

**MEET THE CANDIDATES**  
 who are looking for your number one vote this election

**Vote Saturday 8th February 2020**

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Tuesday 28th January 2020 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

# WICKLOW HOSPICE OPENED

Minister for Health Simon Harris T.D. last Friday conducted the official opening of Wicklow Hospice, which will be the first specialist palliative care facility in the county, providing 15 public beds for those with life-limiting conditions.

Developed in Magheramore on a 3.5 acre site donated by the Columban sisters, this is a section 38 facility with responsibility delegated to Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services (OLH&CS) by the HSE, who will meet the operational costs of the facility and fundraising for capital costs and enhancements for patients and families will be driven by OLH&CS.

Wicklow Hospice's 15 in-patient public beds and specialist Community Palliative Care team will provide care for patients and families across the county

when it opens to patients in April this year.

Chief Executive of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services Audrey Houlihan said; "This is an important milestone for the people of Wicklow and another positive step for palliative care in Ireland. This development will transform patients and families' quality of life and meet the changing care needs of this and future generations in the local community."

Chair of Wicklow Hospice Foundation, Sean Dorgan said; "This is a truly wonderful achievement by the peo-

ple of Wicklow. We are humbled by the efforts of groups and individuals from around the county who have come together to realise this dream to construct a state-of-the-art specialist palliative care facility for the people of the county."

Paying tribute to the commitment and dedication of all involved Minister Simon Harris thanked everyone involved in the Wicklow Hospice project for their dedication.

"It is a real pleasure to be celebrating this opening of a wonderful facility. The commitment of the people of Wicklow to



Minister for Health Simon Harris conducted the official opening of the Wicklow Hospice on Friday. He is pictured cutting the ribbon with Chair of Wicklow Hospice Foundation, Sean Dorgan, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services (OLH&CS) clinical nurse manager Sarah James, and Chief Executive of OLH&CS, Audrey Houlihan.

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this Hospice has been immense. By its nature, palliative care is rooted in the community and what you achieved is remarkable. The Hospice will support the people of Wicklow during difficult times and work with patients and their families to celebrate life and ensure their dignity and comfort.

Minister Harris added: "Today is such a special day for our community. It recognises the end of one journey and the beginning of another. For the past 11 years, people across this county have given hours of their time, effort and money to bring us to the point we are at today. Today, we are here to celebrate and thank you for your work."

"Today is also the start of another journey. This Hospice will become a home from home for many people. It

will allow people to live as normal a life as possible during a very precarious period of time.

"Not only is this purpose-built facility a wonderful asset to our community but it is an excellent example of people working together and I thank and congratulate you most sincerely for your efforts," he said.

Recruitment for positions at Wicklow Hospice will commence in the coming weeks. Applications will be invited for a range of roles.

Members of the public were invited to public open days on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January with guided tours taking place.

To find out more about Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services visit [www.olh.ie](http://www.olh.ie), Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter or YouTube.

**Cllr. STEVEN MATTHEWS**  
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Miley Doyle of the Wicklow County Council Recycling Centre in Avoca makes a donation to Hazel Killeen, Valerie McGee, Mary Delaney, Theresa Cerny, and Anna O'Brien at the Avoca Community Senior Citizens annual dinner at the Woodenbridg Hotel.

## Free conversational English classes

Bray Area Partnership's Fáilte Isteach conversational English classes for people from new communities have started up again in Bray and Kilcoole.

Classes are free (but a €3 donation towards costs is requested) and take place through friendly small group conversations, facilitated by volunteer tutors - on Wednesday mornings in Kilcoole Community Centre, Wednesday evenings in St. Peter's Parish Centre in Bray, and Thursday mornings in St. Kilian's Community School in Bray.

Fáilte Isteach Bray & Kilcoole is part of a national Third Age Ireland initiative - the idea is that people volunteer their time to teach practical conversational English to people from other countries who live and work in their community. Improving their English helps students to participate more fully in society, take part in further education and gain employment. The word Fáilte describes the spirit of the project - welcome to our community. There are also regular talks from different services that provide supports in the local community.

This work is resourced by the government's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-22, funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020. To register contact Lorna Lafferty or Jennifer Jones on 01 286 8266. Find out more at [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie).

## Roundwood Variety Group presents: Robin Hood

Roundwood Variety Group returns to the Brockagh Resource Centre at the end of the month for four performances of their panto 'Robin Hood.'

Join the swashbuckling Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men as they protect the people of Nottingham from the evil antics of The Sheriff and his evil counterpart Prince John's mother - Mumsie. While King Richard the ruler of the land is away his simple brother Prince John holds the throne but the evil Sheriff and Mumsie hold the power. They also have Robin's girlfriend

Maid Marian as she is a ward of the Prince. So our hero is set for a big battle has he strives to protect the people and get his girl. Action, adventure, music, song, love and bags of laughter are the order of the day in this brand new and exciting Panto adventure.

These characters will be brought to life by the talented cast, which includes almost 50 children aged eight and

upwards from the area along with twenty adult /Teen cast members. Among the talented actors are Conor Power as Robin Hood, Saibhe Smith as Maid Marian, Ciara Dunne as Little John, Denis Healy as The Evil Sheriff, and his counterpart Ciara Conalty as Mumsie, Brian Higgins as King Richard and Charlie Kelly as spoilt Prince John.

Tally ho, here comes

Robin Hood!

Performances of 'Robin Hood' take place on Friday, January 31st, at 8pm, Saturday, February 1st, at 3pm and 8pm and Sunday, February 2nd, at 3pm.

Tickets are currently on sale on Eventbrite via the Roundwood Variety Group website or they can be purchased through any member of Roundwood Variety Group.

### A Music Night to Remember

'A Music Night to Remember' will take place on Saturday February 1st at Christchurch on Church Road, Bray. Admission is €5 and all money raised will go to the Caroline Foundation for cancer research. The show kicks off at 7.30pm and you can get more information by emailing [giveusasong@thecarolinefoundation.com](mailto:giveusasong@thecarolinefoundation.com)

### Delgany Thursday Club New Year get together

The next event will be on Thursday 6th February - a New Year get together with a talk by George Jones on the story of the Delgany branch of the La Touche family followed by tea/coffee and light refreshments.

It will take place in The Old Schoolhouse, Delgany, at 3pm. There is no charge but donations welcome in aid of Dogs for the Disabled.

Would those intending to come to this event please contact Peter on 086 8307644 or John on 086 3566527.

### First Saturday book sale

The February First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place in the Shankill Old Folks Association Day Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, on Saturday, February 1st, from 10am to 1pm, so make a point of calling in to obtain some excellent reading material. Donations of books, other than school textbooks, will be considered for acceptance on the day provided they are in good condition. Supporting the First Saturday Book Sale supports the wider Shankill community.

### Free workshop: Prepare Your Business for Customs

A one-day free workshop on how to prepare your business for customs will be held in Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew on Thursday, 30th January. This workshop, open to all business sectors, will be of interest to anyone planning to move goods to, from or through the UK after Brexit. It will take place from 10am to 5pm. To book, see <http://bit.ly/30AYV6H>.

### Meet the candidates

Delgany Community Council is inviting election candidates to a meeting in the Glenview Hotel on January 29th at 8pm. The event will give local people 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. Candidates will be given two minutes to speak and then there will be a number of round table discussions.

This event is being organised as part of the Public Participation Network (PPN) series of events. Chair of Delgany Community Council Zoe Woodward said "We want to make sure that our future TDs know about the issues effecting people in North Wicklow and we want to hear what they are going to do about them. We welcome everyone in the area to come along and have their voice heard."

### Wicklow Historical Society

Stan J. O'Reilly will present his talk on 'Early Christianity in Wicklow' to the Wicklow Historical Society at 8pm on Monday 27th January in the De La Salle Parish Centre, beside St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town.

# ANDREW DOYLE TD

Down to Earth Politics

I am asking for your

# No.1 Vote

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# SECOND DATA CENTRE DEVELOPMENT IN ARKLOW WELCOMED

A second data centre development in Arklow was announced last week, with Echelon agreeing to purchase a second site for future data centre development or for the generation of renewable power.

The announcement comes a year after Echelon announced plans for the first data centre on the site, planning for which was finally approved in July of last year by An Bord Pleanála after an appeal was lodged.

Arklow Chamber made a statement welcoming "the further potential employment" in the area, saying: "A second phase is understood to have been earmarked for either further data centre development, or for the generation of renewable power. Given the Kish data centre is a similar size to Echelon's first 100MW Arklow centre, it could involve an investment of around €500m from the Dublin company.

"Announced last year, the original Arklow data centre, located at the Avoca River Park, is set to create 450 construction jobs, followed by another 90 positions to operate the facility. Echelon Data Centres has agreed to purchase a site at the Kish Business Park as it looks to develop a second data

centre in the town.

"It is understood that Irish-owned Echelon's newly acquired site covers 60 acres of land, with development expected to be undertaken in two phases. The first phase could see the construction of a 100MW, 450,000 sq ft data centre."

Welcoming the news of the second data centre, Fianna Fail TD Pat Casey said "I have worked on this game changing project for over two years and am delighted that Echelon have now announced the 2nd Data Centre which now makes Arklow a national leader in the tech sector.

"This is the largest investment in industry and jobs in Co Wicklow in generations and I am delighted to have played a part in ensuring that this project was brought to Arklow. The Data Centre alone is a game changer for the South Wicklow region but Echelon have exciting plans for this iconic site.

