €4,000 and €25,000 and it can cover up to 75% of the cost of the works which is subject to the maximum ceiling.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 5pm. Application forms and the scheme's terms and conditions can be downloaded at www.heritagecouncil.ie

Eligible applicants for the scheme are chosen on a competitive basis and 70 to 80 projects will be supported. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 5pm on Tuesday 18th February.

'Bray Institute should be preserved for Adult Education purposes'

Fine Gael general election candidate for Wicklow Billy Timmins is supporting a campaign for the campus of Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) to be retained as a centre for adult education only.

Speaking from Bray, the Fine Gael General Election Candidate stated: "Under the remit of Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), BIFE is the only College of Further Education in County Wicklow with over 1,000 students. I'm aware that the college has ambitious future plans in many course areas including nursing, film and the arts. It's essential for our county that the college can continue to grow.

The Fine Gael General Election candidate noted "BIFE runs a number of sports courses and any additional development on this site would put such courses at risk. Wicklow has some of the greatest sporting talent in the country and it's essential the needs of those students are met in an educational sense."

Timmins says that new schools must be built on Greenfield sites which are better suited for such development. On the need for more second level schools in the North Wicklow area, Mr Timmins pointed out: "This is not an issue of Bray Institute vs Educate Together. New schools must be built on Greenfield sites which allow them to cater for the demands of their students. The former school on the BIFE site closed due to a lack of students and redeveloping a school here would hamper plans that Bray Institute has for the future."

Concluding Mr. Timmins said "BIFE has developed significantly in recent years and it's my belief that Wicklow must have a growing and developed third level educational facility to cater for the needs of Wicklow Students".



The Launch of the 43rd Bray One Act Drama Festival took place in the Mermaid Arts Centre last. Actors from the participating groups, along with Patrons and supporters of the Festival and committee members were all in attendance. Also there on the night, were representatives from the charities which will benefit from the festival this year. Also there on the night, were representatives from the charities which will benefit from the festival this year. Tommy Gordon (WH 5 Loaves) and Jimmy Fearon (Deborah Ireland) addressed the crowd giving information on their charities. Festival Director William Mansfield launched what promises to be another great week of drama comedy and entertainment. The Festival runs from Tues 28th Jan - Sat 1st Feb in the Mermaid Theatre. Tickets are available from the Mermaid at 012724030 or online at www.mermaidartscentre.ie. Pictured are Maureen and Brendan O'Sullivan, Balally Players, and Fiona Doyle, Glencullen Musical & Dramatic Society

Coming up at Whale Theatre

Bolshoi Ballet LIVE: Giselle

The young peasant girl Giselle dies when she learns that the man she loves, Albrecht, has betrayed her. Against her own will, she joins the Wilis, vengeful spirits of jilted brides who condemn Albrecht to dance until he dies of exhaustion...

Giselle touches upon great and universal romantic themes. In this brand new production, renowned choreographer Alexei Ratmanský brings a fresh perspective to one of the oldest and greatest works of classical dance, giving the audience an opportunity to discover this iconic ballet anew.

Music Adolphe Adam; Choreography Alexei Ratmanský; Libretto Théophile Gautier and Jean-Henry Saint-Georges; Cast - The Bolshoi Principals, Soloists and Corps de Ballet.

Sunday 26th January 2020 at 3pm (Doors open at 2.30pm) Tickets €25.



Bolshoi Ballet coming soon to Whale Theatre. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Lineup revealed for Wicklow Federation 65th One Act Drama Festival

The Wicklow Federation 65th One Act Drama Festival will take place in Glenealy Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd, Friday 24th, Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January. The curtain will go up at 7:30pm sharp each night. Tickets €10 at the door or contact 087 9833935. The Adjudicator will be Martin Maguire.

Wednesday 22nd: Balally Players "I'm Not Laughing I'm Screaming" One Act Comedy by

Sandy Taylor; Ballycoog ICA "Digging" Sketch/Short Play by Thomas Clare; St. Patrick's D.S. "Billy's Will" One Act Drama by Seymour Cresswell; Studio Productions "There's Nothing On" Sketch/Short play by Mark J. Legan.

Friday 24th: Delgany D.S. "Before Dawn" One Act Comic Drama by Terence Rattigan; St Patrick's D.S. "Medea" Sketch/Short Play by Chris Durang & Wendy Wasserstein; Delgany ICA "Charity Begins" One Act Comedy by Bettine Manktelow.