"I have been working on this project with Niall Molloy and Graham

McWilliams of Echelon from the beginning. The total investment is €1 billion and will transform these brown field sites into a major data centre with 100 megawatts of capacity in phase 1 which will in turn attract industries in the valuable technology and software sectors.

"In another exiting element in this development is the determination of Echelon to use renewable energy sources to drive the Data Centres. The big players in the global tech market now demand that renewable energy is sourced and that the consumption of power is located adjacent to the generation of electricity which again benefits the green credentials of Arklow.

"I led a strong community and online campaign where petitions were collected and local businesses in Arklow gave their 100% support to the development of the Data Centre. This is a great day for the region and to the future of Arklow based construction and tech jobs.

"Apart from the 500 construction jobs that will be needed for the substantial redevelopment of the site, the data centre will in turn initially employ 100 high skilled jobs and will in the future become a hub for a business park which is the model that US data centres have evolved into. Tech companies prefer to locate adjacent to these data centres and therefore the potential for Arklow and the South Wicklow region is very exciting.

"This development by Echelon is the beginning of a new era of economic development and jobs for Arklow and I am delighted to have been of assistance in getting this project to this crucial state. I will continue to work closely with this company, the IDA and Wicklow County Council to ensure that this project proceeds into construction. Wicklow based employment is one of my main priorities and I am determined to see this project benefit jobs and commercial activity not just in Arklow but the entire South Wicklow region."



Celebrating the official opening of the Wicklow Hospice on Friday were Miriam McGrath, Chris Steele, Michelle Hickey and Dessie O'Toole.

## Contract signed for Kilmac parallel service road

A contract for the construction of the N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue has been signed by Wicklow County Council with SIAC Construction Ltd.

The contract provides for the construction of a parallel service road to segregate traffic entering and exiting the residential and commercial properties on the southbound carriageway at Kilmacanogue as well as traffic exiting the mainline traffic at Junction 8.

The scheme seeks to enhance traffic safety on this section of the N11 by providing for safer traffic movements to and from the mainline traffic at Kilmacanogue. The service road will have a speed limit of 50kph.

The proposed scheme is approximately 1.6 km in length between southbound Junctions 7 and 8. The parallel service road will commence approximately 600 metres north of the Junction 8 diverge and will incorporate the existing exit ramp for Junction 8. Construction of the service road will require widening of the carriageway into the central reserve. Site works will commence in the coming weeks and it is anticipated that the main works contract will take between six and nine months to complete. It is anticipated that two lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions during construction, apart from isolated night-time closures. The scheme is being funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

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# Funding for West Wicklow swimming pool turned down

Wicklow County Council was unsuccessful in its application for funding towards providing a public swimming pool in West Wicklow, it emerged last week.

The Community Pool for West Wicklow campaign group said that they were "deeply troubled and angry" with the decision and that they are looking into alternative funding streams and grants. The group said that they will continue to work closely with Wicklow County Council who are "one-hundred percent committed" to the project.

The group said: "West Wicklow is missing out. Drowning is now the second most common cause of death among children in Ireland and yet the children of West Wicklow are being denied access to local swimming facilities. Why is the life of a three-year-old child from Blessington or Baltinglass or Donard or Hollywood not worth the same as a three-year old from Wicklow Town Bray, Greystones or Arklow? These are the questions we will be asking the General Election candidates when they come knocking at our doors for votes."

John Brady TD said that he was extremely disappointed by the news, and that West Wicklow has "again been ignored by this Government".

Wicklow County Council made an application for Stream 1 funding under the Large Scale Sports and Infrastructure Fund to the Department of Transport,

Tourism & Sport. The application was to carry out an in-depth feasibility study to confirm the site for the swimming pool and to commission specialist architect drawings.

Deputy Brady said "The application was unfortunately unsuccessful. Yet again West Wicklow has been ignored by this Government. West Wicklow is the only district in Wicklow that has no swimming pool. It has essentially been discriminated against. The campaign group have put forward all the reasons why we need a pool in West Wicklow and they have the full support of the community in the west.

"To move the project on to the next stage, government funding was critical. I had been in contact with the Minister and the Department to support the application, so it's really disappointing to get the news that the funding is not forthcoming to move this important project forward.

"This is a real set-back, however we must work to identify different funding streams and grants. I will continue to work with the Community Pool for West Wicklow campaign group and Wicklow County Council until this project is delivered."

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- Dublin to Rosslare Rail line – upgraded and increased frequency
- Implementation of N81 upgrade

WHO ELSE WILL STAND UP FOR YOU?

**JOHN BRADY**



Vote **1** No.

## Appeal lodged against Blessington Housing Development

An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála against a housing development of 56 units at Burgage Mor in Blessington.

The Council gave permission for the development on the site which is located within c1.5km from Blessington town centre, and is bound by existing residential development to the northwest and southwest. The site is covered in grass and contains a number of mature trees and hedge on and bounding the site.

A petition containing 58 signatures from local residents opposing the development on the grounds of increased traffic and the cutting down of 46 of 58 mature trees and an established hedgerow, was submitted to Wicklow County Council. Those against the development argue that it is unnecessary to cut down so many of the trees, as it would have a negative impact on biodiversity.

The petition stated that "We are strongly opposed to a large number of old trees being cut down to make room for these units. We are strongly opposed to the increase

of traffic on a small road that would lead into the proposed estate and also exiting on an already bad junction on the N81. This amount of units will not benefit the area and will only encroach on residents' privacy and have a detrimental impact on their quality of life."

The Council's planners report stated that "It would appear that a vast majority of the trees & hedgerows to be removed are located along the public roads which bound the site and will be removed to facilitate the provision of a new footpath with 50% of these trees being of a category C and appear to be dead, unstable and unsafe as per the report submitted. The Tree Survey Report also outlines proposals for the protection of the trees and hedgerows to be retained on the site during the construction works. This site is located on and adjacent to urban zoned lands earmarked for development and the poor condition of a large number of the trees on site, the removal of trees as proposed would in general be considered acceptable."

The case is due to be decided by ABP by 30th April.

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Pat

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Luke Gaynor, Des O'Toole, John Brady, Dominick Brady, and Martin Donoghue are pictured at the launch of the mental health 'community reaches out' leaflet. Pic: Joe McQuillan

# Wicklow house prices to rise 2% in 2020

The price of the average three-bed semi in County Wicklow is expected to rise by 2% in the next 12 months, according to a survey carried out by Real Estate Alliance.

Prices in the county fell by 2.3% to €284,200 in 2019 - with no change between September and December.

The REA Average House Price Survey concentrates on the actual sale price of Ireland's typical stock home, the three-bed semi, giving an up-to-date picture of the second-hand property market in towns and cities countrywide.

"The market is stable, rather than falling. A predicted softening response to strong price guides has occurred, which is helpful in discussions with potential vendors," said Simon Murphy of REA Murphy in Belssington, where average prices are €295,000, and Baltinglass (€170,000).

"The market is slow in making decisions, and bank funding is not being released with any urgency - which is typical at end-of-year when lending targets have been reached.

"The approach by banks in early 2020 will identify the extent of the Brexit factor." - Karl Tracey of REA Forkin, Bray, where prices fell by 4% in 2019 to €340,000, but were static in the final

quarter, said, "we have seen a positive end to the year, with a slight upturn in confidence in the market. We are feeling positive about 2020 as Brexit moves on," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin in Wicklow Town, where the average price is now €310,000, down -3% in 2019, but stable in Q4."

Average house prices nationally fell annually for the first time since the economic recovery, the Q4 REA Average House Price Index found.

The price of a three-bedroom semi-detached house across the country fell by -0.6% over the past year after a 4.6% annual rise in 2018.

The average family home nationally now costs €234,704, the survey found - a drop of -0.1% on the Q3 figure of €235,009.

However, drops across the country are far lower than the preceding quarter (-0.4%), indicating that some confidence returned to the market in the final 13 weeks of the year, with the prospect of a resolution to Brexit uncertainty.

Three-bed semi-detached houses in Dublin city registered a fourth consecutive quarter

fall (-0.6%) since the end of September and have decreased by -4.3% compared to December 2018.

The price of the average three-bed semi-detached house in the capital's postcode districts now stands at €425,833 - down €20,000 from €445,167 a year ago.

The absence of small investors due to Brexit uncertainty and a lack of incentives has also removed stimulus from the resales market and added to supply in many cases as landlords leave the market nationwide.

Prices fell slightly by -

0.05% in the commuter counties in the past three months, with the average house now selling for €246,500 - an annual fall of 1%.

Prices in the country's major cities outside Dublin - Cork, Galway, Waterford - remained largely unchanged

The highest annual price increases (2.8%) were once again seen in the rest of the country's towns which rose in selling price by an average of almost €5,000 in the past year and 0.3% in the past three months to €162,207.



## New SEED project to support social enterprises

Are you an individual or community group interested in setting up a Social Enterprise to benefit your community or the environment? Or are you an existing Social Enterprise?

A new local project called SEED will be providing free training in setting up and running Social Enterprises from February to June 2020 and wants to hear from you now about your training needs.

SEED stands for Social Enterprise Expansion and Development. The SEED project aims to build a more vibrant and sustainable Social Enterprise sector and help groups build their capacity to trade successfully. The project is a collaboration between Bray Area Partnership and Southside Partnership and covers the Bray and Greystones Municipal District and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown areas.