Saturday 25th: Ashford ICA "A Matter For Revenge" One Act Comedy by Ciarán Roche; Wicklow Town ICA "The Perfect Arrangement" Sketch/Short Play by Mary Finlay; Glencullen Musical & D.S. "The Rats" One Act Mystery by Agatha Christie; Dalkey Players "The Proposal" One Act Comedy by Anton Chekov.

Sunday 26th: Glencullen Musical & D.S. "Give A Little Love" One Act Comedy by Alan Stockdill; Delgany D.S. "The Game Is A Foote?" Sketch/Short Play by Peter Robbie; Avoca ICA "Oh Mother!" One Act Comedy by Andrew Perkins.



Anne Doyle, Hilda Roche, and Alice O'Loughlin at the launch of the 65th Wicklow ICA Drama festival which will take place in Glenealy Village Hall from 24th-26th January

Wicklow textile designer's work showcased in Paris

Textile and fashion designer Aoife Mullane, from Wicklow town, has had her latest work showcased along with four other Irish design and craft businesses as part of the Design Ireland stand in the 'Today: Signature area at MAISON&OBJET (M&O) Paris' from Friday 17th to Tuesday 21st January. Design Ireland is presented by Design & Crafts Council Ireland.

Aoife studied printed textiles at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin and set up her business in January 2016. She specialises in creating luxury fabrics for homewares and wearable pieces and is inspired by the ever-changing colours and patterns of nature in her designs. This was Aoife's first time to exhibit at M&O Paris.

Building on the success of Design Ireland at M&O Paris in previous years, these five exciting Irish brands presented their latest creations to an estimated 85,000 international buyers, press and influencers at this key home and gift trade show. The design and craft businesses on the Design Ireland stand (located in Hall 6, P136) include both established names and those relatively new to the international arena.

Zelouf & Bell, Alan Meredith Studio and John Hanly & Co. Ltd. All returned to M&O while Isobel Egan Ceramics along with Aoife Mullane Designs featured for the first time at this landmark show.

Participating at M&O Paris provides a unique opportunity for these five Irish makers to build their brands and increase their profile abroad, reaching audiences throughout the UK, Europe, the US, the Middle East and Asia.

Each of the brands featured on the Design Ireland stand in Today: Signature in Hall 6 were specially

selected by the show for their suitability and fit. M&O attracts a broad range of buyers and design influencers keen to source sustainable, innovative products and new design concepts. For exhibitors and visitors alike the show is a key source of inspiration, highlighting current and future trends. Participating in the show also enables exhibiting brands to develop commercial opportunities while exploring and researching key markets in order to further hone their export strategy.

Louise Allen, Managing Executive of Design & Crafts Council Ireland, said: "A key aim of Design & Crafts Council Ireland is to support the promotion of the high-calibre work of established and emerging Irish designers and makers both in Ireland and abroad. MAISON&OBJET is a valuable opportunity for these five brands to showcase their products to buyers, influencers and collectors and for DCCI to continue promoting contemporary Irish design to international audiences. We are maintaining our focus on export diversification, helping businesses such as these to network and make important contacts so that they can develop and grow to meet the demands of the market. It is our fifth year of attending M&O Paris and we are delighted to once again have the chance to support high-quality Irish craftsmanship at this prestigious fair. We wish all Irish brands at the fair every success."



Aoife Mullane with one of her designed cushions



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- Stop the sell off of public land. Use it to build social & affordable housing.
- End the 2 tier health system.
- Establish a national health service, free at the point of use.
- Hire more front line staff & restore pay to cut hospital waiting lists.
- Drastic climate action for people & planet.
- Free public transport & more buses.
- Put a carbon tax on the big polluters, not on ordinary people.
- Abolish property tax on Principal Private Residence.
- PBP representatives will always vote to decrease property tax with an eventual view to abolishing it.
- Restore pension age to 65.
- FF & FG will raise the retirement age to 68, the highest in Europe.
- End extortionate insurance costs.
- Create a publicly owned insurance company to cut costs.

Time to break the cycle of FF and FG. They've had their day. Vote 1 PBP.