A Social Enterprise is a business that trades in order to provide goods and services in the community, tackle problems in society and address environmental issues. Profits generated from trading are reinvested back into the business or local community. Examples of social enterprises could be a community café or shop, a recycling or upcycling project or a workshop creating products for sale - perhaps providing training or employment for marginalised groups. Contact Eithne Gunning on 01 286 8266 at Bray Area Partnership to find out more and discuss your training and support needs. For more information see www.brayareapartnership.ie.

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





At the signing of the contract for the development of Fitzwilliam Square were Brian Gleeson, Tony Quirke, Sean McNamara, Joan Simmott, Cllr Shay Cullen, Rosemary Kavanagh, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran, Mark Chambers, and Colm Leary.

## Contract signed for Fitzwilliam Square Improvement Scheme

A contract for the Fitzwilliam Square Improvement Scheme in Wicklow Town was signed by Wicklow County Council on Thursday, 23rd January, with Sharex Limited.

The scheme involves the creation of a multi-functional space within Wicklow that will improve accessibility, enhance the presentation and public realm of the historic town core at Fitzwilliam Square.

The renewal of the Square will be of major benefit to the town centre, improving pedestrian access, creating a more attractive public realm and a more commercially vibrant town.

The lower side of Fitzwilliam Square will be pedestrianised and Bridge Street made one-way which will enable the widening of the footpaths.

Part of Church Street will also be made one-way from the junction with Bridge Street to the entrance to the Car Park. This, along with the footpath widening on Church Street and narrowing of the roadway on Abbey Street, will improve accessibility in the town centre.

Site works commenced this week and it is anticipated the main works contract will take 12 months. Site supervision of the main works contract will be provided by O'Connor Sutton Cronin, Consultant Engineers.

The scheme is being substantially funded under Project Ireland 2040, Building Ireland's Future.

# 'No country for old men...or women'

Independent councillor and Dáil candidate, Joe Behan has made an impassioned plea to the government to "Stop humiliating older people."

"Respect for older people should be the basis of a civilised and caring society but all I see from this Government is humiliation of our senior citizens," said Cllr Behan.

"Whether it is a 90 year old lady bent over a hospital trolley waiting to receive emergency treatment, a homeless elderly woman eating her food at a shop window, or an older man having been beaten savagely after thugs broke into his house, it is clear to me that the powers that be in this country don't care about older citizens.

"The current row about pensions clearly shows that the mentality of the powers that be is to put people at the age of 65 yrs on the dole rather than give them the dignity of a pension which they have already paid for in their social insurance payments throughout their working life.

"Older people built up

this country with their hard work whether it was in the factories, the offices, the family home or the land. They paid high taxes and social insurance and yet they are still means tested to this day for medical cards, pensions and housing adaptation grants. Many older women had to give up work to rear their children and now they are in the older age bracket they are refused pensions because this Government says they did not pay enough social welfare stamps. This is a national disgrace which should be put right immediately.

"I stood up for older people in 2008 after the Government took medical cards from hundreds of thousands of older people because I was outraged at the stress, worry and extreme hardship this callous decision would cause to the generation who gave us everything we had.



Cllr Joe Behan

"Older people often feel forgotten about in their later years. They are entitled to feel that they are valued by the Government and the powerful institutions in the State. Yet in this country, post offices are being allowed to close, banks are making it impossible for older customers to deal with an actual human being at the branch and are forcing them to conduct their business online which is

often impossible for many older people and now the Revenue Commissioners are aggressively pushing everyone to deal with them online.

"Older people are being forced to share mixed gender hospital wards with all the humiliation, upset and embarrassment this causes and yet no one in authority seems to care. Local authorities rarely seem to consider older people's safety when designing road crossings ignoring the fact that older people need more time to actually get across the road safely.

"Someone has to shout 'stop' to this ongoing humiliation of our older people. If I am elected on February 8th, I will work night and day to make sure that the rights of our older people are protected and the humiliation they suffer will be ended for good."

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# A Fresh Voice for Wicklow

# Paul O'BRIEN

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- Labour will ensure better pay & job security
- Labour will ensure a fair start for every child
- Labour will guarantee climate Justice

# Looking for your Number One Vote



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Rosemary Kavanagh



Ronan McManus,  
former Bray Councillor



Tracy O'Brien,  
former Bray Councillor



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

Saturday  
8th February  
2020

Here are the 20 hopefuls looking for your number one vote this election



## Andrew Doyle (Fine Gael)

Andrew Doyle TD was appointed Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture in June 2017 having previously been appointed in May 2016. He is a member of Dáil Éireann and represents the constituency of Wicklow-East Carlow.

Married to Ann with whom he has four children, he was first elected at the 2007 general election to the Dáil and became the Deputy Spokesperson on Agriculture with Special Responsibility for Food and Horticulture. In 2010, he was promoted to the opposition frontbench as the spokesperson for Agriculture. Deputy Doyle was re-elected to the Dáil at the 2011 general election. He was previously a member of Wicklow County Council from 1999-2007 and was Cathaoirleach of Wicklow from 2005 to 2006. He lives in Roundwood.



## Billy Timmins (Fine Gael)

Billy is a former army officer and served with the UN. He is a NUIG graduate in Economics and Law. He is self-employed and has experienced first-hand the challenges that over regulation and bureaucracy present in our economy. He wants to see greater clarity in how our taxes are spent and believes that education is the key to lifting all boats. He says it is necessary to have the funding available to improve our physical infrastructure and invest in education and development, public transport, housing and protect Wicklow's environment. "Our tax system must be fair and we should strive to endeavour that no one is left behind. Despite major investments many vulnerable people are suffering so we need to change our social models with the aim of achieving equality of opportunity. The challenges facing our young people are unprecedented and our response must be the same."



## Joe Behan (Independent)

Joe Behan has served the people of Bray, Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry and the wider community in County Wicklow as an Independent Councillor for the past 6 years. "In that time, I have worked hard to represent people in the challenges they face in dealing with Wicklow County Council and other local and national bodies. Whether your issue is housing, environment, planning, jobs, education, health, social welfare, community, disability, crime, climate or any other, I will work tirelessly to help resolve that issue with you and for you. There has never been a greater need for an Independent TD in this Constituency to speak up for the people of County Wicklow. If elected, I will be fearless and tireless in representing you in Dáil Éireann. If you elect me, I will be accountable to you; not a political party. I will put your needs first. I will not let you down."



## John Brady (Sinn Féin)

John is married to Gayle and lives in Bray with their 5 children. He has been to the fore in attempting to bring about transparency and accountability in politics. Since first being elected as a TD for Wicklow in 2016 John has been to the forefront in standing up for the Wicklow at a national level. John is the Sinn Féin spokesperson for Employment Affairs and Social Protection and has played a leading role in exposing the flawed JobPath scheme, addressing Bogus Self Employment and banning Zero Hour Contracts. John is spearheading the campaign to put a halt to the planned hike of the pension age to 67. He is also a leading campaigner in Wicklow on the housing on homeless crisis. John continues to fight for an end of the government neglect of Wicklow and is pushing for funding for infrastructural projects such as the N81 and an upgrade of the rail line between Bray and Arklow.



## Eileen Gunning (National Party)

Eileen Gunning is a nurse from Greystones and a first-time Dáil candidate for the National Party. She has worked overseas and has experience in pro-life campaigning. She is opposed to the conversion of Wicklow's only hotel, The Grand Hotel, into a Direct Provision Centre. An Páirtí Náisiúnta is an Irish nationalist party dedicated to the fulfilment of the Irish national idea. The Party states that it "believes in the Irish people, our right to exist as a nation and our right to defend and lay claim to our homeland. We seek an Ireland united, Irish and free. "We stand against the criminal financial institutions which have enslaved future generations of Irish men and women to debt without end. "We stand against the project of a federated European Superstate which is explicitly anti-national and therefore anti-Irish."



## Jennifer Whitmore (Social Democrats)

Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore is a Social Democrats councillor and works closely with local communities to get important projects done, including the South Beach playground in Greystones. Jennifer is also the SocDems Spokesperson for Children, whose unpaid Parental Leave Bill was passed in the Dáil giving working parents an additional 8 weeks parental leave. Jennifer's professional background includes qualifications in Ecology and Environmental Law. She wants to use that expertise to address the climate change and biodiversity crisis we are currently facing. She recently launched the SocDem's policy on biodiversity highlighting the crisis of biodiversity loss in the country. Jennifer believes her international and professional expertise, work ethic and ability to get things done would make her a very effective TD for Wicklow and for the country at national level.



## Anthony Fitzgerald (Independent)

Anthony Fitzgerald is from Bary and is running as an independent candidate. He previously ran in 2011. "I speak with an independent voice and will approach each issue and policy on an individual rather than a rigid party basis. "Issues such as health and a lack of affordable housing in Ireland are ongoing and well versed. I, myself, rent a house and am also a single father who has experienced both ends of the financial spectrum during a full life. "Having run my own business I am aware of the difficulties faced by small and medium sized enterprises and the heavy tax burden placed on PAYE workers to pay for an often inefficient and bloated Public Service bureaucracy. Other concerns for me are global warming and the need to protect rural Ireland, the cost of insurance, crime rates child care and excessive legal fees."



## Charlie Keddy (Independent)

Charlie Keddy from Kilcoole 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. 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. 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."



## John Larkin (Independent)

John Larkin lives in Newtownmountkennedy and has 40 years of health board experience in places such as Newcastle Hospital and Community Care Wicklow. He says "fixing the health services is incumbent on persons who have worked within the health services. They have learnt on the job, at the coalface. They know the job, the culture, the inner workings, the nuances and ultimately the strengths, the weaknesses, the advantages and the threats of the organisation". Other issues Larkin has been campaigning on are Housing; Law & Order; Social Justice/Taxation ("people have a basic right to live and not merely survive, the hard-pressed squeezed middle pay record levels of taxation"; childcare costs; Education.



## John Snell (Independent)

Former Sinn Féin Councillor John Snell from Rathnew is running as an Independent candidate in this General Election. Cllr Snell was elected to Wicklow County Council in 2009 and was re-elected in 2014 and 2019. He has served as Chair of the Council's Housing Special Policy Committee since 2014, and believes that his experience as Chair of the Housing SPC could be utilized to good effect in The Dail. He says that TDs are needed who have a full grasp of what's happening on the ground locally and who can speak their minds. He has also served on the Joint Policing Committee, and is former Chairman of East Wicklow Electoral area and WCC Burial Board. Cllr Snell believes that Wicklow needs an alternative, independent voice to bring about effective change. He is campaigning on the issues of employment, investment, roads & transport, and health.



## Pat Casey (Fianna Fail)

Pat has been a TD since 2016 and is Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Housing and Urban Renewal. He previously served on Wicklow County Council for the Wicklow Electoral for 12 years and is a hotelier by profession, running his family Hotel in Glendalough.

On Wicklow based Jobs, Pat has worked with Echelon Data Centre to deliver a €1 billion high tech investment that will bring 800 construction jobs and up to 200 full time positions on completion. Pat has worked to ensure increased affordable and social housing for all who are in need of homes in Wicklow. Pat's 30 years of experience in the Tourism Industry has been instrumental in the delivery of Wicklow's vital outdoor recreation sector and Pat has been a lifelong supporter of Greenway Developments. As a community activist and businessman, Pat has led the campaign for Insurance reform and reduced red tape.



**Saturday 8th February 2020**

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

*Here are the 20 hopefuls looking for your number one vote this election*

## Paul O'Brien (Labour)

"I am from Wicklow Town, but I have many family and friends spread out across the county. I have been a soccer referee for the past twenty-five years and have travelled the length and breadth of Wicklow, meeting people from all walks of life. I am the current national President of the Referee's Society and a full-time County Councillor. If I have the honour of being elected, I look forward to following in the footsteps of past Labour Party stalwarts such as Liam Kavanagh and Liz McManus and working for all the people of County Wicklow. I am asking for your number one vote."

Paul's platform is focussed on 'Building Better Society', through building homes, seeking equality in healthcare, better pay and job security, climate justice, and seeing that every child gets a fair start.



## Simon Harris (Fine Gael)

Simon has represented Wicklow in the Dail and was also previously a member of Wicklow County Council. At a national level, Simon has served as a Minister of State in the Department of Finance, as Minister for the OPW and as a senior Government Minister since 2016. He had previously established an Autism support group in County Wicklow called the Wicklow Triple A Alliance. As a TD, he has worked on many campaigns and initiatives across the county including campaigning for new schools and school extensions, developing Primary Care Centres, supporting the Wicklow Hospice, setting up a new Out of Hour GP Service for North Wicklow, delivering funding for greenways and working to improve public transport. Simon is looking for your No. 1 vote so he can continue to represent Wicklow at a national level



## Steven Matthews (Green Party)

"I understand the needs of County Wicklow for housing, health and environmental protection and for sustainable solutions to support our economy, our communities, to create jobs and encourage investment. Wicklow needs good planning, a reliable public transport system and a clean environment that we can enjoy. The Green Party has always been the leading voice on Climate Change. We have the policies and the solutions in Housing, Planning, Energy, Transport and Environment that will address climate change. These policies will protect our health, environment and quality of life and secure a future for our young people. These key areas will underpin our economy, encouraging investment and job creation which will provide reliable funding for Housing, Education, Health and Public Services now and for the future. I am asking for your No1 vote so that Wicklow can have its first ever Green TD, thank you."



## Seamus Connor (Aontu)

Seamus Connor is founder and chairperson of Bray Coastcare. Seamus' platform is focused on the health crisis and mental health, the environment, sports and recreation, and the housing crisis.

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. 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.

Séamus wants to work hard to sort out the mess in regards to the housing crisis and unaffordable rent prices in Wicklow.



## Stephen Donnelly (Fianna Fail)

First elected in 2011, Stephen is Fianna Fáil's spokesperson on health. Before politics, Stephen worked for an international management consulting firm specialising in improving the performance of healthcare systems. For the past two years Stephen's been working with the Fianna Fáil team, and engaging with healthcare professionals across Ireland, to develop an approach to modernise Ireland's public health system, to provide high quality universal healthcare. At the same time, he has developed a plan to tackle the collapse of access to healthcare in Ireland. Stephen believes that a healthy economy, strong community and great public services work together, and make each other stronger. He believes all children should grow up with the same opportunities, and that the challenge of our times is sustainability - environmental, economic and social, all of which require radical action.



## Sharon Briggs (People Before Profit)

Sharon Briggs is a Bray native, a mother of three and a recent University College Dublin Graduate in Social Science. "People Before Profit is a real alternative to the current and previous political establishment and is committed to breaking the cycle of a Fianna Fail/Fine Gael government monopoly." Sharon has been an activist on all the issues that are making life hard for people. She was involved in the campaign against the imposition of Local Property Taxes, was a founding member of the Right2Water Campaign, she also actively campaigned for the Repeal of the 8th Amendment, for Marriage Equality, she protested the downgrading of a local hospital A&E and is currently immersed in the National Housing and Homeless Coalition. If elected, Sharon will work to have People Before Profit policies enacted and will stay true to her campaign promises."



## Tom Dunne (Independent)

Farmer Tom Dunne was one of the final candidates to put his name forward to contest the upcoming general election as a candidate for Wicklow.

Tom is a part-time cattle and sheep farmer who hails from Hollywood but is now living in Laragh.

A member of the Irish Sheep Shearing Association for the last ten years, and also its chairperson, Tom has represented Ireland as an international judge.

He has now resigned from his position as its chairperson so he can focus on the election.

Tom is determined to represent the people of Wicklow and ensure their voices are heard, with everyone treated equally. Tom will stand as an Independent candidate.

He is campaigning on the issues of housing, health, and traffic, particularly the N81.



## Valerie Cox (Independent)

Journalist, author and campaigner Valerie Cox entered the race late, just a day before the registration deadline, shaking up the race.

As a journalist for over 40 years, Valerie is well known for highlighting injustices and the struggles of people across Ireland. Valerie says she is hoping to become a voice for the voiceless.

Her campaign is focussing on issues such as; life-long taxpayers being deprived of pensions; forced retirement; older people waiting on hospital trolleys and being trapped in hospital awaiting care packages to go home; old people being forced into nursing homes without a Fair Deal Scheme to remain in their homes.

Valerie says that basic human living conditions for all citizens is also top of her agenda, with urgent priorities including homelessness and healthcare. Valerie is a patron of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation



## William King (Independent)

Entering the race late, William King has thrown his hat into the ring as an Independent candidate.

Aged 71 and from Dublin, William works as a self-employed electrician in Bray, and is campaigning on the issue of housing.

He says that he was driven to put his name forward out of an exasperation with the housing and rental crisis and the selling off of properties to 'cuckoo funds'.

"It's 104 years since the rising and here we are going back to a situation of absentee landlords. The present Government are selling off the country bit by bit. We're heading towards a situation where a month's pension will be equal to a week's rent - it will happen here as it's happened elsewhere. People can't get out of rental accommodation, not everyone has a TD's pension."

King says that he was "incensed beyond endurance" by the case of Blake v Attorney General 1982, where the Supreme Court struck down the Rent Restrictions Acts.

"I'm running because it's time to stand up, and I want to have my say."

No photo available





There was a trio of awards for Dunlavin at the Wicklow GAA Awards night in the Arklow Bay Hotel; Ladies Footballer of the Year Jill Heatley Fadian, Intermediate Footballer of the Year Cian O'Sullivan, and Camogie Player of the Year Katie Daynes.

## Post offices in danger of closure, postmasters warn

Postmasters are calling for an election commitment from candidates and parties to a Public Service Obligation (PSO) for post offices. They are warning that the post office network "faces collapse on a massive scale", with hundreds of post offices across the country in danger of closure over the next two years unless urgent action is taken by the Government. Here in Wicklow, Roundwood Post Office is the latest to come under threat of closure.

About the serious concerns that Roundwood Post Office is to close, Pat Casey TD said "This is another hard blow for rural Wicklow and again highlights the lack of imagination or determination to keep vital services in rural Wicklow. The current office is due to close at the end of January. The residents of Laragh, Annamoe, Glendalough, Trooperstown already have to travel at least ten kilometres to either Roundwood or Rathdrum to avail of postal services. When you consider that Laragh is adjacent to one of Ireland's top tourist attractions the lack of imagination in generating additional services for the post office is breathtaking.

"There are serious concerns that Roundwood Post Office may close as there as been no response to the call for someone to run the service and this would mean that Bray or Rathdrum would be the nearest postal service which for older and more

restricted customers is totally unacceptable. Time and time again rural Wicklow is being hit by the lack of interest by Government. An Post must ensure no interruption of service for Roundwood and ensure a smooth transition to a new service."