CONTACT US AT: info@pbp.ie



€17,000 funding for Men and Women's Sheds in Wicklow

Funding of €17,000 has been allocated to local Men and Women's Sheds. The funding will go to Blessington Men's Shed, Wicklow Men's Shed, Roundwood Men's Shed, Arklow Men's Shed, Vale of Avoca Men's Shed, Baltinglass Men's Shed, An Bothán, Bray Men's Shed, Tinahely Men's Shed, Avoca Men's Shed, Newtown & Newcastle Men's Shed, Knockananna Womens Shed, Shelton Abbey Men's Shed, and Rathnew Men's Shed.

Minister Simon Harris said, "My colleague Minister Michael Ring, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, has today confirmed that 372 Men's & Women's Sheds have been allocated a total of €500,000 from his Department in order to support the important community work done by these groups."

"This funding will support these excellent local projects in the contribution they make to our local area. This capital funding will enable individual Men's & Women's Sheds to purchase equipment or to carry out minor works to improve their premises through the provision of small grants."

"I am delighted to see that Women's Sheds have also received funding from the Government for the first time. I hope the number of Women's Sheds continues to grow in the coming years."

"Men's and Women's sheds have become a vital element in the fabric of our communities and have done so much to tackle social isolation," Mr Harris added.

Minister Ring said: "Since its establishment less than ten years ago, the impact of the Men's Sheds movement has been phenomenal."

"I have decided to extend this funding to Women's Sheds. Having witnessed the exceptionally positive impact of

Men's Sheds in recent years, I've no doubt that the emergence of Women's Sheds can only be a good thing for community life in Ireland. I'm delighted that 33 Women's Shed Groups have availed of the funding on offer and I hope to see this number grow in coming years."

Fine Gael General Election candidate Billy Timmins stated "I have always believed in the concept on these sheds and was a proponent of them for many years. They are particularly important in areas like Wicklow. They are a force for good in our communities."

"This funding will support these excellent local projects here in

Wicklow in the contribution they make to our local area. This capital funding will enable individual Men's & Women's Sheds to purchase equipment or to carry out minor works to improve their premises through the provision of small grants."

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"Men's and Women's sheds have become a vital element in the fabric of our communities and have done so much to tackle social isolation in Wicklow."

O'Connor welcomes Bog Meadow funding and resoration of seafront pavillions

Cllr Rory O Connor has welcomed the allocation by Wicklow County Council of €25,000 for improved landscaping, lighting and curbing works for Enniskerry's Bog meadow.

Speaking after last week's Bray Municipal District meeting Cllr O'Connor said "The Bog Meadow is the centre of the sporting, leisure, educational and commercial aspects of Enniskerry village so this funding is both needed and welcome."

The local Enniskerry Councillor also welcomed other funding for Bray in particular the €85,000 allocated to the restoration of the derelict Victorian era seafront pavillions in Bray. "This will add value to the image of Bray as a unique seaside town," he commented.



Pictured are Sam Doherty, Brion Kelly, Ryan Smith, Hanna Grace, Alice Orlagh, Sean O'Keeffe, and Sheenagh Shannon at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) Open Day last Friday.



Pat Casey TD starts his election campaign in Arklow, with Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin, Councillors Tommy Annesley, Pat Fitzgerald, and Pat Kennedy, and supporters.

2020 Greystones Municipal District People of the Year Awards



The Awards will be presented in the Greystones Golf Club, Greystones on Thursday 7th May, 2020 at 8pm

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

Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie / greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Ticket Price €35

www.wicklow.ie

Closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday 3rd April 2020

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



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Wicklow woman takes on role of Network Ireland President

Wicklow businesswoman Louisa Meehan has taken the reins as President of Network Ireland, following the group's AGM in Dublin at the weekend. Louisa succeeds hotelier and Cork native Helen Wycherley in her fifth year of being involved with the dynamic organisation which has 1200 members around the country.

Louisa is the owner of Woodview HRM in Wicklow, offering tailored Human Resource solutions and Workplace Mediation Services to companies in the SME sector. She is also a part time lecturer in UCD and Smurfit Graduate School of Business in the fields of HR and Organisational Behaviour and is a trainer with IBEC.

Louisa has chosen the theme of 'Power Within' for her term in office. As the new decade begins, she believes 2020 brings an opportunity for women in Ireland to take stock of their achievements and acknowledge the inner strength that has brought them to this point, to help drive ambition for the future.

Louisa is conscious that many famous women are rightly held up as international role models, but as President of Network Ireland, she wants to draw attention to the heroines closer to home - among families, friends and neighbourhoods, who achieve great things in their lives, that may go unnoticed. She believes they're also a vital source of the 'Power Within', because of the inspiration they provide for others.

Addressing Network Ireland members on Saturday, Louisa said:

"We have the power and strength within ourselves, individually and within Network Ireland, to achieve our goals. I'm particularly excited about embarking on this journey as a new decade begins. It's a unique opportunity to look back and reflect on all we have achieved, to appreciate where we are at right now, and look ahead to an exciting future".

Louisa is also determined to further grow Network Ireland as a valuable resource for women in business across Ireland. She's prioritising communication and consistency between the national and branch levels of the organisation and is pledging to listen to and act on feedback coming from members around the country.

"During 2019, under the wonderful leadership of Helen Wycherley, Network Ireland had a brilliant year working with new and existing members around the country and significantly boosted its profile through vibrant PR and social media coverage. "I must also pay tribute to our wonderful partners at AIB, who have backed our ambition and achievements through their continued support".

Leitrim native Louisa has already begun work in earnest on a hectic

Presidential schedule, with one of Network Ireland's flagship events rapidly approaching. International Women's Day on February 28th is a highlight of the organisation's calendar, and an inspirational line-up of speakers is being prepared for Network Ireland's exciting event. Full details are available at networkireland.ie.

Established in 1983, Network Ireland now has almost 1,200 members across fifteen branches around Ireland. Each year they organise up to 200 events for members. They also run a number of flagship national events, including an International Women's Day Celebration and the Annual Conference and Business Awards.



Outgoing Network Ireland President Helen Wycherley presents her chain of office to her successor for 2020, Louisa Meehan.

Arklow man's Smarter Surfaces business shortlisted as finalist for SFA Awards

Smarter Surfaces whose founder is Arklow native Ronan Clarke, has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2020 SFA Business Awards. They were selected from hundreds of applicants to be one of the five finalists for 'Exporter of the Year'.

The SFA Awards, now in their sixteenth year, celebrate small businesses for their achievements in Ireland and also the contribution they make to the Irish business sector. The exporter category highlights businesses with a proven track record in export who can demonstrate their successful strategies.

Smarter Surfaces was thrilled to discover their success. Export is a major element of their business with customers in over 25 markets.

This is not the first award nomination the company has had. Smarter Surfaces products have won a number of prestigious awards throughout the years, the latest of which was presented to their newest product Smart Magnetic Whiteboard Wallpaper - Low Sheen. Named 'Top Product' at the Active Office Awards 2018. The company has also enjoyed success at awards such as the PWC Innovation Awards and the Ulster Bank Business Awards.

Smarter Surfaces is a world leader in providing innovative surface solutions with a variety of functionalities. Exporting to many international countries such as the USA, Australia, Germany and as far afield as Kenya, they have gained a reputation for their ability to design and create truly innovative commercial wallpapers, self-adhesive films, paints and plasters that have one purpose - to add functionality to surfaces.

Founder, Ronan Clarke, is "delighted to be shortlisted. We have a large number of customers from a variety of industries including AirBnB, NASA and Reebok and we are continuing to grow our direct sales, distribution partners and e-commerce websites, which are currently in 5 different languages. We are committed to delivering innovation through functional surfaces and coatings, with this latest shortlist supporting our achievements in the sector."

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72 archers set their sights on gold

On Sunday, January 12th, Wicklow Archers hosted 72 archers from around the country for the Wicklow Archers Indoor Wicklow Open 2020.

The event brought together archers from a number of different categories, from traditional unsighted archers, to Olympic-style recurve archery and everything in-between to compete in the event in Shoreline, Greystones.

It was a grueling day of mental and physical focus, as each archer shot 120 arrows at 40cm target faces across a distance of 18-meters. In the end, winners from each of the 23 categories took home medals. 23

Wicklow Archers competed, winning 10 medals in Longbow, Instinctive, Barebow and Recurve categories. Two of the participating Wicklow Archers, Eoin Wylie and David Moran, went to Nimes, France from the 17th to 19th January, to compete in the Nimes Archery Tournament which is part of the World Archery Indoor World Series.

A full list of competitors, categories and medal winners can be found on the IANSEO.

Olympic years tend to boost interest in archery, and with the 2020 games on the horizon clubs all around Ireland are looking forward to welcoming new members. In preparation, Wicklow Archers will be hosting a Come & Try event in Shoreline Greystones 2020 promises to be a big year for archery, with the 2020 Olympic Games as Wicklow Archers will also be hosting a 'Come & Try' event on 22nd January in Shoreline, Greystones from 7.30pm

for anyone who's interested in giving the sport a try.