He continued "this is totally wrong and will bring great hardship to the people of Roundwood and the rural hinterland as the distance to Bray or Rathdrum is far too great for many people. It is essential that the Government ensure that An Post provides a post office continues in Roundwood. There should not even be a temporary closure as this will effect many older people who collect their pension."

Deputy Casey concluded by stating that "I and Cllr Gail Dunne have contacted An Post to ensure that there is no interruption of service due to the proposed closure of Roundwood Post Office. Rural Wicklow deserves

better and the Government and An Post must act to protect these vital services."

There are currently 952 offices in the post office network, including 897 Postmaster un offices, 45 An Post company offices and ten temporary closures. There are 23 post offices across Co. Wicklow.

IPU President and South East Spokesperson Sean Martin said: "A pillar of the 2018 Post Office Network Renewal Plan has not been delivered on by this Government. This was a commitment to delivering many new Government services via the Post Office. This has not happened to date and that needs to change with the next Government.

"While new services will help to maximise the Network's offering, it will not be enough to address the crisis expected in July 2021. It will not just be rural Offices that are at risk, but also a large number of urban offices who carry out a majority of network transactions. If they

were to close, it would have drastic consequences for the current Post Office business model.

"The impending crisis of the Post Office network needs to be an election issue with commitments given and inclusion of a PSO, and roll out of new services, in the next programme for Government," Mr Martin said.

IPU General Secretary Ned O'Hara said that post office business is declining year on year, and that hundreds of post offices are now at the tipping point of viability.

"This election is critical for post offices," he said. "In order to maintain a network, State support including a PSO will need to be sanctioned. Under a current Renewal Plan top up payments are temporarily being paid to the majority of Post Offices, as part of a new contract. However, these payments are due to run out in mid 2021. The next Government must plan for this, or the Network faces collapse on a massive scale."

## 'Pension age hike next year must be halted'

Speaking in relation to Labour's proposal to halt the rise of the pension age, the Labour Party candidate for Wicklow Cllr Paul O'Brien said that we don't need to raise the pension age to 67 in 2021 as this is unfair to a cohort of workers who have already worked for long enough.

Cllr O'Brien said "The economy has stabilised and the public finances are back in balance, thanks to the sacrifices made by the people over the last ten years. Labour has been calling for a halt in the increase of the pension age from 66 to 67 that is due to happen in 2021.

"We have a relatively young population compared to most of Europe. While we do need to plan for the growing number of older citizens, that does not require us to have a higher retirement age than most other European countries.

"At present, people are not entitled to the State Pension until 66 and this is due to rise to 67 in 2021. In future, people who go to third level and only begin their careers in their mid-twenties or later may well work beyond the age of 65. But society is not ready yet. Some of those who are now approaching retirement came into the labour market in their teens and have done nearly fifty years of work; and paid up to fifty years of tax and social insurance contributions. It is unjust to require them to wait another two years to receive their pensions when it is no longer necessary in terms of the public finances.

"Many people are tied into contracts that require them to retire at age 65. While some might choose to work longer if they could, many do not have that choice. People in this cohort end up seeking Jobseekers Benefit, and the government has even created an exception to the rules to allow this payment to continue until a person actually retires.

"There is simply no need to require thousands of older people to enter a pre-retirement waiting period for a year. The Social Insurance Fund is projected to have a surplus of €3.8 billion at the end of this year. We have the funds to slow down the rise of the retirement age, to give society more time to adjust. We can afford to allow 66-year olds to continue to access the full State Pension, which they have rightly earned.

"Following the next general election, Labour will not support any government, including from opposition, unless they agree to leave the age for the State Pension at 66 for the lifetime of that government."

## Motor Insurance Bureau records increase of claims in Wicklow

The Motor Insurance Bureau of Ireland (MIBI) recorded a 14% increase in claims from Wicklow during 2019, after receiving a total of 41 claims from across the county during the course of the year.

This represented five more claims than were submitted to the MIBI from Wicklow in 2018, when 36 claims were made. In its national figures, the MIBI

highlighted the high level of claims relating to uninsured drivers they received in 2019, saying it underlines the importance of the new automatic number plate recognition system (ANPR), which allows Gardai to more easily detect if a vehicle is being driven without insurance. Uninsured drivers accounted for the majority of total claims received by the MIBI last year.

The MIBI is a not for profit organisation that was established to compensate victims of road traffic accidents caused by uninsured and unidentified vehicles.

Speaking about the claims figures, David Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of MIBI, said "Looking at the figures it is clear that there has been very little change in the number of claims received by the MIBI over the course of the past two years, even though the number of claims from Wicklow did increase last year. On a national basis, it is particularly concerning that there has been no movement on the level of claims relating to uninsured vehicles, which suggests there continues to be a substantial number of uninsured vehicles driving on Irish roads.

"The MIBI hopes that the rollout of the new automatic number plate recognition system will make it easier and more simple for the Gardai in Wicklow and around the country to identify uninsured drivers. The initial phase is now in operation and that is expected to be further expanded in the coming months. This will make it very difficult for uninsured vehicles to be driven without being detected. They will then face heavy penalties. Anyone caught driving without insurance can have their vehicle seized on the spot, will face a mandatory court appearance, a heavy fine and five points on their licence.

"Uninsured driving is illegal and represents a real threat to Irish road safety. We believe the introduction of ANPR will tighten the net on uninsured drivers and will make a significant, positive impact towards Irish road safety," Mr Fitzgerald concluded.

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# Permission granted for 426 New Homes at Farrankelly

Full planning permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála to Cairn Homes for a strategic housing development at Farrankelly, Delgany. This new development provides for 426 new homes comprising 245 houses, 93 apartments and 88 duplex units within an overall site of 52 acres.

The site is bounded by the Kilcoole Road (R761) to the east and Priory Road to the west, Eden Gate and Glenbrook Park to the south.

Cairn Homes stated "The unique character and quality of our Farrankelly site, which is located on the outskirts of Delgany village, with its exceptional views of both the Wicklow mountains and the Irish sea, provides us with an unrivalled opportunity to deliver a truly signature Cairn resi-

dential development.

"Our design approach to Farrankelly put an emphasis on placemaking and a focus on public realm and landscape with the creation of new amenity spaces. The development will feature over 11 acres of active open space which will include a sports pitch as well as a tennis court and an all-weather multi-use pitch, a children's play area and an informal kick-about area.

"This will be comple-

mented by 10 acres of additional open space incorporating a substantial 650 metre pedestrian and cycle route greenway located along the northern boundary and separately running and training areas. At the heart of the development is a residential amenity building which will contain a well-appointed multi-purpose residents room, gym and management facilities,

with stepped access opening out into the adjacent open space.

"Farrankelly will be a unique residential development where our residents and the wider community will benefit from this broad range of amenities right on their doorstep, while our residential amenity building will support and enhance the sense of community within the development."



A digital image of the completed housing development at Farrankelly

# Bray boy, Denis Gilevskiy, wins the highly prestigious British U17s Nationals Squash Title

In November 2019 Presentation College, Bray pupil Denis Gilevskiy won the prestigious British U17s Nationals Squash title to add to his 2017 U13s British Open title. Ironically, as a quirk of history, Irish squash players can enter Britain's national squash championships. And it's the first time an Irish boy has won this title.

Keir Worth, chief executive of English Squash, said that "what Denis has achieved is not only a fantastic achievement for himself but for Irish squash as well." He hoped his performance would "boost the sport in Ireland."

One of Denis's biggest challenges is where to train as he said "there are no squash court facilities in Bray or my surrounding areas. This means my parents are travelling with me to Leopardstown, Ranelagh, Howth and even Carlow six times a week."

His main sponsor, Rory Gillen, a squash player himself and living in Greystones, has set up the Greystones Squash Initiative recognising that a lack of good squash court infrastructure in Ireland is one of the key issues holding back the game in this country.

His vision is to put the town of Greystones on the squash map by establishing state-of-the-art, not-for-profit squash court facilities in the Greystones area accessible to everybody in the local community and the wider East Coast region.

Young Denis Gilevskiy believes such a facility "would be a blessing and feels that a club in the area would open this wonderful sport up to hundreds of other young people in the East Coast of Wicklow".

Mr. Gillen is liaising with the Wicklow County Council and local Greystones councillors in an effort to locate a suitable piece of land for the project and comments that "all parties have been encouraging and supportive to date".

Ali Farag, the Egyptian winner of the World Squash Championship in Chicago in March 2019, who knows about the Initiative, has given his full support and has also said "I would be happy to turn up for an exhibition match at the opening."

Madeline Perry, Irish No 1 Squash player 1996-2016, said "If Squash in Ireland needs anything, it's more infrastructure and Rory's plans for squash court facilities in Greystones are a sure winner".

## BIFE student wins major music award

Graham Davy, a Higher National Diploma student at Bray Institute of Further Education picked up a prestigious accolade at the recent Pearson Higher National Awards Ireland 2019 in Dublin.

Graham won the "Ireland Student of the Year Music" award at the ceremony, which took place late November 2019 at Clontarf Castle Hotel.

The awards ceremony "aims to recognise those BTEC Higher National students who truly embody a vocational ethos, have worked hard to get where they are, demonstrated passion for what they do and are ambitious to achieve further". According to his head tutor Philip Dobie, "Graham was 100% committed to his studies and had a hugely positive effect on the class and helped to foster a positive learning culture."

The event was attended by nominees and staff from a host of Further Education institutes around Ireland including Dublin, Limerick and Cork and was presented by Alasdair Melville, Director of International Schools Qualifications & Assessment, Pearson.