Wicklow Archers is a community-based archery club that supports the growth and promotion of every style of archery, for people of all ages, ability and background. It is the biggest archery club in Ireland with multiple venues catering to indoor, outdoor, and field archery. They also regularly host inter-club competitions and national competitions.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail. O Most Beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, faithful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to succour me in this my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show here you are my Mother Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (say 3 times). Sweet Mother I place this cause in your hands (3 times) Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days then publish and it will be granted to you.

M.K.

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Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin

ESOL TUTORS (ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES)

ARKLOW AND WICKLOW TOWN

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invite applications for the role of part-time ESOL Tutors (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for Wicklow Town and Arklow.

For further information and to make an application please see our website at www.etbvacancies.ie.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **12 noon on Thursday, 30th January 2020.**

Dr. Deirdre Keyes,
Chief Executive



eth

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin
Kildare and Wicklow
Education and Training Board



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Retention planning permission is sought to retain slatted unit with associated storage tank as constructed and full planning permission is sought to construct agricultural shed adjoining existing shed with a lean-to canopy over existing slatted unit, all ancillary site works and services at Rathbran, Grangecon, Co. Wicklow on behalf of John and Patricia Finn. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Patrick Mc Donald intend to apply for permission for a new dwelling, garage, new entrance, wastewater treatment unit, soil polishing filter, new well and associate works at Tomriland, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Saranna Condel, intend to apply for permission for development at Ballinacarrig, Ballinacor, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. The proposed development is for the reclamation of land through the importation of 24,500 tonnes of clean, inert soil and stone over an area of c. 2.16ha for the purposes of land improvement for agricultural end use. Permission is also sought for (1) continued use of the existing entrance from the private laneway and from the L2149, (2) overburden storage (3) use of a portable wheelwash (4) temporary staff welfare facilities and (5) all other site ancillary works. 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. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Lusra Teo, seek planning permission for residential housing development consisting of 102 dwelling units and creche. Comprising 3 HTA - 4 bedroom detached 2 storey, 6 HTB - 4 bedroom semi-detached 2 storey, 9 HTC - 4 bedroom semi-detached 2 storey, 9 HTD - 3 bedroom semi-detached 2 storey, 28 HTE - 3 bedroom semi-detached 2 storey, 1 HTF - 5 bedroom detached, 17 HTG - 3 bedroom semi-detached and terrace, 12 HTH - 2 bedroom terrace, 1 HTJ - 2 bedroom bungalow, 8 apartment 2 bedroom units, 8 duplex 3 bedroom over apartments, together with ancillary site development works and services at Ballynerrin (E.D. Wicklow Rural) Ballynerrin Lower, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Stanley Pettigrew is seeking (a) Retention permission for bungalow and garden studio together with ancillary site development works. (b) Permission for new sewerage pumping system from existing septic tank to public sewer in the adjoining road at Corr Riasc, Church Gate, Bollarney South, Wicklow Town. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Julia Miller intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, garage, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance onto public road and associate works at Ballinastoe, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

B.C., M.K.



Benville Robinson
SOLICITORS

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E-mail: info@benvillrobinson.ie

LEGAL SECRETARY AND LEGAL EXECUTIVE REQUIRED

Benville Robinson Solicitors are recruiting a Legal Secretary and Legal Executive to join their busy and expanding practice. These roles are in the firm's Litigation Department reporting directly to the Partners and require immediate starts. If you are interested in applying for either position, please email your CV in confidence to our Office Manager Alison Heffernan at alisonh@benvillrobinson.ie



Rory P. Benville B.C.L.
Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M.
Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.
Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

- **GRADUATE PLANNER**
REF: 02/2020 Salary €31,571 to €41,172 gross per annum
- **ASSISTANT PLANNER**
REF: 03/2020 Salary €38,747 to €60,899 per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **I.S. TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER (GRADE V)**
REF: 04/2020 Salary €42,777 to €51,374 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **I.S. PROJECT LEADER (GIS GRADE VII)**
REF: 05/2020 Salary €49,835 to €64,786 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2020 SHARP

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer

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

Phone: 0404 20159
Fax: 0404 20112
e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL 01 2869111 EMAIL: jennie@localtimes.ie