Pictured is Philip Dobie (BIFE tutor) with award winner Graham Davy



## Planning application lodged for Newcastle mixed development

A planning application has been lodged with Wicklow County Council for a mixed development of 11 residential dwellings units and four commercial units in Newcastle.

The location for the proposed development is an infill site adjacent to the GAA field, 400m to the south east. It is located within Newcastle's Primary Development Zone according to the Newcastle Settlement Plan as per the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. The development would consist of four 4-bed semi-detached two-storey units; One 1-bed ground floor apartment; One 2-bed two-storey duplex type apartment; Two 1-bed first floor apartments; Three 2-bed first floor apartments; and Four ground floor commercial units. There will also be 24 car parking spaces provided. It's understood that it is the intention of the Council's Housing Section to acquire the two-bed apartment unit, via a Housing Agency.

According to the planning application cover letter, the majority of the proposed buildings will be oriented towards the Main Street and Sea Road. The style of the front elevation of the buildings would be similar to the appearance of the existing buildings, with pitched roof on the semi-detached residential units similar to the existing adjacent buildings. The Council is due to make a decision on the application by March 9th.

## NOTICE OF POLL CONSTITUENCY OF WICKLOW

Take Notice that, pursuant to a writ issued to me by the Clerk of Dáil Éireann, I will take a poll on 8th February 2020, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to elect 5 members of the Dáil for this constituency.

The names and descriptions of the candidates standing nominated and of their proposers (if any), and the order in which they will appear on the ballot paper, are set out hereunder.

### DESCRIPTION

Name	Address	Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	Proposer, if any
Joe Behan	55 Richmond Park,	Public Representative Bray, Co. Wicklow	NON PARTY	Self
John Brady	54 Mountain View Drive, Boghall Road, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	SINN FEIN	Self
Sharon Briggs	113 Sugarloaf Crescent, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Shop Assistant	SOLIDARITY - PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT	Self
Pat Casey	Glendalough, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	FIANNA FAIL	Self
Seamus Connor	Hollybrook Park, Kilruddery Demense West, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Secondary School Teacher	AON TU	Self
Valerie Cox	Scrathnagh, Ballymoyle, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Journalist.	NON -PARTY	Self
Stephen Donnelly	Barna Cottage, Knockroe, Co. Wicklow	Full Time Public Representative	FIANNA FAIL	Self
Andrew Doyle	Lickeen, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	FINE GAEL	Self
Tom Dunne	Cullentra, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	Farmer/Joiner	NON -PARTY	Self
Anthony Fitzgerald	Coburg Mews, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Company Director	NON -PARTY	Self
Eileen Gunning	Chrysanthemum Cottage, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Nurse.	THE NATIONAL PARTY	Self
Simon Harris	14 Thorndale, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	FINE GAEL	Self
Charlie Keddy	Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	Plumber	NON -PARTY	Self
William King	4 St. Ita's Road, Botanic Avenue, Dublin 9	Electrician	NON -PARTY	Self
John Joseph Larkin	Season Park NewtownMountKennedy, Co. Wicklow	Health Employee	NON -PARTY	Josephine Doyle
Steven Matthews	Sydenham Mews, Sidmonton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Electrician	GREEN PARTY	Self
Paul O'Brien	11 Castle Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	LABOUR PARTY	Self
John Snell	81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	NON -PARTY	Self
Billy Timmins	Baltingalss, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	FINE GAEL	Self
Jennifer Whitmore	Dromont, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	SOCIAL DEMOCRATS	Self

Returning Officer: MARY DELAHANTY

Date: 24/01/2020

# Hello cousin!

The Labour Party's General Election Candidate, Cllr. Paul O'Brien paid a surprise visit to his cousin during his canvass in Bray last Thursday.

Henry Longmore, who lives in Roger Casement Park, was a well-known and popular face around the Bray area during the thirty years he spent as a postman. Paul and Henry spent a good while catching up on all the news and reminiscing about their family ties.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to call in to visit my cousin Henry and to see him looking so hale and hearty", said Paul O'Brien. "Henry is just one of a large section of my family that have lived and raised their families in Bray and it was great to hear how everyone is doing."

As well as visiting his cousin Henry, Paul had the opportunity to also drop in to the Purple House Centre on Parnell Road and he was accompanied by former Bray TD Liz McManus and former Councillor John Byrne. They had a good meeting with Conor O'Leary who runs the Centre and who outlined to the Labour representatives their long-term plans for a new home for Purple House.

Next on Paul's agenda was a visit to the Bray

Institute for Further Education (BIFE) where they were greeted by the Principal, Ray Tedders and other staff members. Paul is a member of the Kildare - Wicklow Education & Training Board (KWETB) and he listened to the case being made by BIFE to retain the campus for adult education only. Speaking after his visit to BIFE, Paul said, "I certainly understand the fact that BIFE has plans to expand

its range of courses in the coming years. However, I also acknowledge that the North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWTSS) is in dire need of a permanent home. The members of the KWETB are still waiting to see the 'master plan' being drawn up by the Department of Education so there is no solid information available just yet. I would be very happy to meet with representatives from the

NWTSS at any time if they wish to outline their own set of needs to me."

Paul spent the rest of the day in Bray with the local Labour members canvassing various housing estates where he believes he was well-received. "I would like to thank everyone I met in Bray on Thursday for the courtesy and support they showed me and I hope to meet many more Bray residents over the coming few weeks", Paul said.



Labour candidate Paul O'Brien in Bray last week with Henry Longmore, John Byrne, Liz McManus, and (back row), John Kenna, Joe O'Mahony, Con Sammon, Tracy O'Brien, Marie O'Rourke, and John Graham.

## Funding protected structures

Wicklow County Council reminds interested parties that the deadline for applications to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) schemes in County Wicklow is Friday 31st January.

Both schemes are funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and set out to assist owners of Protected Structures and buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas to look after their properties and to carry out essential repair and conservation works.

"Historic buildings are part of our heritage and contribute greatly to the character and attractiveness of towns, villages and countryside in County Wicklow," explains Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council adding: "Furthermore, the conservation and continued use of historic building stock plays an important role in promoting a low carbon, more resilient built environment for future generations."

Last year, a total €90,000 was drawn down by owners and custodians of historic properties in County Wicklow. Under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

grants of between €2,500- €15,000 (not exceeding 50 per cent of total costs) may be awarded to eligible projects. This year, there is also a new allocation to support small-scale (under €2,000) minor works of maintenance and repair.

Under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF), Stream 1 will offer grants from €15,000 up to €50,000 and Stream 2 will offer a small number of grants nationally from €50,000 up to €200,000.

Application forms and further information about each of the schemes is available at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or can be posted by request. Completed applications should be clearly marked either BHIS or HSF and returned to email [plandev@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklowcoco.ie) or by post to Planning Section, Wicklow County Council, by 31st January.

For queries and further information contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer on Tel: 0404 20100.



Fine Gael General Election candidate Billy Timmins campaigning in Bray last week with local councillors Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Melanie Corrigan.

# HEATING, PLUMBING AND BATHROOM SUPPLIES



SKC Providers, operating from three branches in Rathnew, Co. Wicklow, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim and Gorey, Co. Wexford, is your one-stop shop for all bathroom, heating and plumbing supplies. We sell to both trade professionals and the general public.

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and Gorey 053 942 2352





Robert Lambert from Aughrim with the Junior Hurler of the Year award and Mark Kenny from Ballymanus who won the County Senior Footballer of the Year award at the Wicklow GAA Awards night in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

# Birdwatch Ireland publishes manifesto for nature

**Birdwatch Ireland, which has its headquarters in Kilcoole, has published a Manifesto for Nature, saying that Ireland needs to reset its relationship with nature and prioritise the safeguarding of ecosystems.**

The manifesto consists of a set of proposals for the next Government to restore nature in Ireland, to address declines in bird species, other wildlife and habitats, and to tackle climate change. The organisation is calling on members of the public to put the issues of biodiversity loss and climate change front and centre with general election candidates.

"Ireland's biodiversity and ecosystems are in bad shape," Birdwatch Ireland said. "Two-thirds of our regularly occurring wild bird species are Red or Amber listed birds of conservation concern; there has been a 40 percent decline in waterbird

species in less than 20 years; one third of our wild bees are threatened with extinction; 85 percent of internationally important and EU designated habitats are in bad condition, with agriculture impacting 70 percent of those. Only one-third of hedgerows surveyed are in good ecological condition. River and estuaries' water quality is declining. Overfishing continues to deplete fish stocks and other wildlife. Habitat destruction and fragmentation, pollution, and other human-induced factors are the main reasons for degradation and the impacts will be exacerbated by climate change."

Oonagh Duggan, Birdwatch Ireland's Assistant Head of Advocacy, said "Biodiversity in Ireland is in A&E and it needs the full backing of political parties and the public to work together to halt and reverse the declines in species and habitats. Birdwatch Ireland calls on political parties to commit to immediately establishing a Citizens Assembly to address biodiversity loss as per the Dail decision in May 2019. We cannot delay any further and we must act together to save nature in Ireland and in a way that sets us on the path to address biodiversity loss.

"People need nature and we are part of it. We love hearing bird song, seeing wildflowers, walking by the sea and in the woods. It's good for our mental health. We depend on it for food, fibre, and to regulate air, water and climate. It is our life support system and we must support it now too."

Some specific policy decisions which Birdwatch Ireland say can be taken straight away, include; developing and implementing recovery plans for a range of species on the brink of extinction; filling the critical gaps in our knowledge on several bird species so we can protect them; ensuring that the current round of negotiations on the Common Agriculture Policy priori-

tises support for the farmers undertaking low-intensity High Nature Value farming which is so critical to our grassland biodiversity like Curlew, many bee and butterfly species, wildflowers and more; ensuring that afforestation policy doesn't impact important areas for birds and other wildlife and is composed mainly of native tree species; developing a new law to protect hedgerows; ensuring that the environment is protected on the whole island of Ireland through the Good Friday Agreement; increasing the budget of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to €1 million; fully implement the Common Fisheries Policy.

## PARKING CHARGE NOTICE GLENDALOUGH VISITOR CENTRE CAR PARK

With effect from Saturday February 1st 2020, parking charges will apply at the Glendalough Visitor Centre carpark. This is designed to cover the costs of new security and carpark management measures at the site.

Public carparks near Glendalough will be in operation in 2020 at the following locations:

Area	Carpark Name	Parking Details
OPW Visitor Centre	Glendalough	<p>Parking Charges will apply during the following dates;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 1st to March 8th (inclusive) Weekends (Saturday and Sunday only)</li> <li>March 14th to November 1st (inclusive). Daily parking charges will apply.</li> <li>November 7th to January 31st 2021 (inclusive) (Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays only)</li> </ul> <p>Outside of these dates The Car park is free.</p>
Wicklow Co. Council Carpark	Upper Lake, Glendalough	Car Parking Charges at all times.

The DAY RATE charge at Glendalough Visitor Centre carpark will be;

- €4 Cars
- €25 for Buses (Greater than 20 seats)
- €15 for Minibuses (Less than 20 seats)
- €15 Camper Vans

Visitors to the Glendalough Visitor Centre will be refunded this charge on their Admission fee.



**OPW**  
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

## Bray local stars in major new ad campaign

**Galina Moraru, originally from Moldova but now living in Bray, is featuring in a major new RTE campaign this January called 'Take the first step'. Fronted by Joe Duffy, Brenda Donohue and Marty Morrissey the Take the first step campaign aims to support people in Ireland who have difficulty with reading, writing, maths or technology to get the help they need.**

When Galina moved to Ireland two years ago she didn't know any English. She started English classes at Kildare and Wicklow ETB to help her settle into the local community and she has since gone on to qualify as a taxi driver. She first got involved in the campaign when the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) asked her to share her story last September on social media. Since then RTE has partnered with NALA to promote Galina's and other real-life stories of students on RTE television, radio and online. The campaign aims to encourage adults who have difficulty with reading, writing, maths or technology to contact a Freephone support line 1800 20 20 65 to get the help they need. Once they make contact the National Adult Literacy Agency will put them in contact with their local ETB Adult Education Centre or tell them about other free services that will meet their needs.

"I would like to have moved here earlier but I was afraid of moving to a new place where I couldn't speak the language and didn't have any friends. It was a big challenge for

me. I relied on my husband for everything," Galina says. Galina's husband had already moved to Ireland but her fear of the unknown put her off joining him for eight years.

Luckily for Galina, one of her new neighbours in Bray was from Ukraine so they were able to speak to each other in Russian.

"I told her I didn't know English and I was having a difficult time and didn't know what to do. She was the person who encouraged me to go to classes in Bray Adult Learning Centre to learn English. So I brought my husband with me and called into the centre to find out about the classes. After that I started doing classes twice a week and it has been an incredible experience."

As well as making friends and becoming part of her local community, Galina wanted to learn English so that she could get a job. In Moldova, she worked as a nurse but she knew she wouldn't be able to do that here.

"I had to think about what I could do instead. I like driving so I thought I would try that. But first I had to prepare for the National Transport Authority's entry test for

becoming a taxi driver. As well as my English classes I also took some computer classes at the centre to help me prepare for the test. It wasn't easy but I didn't give up. I did it five times before I passed it and I was so happy."

"We are delighted that RTE are supporting 'Take the first step' as the campaign represents a very important public service message. Often people who return to education say the hardest part was making the first call or taking the first step into an Adult Education Centre. The aim of this campaign is to encourage people to take the first step to get the help they need. Thanks to Galina sharing her story so honestly through this campaign, many people won't feel as alone and I have no doubt they will be encouraged to pick up the phone to us to get information about different courses to suit their needs - all of which are free," says Dr Inez Bailey, CEO, NALA.

This includes NALA's Distance Learning Service where tutors work with people over the phone to improve their reading, writing, maths or technology skills.

Niamh Maguire, Adult

Literacy Organiser at Kildare and Wicklow ETB, said: "People often think they are the 'only one' but at the moment there are thousands of people returning to learning to improve their reading, writing, maths and computer skills. Whatever the reason for going back to learning, the benefits are always the same. Not only do people improve their old skills, but they also

gain the confidence to learn new ones."

In Wicklow people can phone Kildare and Wicklow ETB at 01 276 1350 to find out about free classes available.

There is also a national Freephone number 1800 20 20 65 and website [www.takethefirststep.ie](http://www.takethefirststep.ie) that people can contact to get more information on adult education services nationally.



Galina Moraru, originally from Moldova but now living in Bray, is featuring in a major new RTE campaign

# Over €11.6m allocated to roads

Wicklow is to benefit from €11.64 million in regional and local road allocations, Minister Simon Harris has said.

Minister Harris said he has received confirmation from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport of the significant allocation for Wicklow for 2020.

"This is a huge investment for the county of Wicklow. This will improve roads the length and breadth of Wicklow and will assist people travelling across the county."

"Wicklow's national road network is a key asset for the county. Preserving it will not only benefit our daily use of the roads, but can significantly assist and drive economic activity."

"I welcome this investment, which is a significant increase on 2019," Minister Harris concluded.

The Council will receive €350,000 for the Glendalough Scheme and €250,000 for the Ballinaclash Rathdrum Scheme.

A sum of €325,000 is to go towards bridge rehabilitation works on regional and local roads - Sally's Bridge, Wicklow Town Bridge, Killacoran and Roddenagh bridges in Aughrim, Killavenny Bridge, Carrigmore Bridge, in Aughrim, Boley Bridge, Highpark Bridge in Kiltegan, Johnstown North Bridge and Beechdale Bridge in Kilcoole.

A sum of €333,000 will go towards safety improvement works at the following locations; Vale Road between Arklow and Woodenbridge; Junction of Newcastle and Woodstock Roads in Kilcoole; Windgates, Greystones; Wexford Road (North), Arklow; Saint Saviour's National School, Rathdrum; Wexford Road (South), Arklow; Aughrim to Rathdangan Road at Ballytiege; Newtown-

mountkenedy Main Street - junction, lights and markings; Kenny's Corner, Carnew; Killough Upper; Tonleage crossroads; Bray Road (21 bends), Enniskerry; Schools Road, Bray.

Rathdrum based Cllr Pat Kennedy has welcomed the long awaited funding for the major Rathdrum-Ballinaclash Road Junction Plan.

Cllr Kennedy said "Having worked on getting the Rathdrum/Ballinaclash Junction upgraded for the last number of years, I am delighted to see that €250,000 has been allocated to the project. Phase 1 of this project was the installation of the footpath from the graveyard to the junction. This footpath stopped short of the junction in order to allow us to seek funding for the re-alignment of the junction."

"National Road Safety guidelines state that roads of equal importance should meet at a 90 degree angle or as close as what is achievable. Both roads converging at the junction are regional roads of equal importance but currently meet at around 33 degrees leading it to be extremely dangerous."

"With the allocation of this funding we can now proceed with Phase 2 of the project and get the junction realigned in order to make it much safer for all road users."

"I want to thank the local people who live in the area who helped me along with local TD Pat Casey. I also want to thank the three Wicklow County Council engineers who have been involved in this and who have engaged with me over the number of years in order to push this forward."



Pictured are Bill Porter, Valerie Cox, and John Brady TD at the opening of the Wicklow Hospice on Friday. Deputy Brady said "I have to commend the Committee and team of volunteers that worked for 11 years to make this dream a reality. The Hospice will provide critical support for people from across Wicklow at a very difficult time in their lives and the team will have my continued support into the future. It was the ordinary people of Wicklow who worked tirelessly to get the funds together to bring this vital service to Wicklow. They showed the determination and community spirit that is the best of this county."

## St Gerard's and St Mary's to represent Wicklow in Money Smarts Challenge Grand final

Teams from St Gerard's in Bray and St Mary's in Arklow emerged victorious from the recent Wexford and Wicklow final in the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Challenge, held in the Amber Springs Hotel, Wexford on Monday, January 20th.

A total of 212 students from 53 teams drawn from secondary schools across both counties took part in the final, comprising eight rounds of money-related questions and puzzles, with St Gerard's taking the top prize and the St Mary's team emerging as runners-up.

The teams from both secondary schools guaranteed their place in the Money Smarts Grand Final next April, and now have the chance to claim the top prize of €25,000. The Wexford and Wicklow event was the twelfth regional contest to take place in the challenge to date. The Money Smarts Challenge is designed in conjunction with business studies teachers and Financial Wellbeing experts, and is part of Bank of Ireland's five-year Financial Wellbeing Programme. The aim of Money Smarts is to increase financial awareness among teenagers, presenting core elements of financial wellbeing like spending, saving, earning, credit and debt through interactive content and real life scenarios.