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

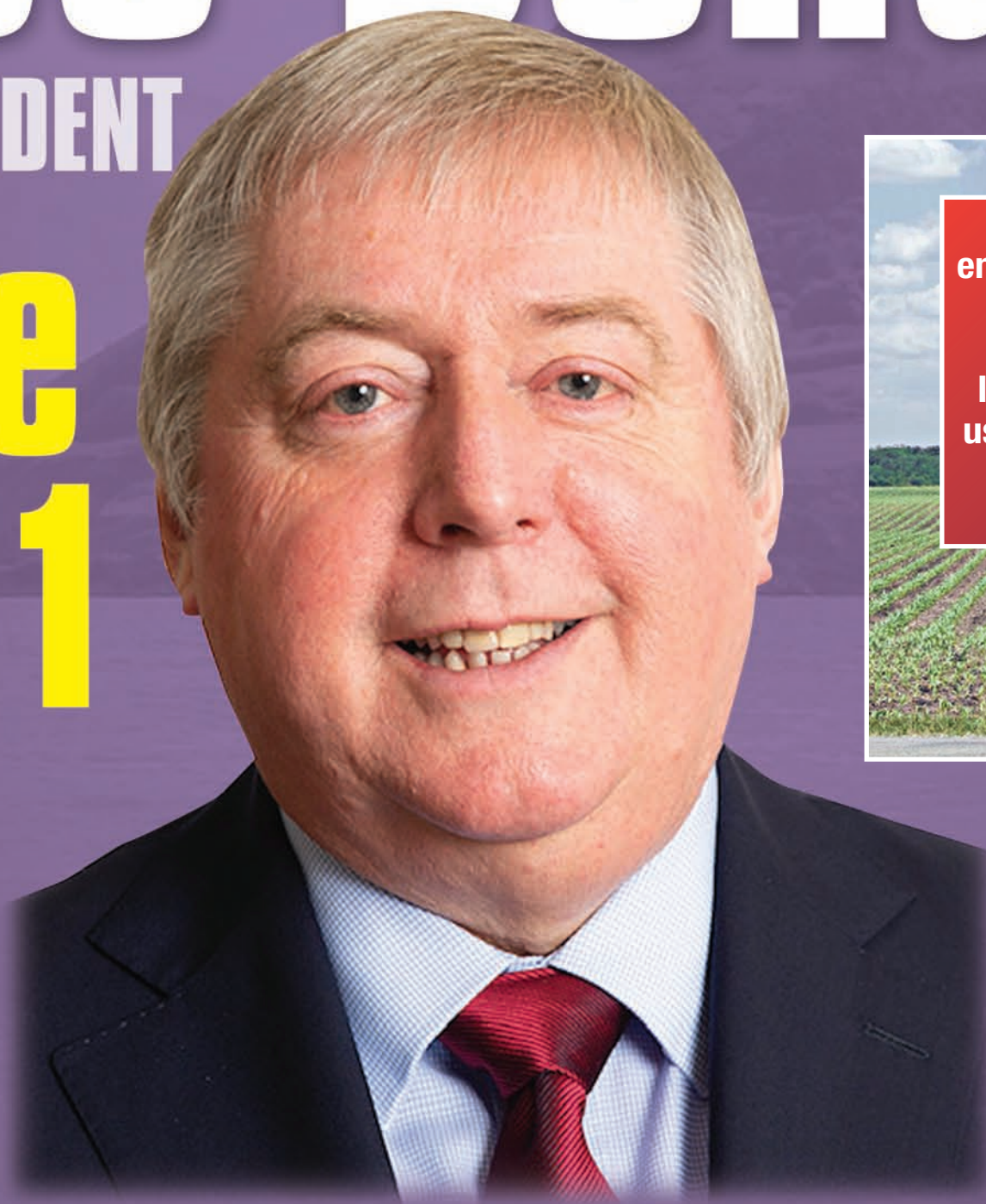


THE PARTY SYSTEM HAS FAILED US
VOTE INDEPENDENT

Joe Behan

INDEPENDENT

**Vote
No. 1**



As an Independent Councillor, I have worked tirelessly to promote economic and social justice for all, particularly in the areas of Housing, Health, Planning, Employment and the Environment.

VOTE JOE BEHAN No. 1 to ensure Wicklow's INDEPENDENT VOICE in Dáil Éireann

Ph: 086 8375602 E: joebehan@outlook.ie