Rory Carty, Head of Youth Banking, Bank of Ireland, commented: "It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout of Wexford and Wicklow schools at the Money Smarts Challenge in the Amber Springs Hotel. It's not always easy to get teenagers engaged about money management and financial literacy, but Bank of Ireland's new secondary school competition puts students to the test and offers a fantastic prize of €25,000 to the winning school. Congratulations to St Gerard's and St Mary's on their qualification from the final, we look forward to the welcoming them to Citywest for the Grand Final next April."

There are 18 Money Smarts regional finals taking place between November 2019 and February 2020. Secondary schools from across Ireland can enter up to three teams, and school principals and teachers can find out more about the competition and how to register by visiting [boi.com/moneysmarts](http://boi.com/moneysmarts). Early registration is advised as places are limited.



Pictured are St. Gerard's Bray students Jennifer Mooney, Jack Egan, Jordan Fahy, and Lucy Culliton, and St. Mary's Arklow students Ellie Kenny, Aoife Mooney, Riona Furlong, and Anjelica Foley at the Wexford/Wicklow regional final of the Money Smarts Challenge in the Amber Springs Hotel. Also pictured is Maria Coleman, BOI County Manager, and Cian Doyle, BOI youth banking co-ordinator for Co. Wicklow

## 553 residential buildings under construction

A total of 553 residential buildings were under construction in Wicklow in December 2019, according to the latest GeoView Residential Buildings Report, published by GeoDirectory and EY-DKM last week.

The majority of the buildings under construction in Ireland were located in Dublin and surrounding counties of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow, further emphasising the capital's role in driving residential construction activity. The counties with the lowest levels of construction activity were located in the north-west and midlands in December 2019. Leitrim (24), Longford (88), Roscommon (96) and Sligo (96) registered the lowest number of buildings under construction.

965 residential addresses in Wicklow were added to the GeoDirectory database in 2019. Dublin accounted for almost a third of all new address points in 2019, with 6,189 in total. Cork registered the second highest total with 2,146, while commuter counties Kildare (1,988) and Meath (1,452) also recorded significant numbers of new dwellings. In overall terms, 65.1% of all additions to the GeoDirectory database in 2019 were located in Leinster.

At the other end of the scale, Longford (53), Leitrim (67), Cavan (169), Roscommon (176) and Sligo (180) recorded the lowest number of new residential addresses.

Analysing property prices over the past decade highlights the volatile nature of the property market over this period. In 2010 the average residential property price in Wicklow was €312,581 increasing by 15% to €358,238 in 2019.

The past decade has seen a considerable rise in the number of residential properties in Ireland selling for more than €1 million. In 2019, 751 residential property sales broke the €1 million barrier. This equated to €2.3 billion worth of sales, averaging €3.1 million per property. In 2010, 186 residential properties were sold for over 1 million, equating to €340.5 million in total and an average of €1.8 million per property.

There were 1,881 residential property transactions in Wicklow in the 12 months to October 2019, with an average property price of €342,743. The average residential property price nationally was €290,209.

Greystones was the town in Wicklow with the highest residential property price (€431,423), while Arklow had the lowest average price (€205,851).

Wicklow's vacancy rate stood at 3.2% in December 2019, 1.5% lower than the national vacancy rate of 4.7%. The highest vacancy rates were found in the mid-west and north-west of the country, notably in Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Donegal and Sligo.

Dublin remains the county with the lowest residential vacancy rate at 1.3%. Neighbouring counties Kildare and Wicklow also recorded considerably low vacancy rates. Of the 12 counties in Leinster, 10 counties recorded vacancy rates lower than the national average.

Speaking about the GeoView Residential Buildings Report, Dara Keogh, Chief Executive, GeoDirectory said, "In 2019, the Greater Dublin Area of Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow had the most buildings under construction, the most new address points and the lowest average residential vacancy rates, while counties in Connacht and Ulster continue to lag way behind in terms of activity. The latest GeoView Residential Buildings Report takes a wider look at property price trends in Ireland over the past ten years. It shows that we ended the decade with an average residential sales price 14% higher than at the start of the decade. In addition, by 2019, the number of properties sold for greater than €1 million was four times higher than in 2010."

Annette Hughes, Director of EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services said, "One in five residential property transactions in the 12 months to October 2019 involved a newly built dwelling. Just over 14,000 residential buildings were under construction nationally in December 2019. While this is an improvement on previous years, it is still well below the required supply levels, which are estimated to be closer to 35,000 units per annum."



Pauline Lynch and Allison Banton of Brooke & Shoals, Greystones, at the Showcase Ireland 2020 exhibition in the RDS.

# Local businesses get international shot at local enterprise showcase

Businesses from Wicklow had the opportunity to meet buyers from all over the world last week as part of the Local Enterprise Showcase at Showcase 2020 in the RDS in Dublin.

Tweed In The Valley, Kaikø Studio, and Holly Somerville were all exhibiting at the Local Enterprise Showcase, part of Showcase 2020, that saw over 2,700 buyers from retailers across the globe attend the four-day event in Dublin looking to secure new sales and partners for the year ahead.

Anna Dobson is the creator of Tweed In The Valley. She designs and manufactures beautiful tweed accessories and fashion pieces for men, women and children. These pieces are elegant and contemporary. Holly Somerville is a Botanical Artist of illustration and painting. Her illustrations are captured on cushions, mugs, make-up bags, cards and more, making these everyday objects unique pieces of art. Kaikø Studio's founder Linda Legzdina designs and creates contemporary, earthy and industrial concrete home accessories, lighting fixtures, and jewelry. All products that are created in Kaikø Studio are statement pieces.

Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General at the Department of Business, Enterprise and

Innovation, officially opened Showcase 2020 at the RDS, Dublin. The show, which marked its 44th edition this year and ran until Wednesday 22 January, is one of Ireland's largest and most important international trade fairs. Showcase is presented on behalf of Design & Crafts Council Ireland, with support from Enterprise Ireland in promoting the trade show internationally, and the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide.

The Wicklow companies were selected by the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow to take part in this year's Local Enterprise Showcase at Showcase 2020. They have been working closely with them in recent months to ensure they are in the best possible position to maximise their appearance at the event including sales technique, marketing materials and stand production.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise Wicklow stated: "The Local Enterprise Showcase is always an exciting element of Showcase. The clients here are the up-and-com-

ing talent of Irish craft and design. Many of the exhibitors here will be just starting out, working with their Local Enterprise Office and trying to make the most of the opportunity this event brings. Others have been here before and know the

benefits of the Local Enterprise Showcase and the chance to meet buyers from Ireland and all over the world. They have the chance to potentially make business and life changing deals so it's an exciting few days ahead for our clients."



Linda Legzdina of Kaiko Studio with Vibeke Delahunt Head of LEO Wicklow at the Local Enterprise Showcase at Showcase 2020 in the RDS in Dublin.

## Creative Life Skills course in Bray

Bray Area Partnership is offering a free 10-week Creative Life Skills course in Bray, starting on Tuesday, 4th February 2020.

Classes will take place every Tuesday morning from 9-11am and participants will get the chance to explore and develop the creative arts skills of writing, video production and podcasting. The course will include group work on projects and learning

how to refine your projects in order to find creative employment.

This course is delivered under the Partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, which is funded by the Irish

Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

You have to be living in

Bray, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Kilmacanogue or Newcastle Lower to attend this course and satisfy certain other criteria. See [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie) to find out more or contact Jennifer Jones on 01 286 8266.

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# Local organisations go for gold in prestigious Community awards

Organisations from across Wicklow have been chosen as finalists for this year's All Ireland Community & Council Awards, which are presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA.

The event which recognises communities and councils whose hard work remains widely unrecognised, takes place in Croke Park on Saturday the 15th of February. Over 400 attendees are expected to turn out to this year's highly anticipated awards.

Under the Best Tourism Initiative category, Wicklow Gaol's "Gates of Hell virtual reality" project and the Wicklow Eco-trail are short-listed finalists while the Glen Turn Beach Cliff Walk in Wicklow town is a short-listed finalist in the Best Community Health Initiative section.

A further three nominees from the Wicklow

Local Sports Partnership are also short-listed finalists. Bray Sailing Club "Inclusion in Sport" programme is a finalist in the Best Disability Access & Inclusion initiative.

Wicklow Warriors inclusive club with Wicklow Rugby is a finalist in the Best Community Sports Team/Club. Power for Parkinsons Physical Activity programme is also a finalist in the Best Community Health Initiative.

The Council's library service is also a finalist in the Best Education/Training initiative for its library community literacy supports project.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters, expressed her delight that so many of the applications submitted by the Council have made it to the final selection and she wished all the applications well in the awards ceremony.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, added his congratulations to all involved in preparing and submitting the projects. He said the large number of Wicklow projects which made the final selection was testament

to the quality of the applications submitted.

Hundreds of leading community organisations from across Ireland entered this year's event, which boasts over 19 categories.

Social enterprises, councils, organisations, projects and individuals working within the community all entered this year's event. The main award, the much anticipated Grand Prix title goes to the project that has received the highest level of recognition from judges. Last year, the prestigious title went to Louth County Council for their Sports Inclusion Disability Programme. The aspiration of the highly successful programme is to increase and sustain participation for people with disabilities.

Speaking about the finalists who have made the shortlist for this year's awards, Event Manager Michael O'Donoghue, said: "We anticipate this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, with many unsung heroes being recognised for their outstanding contribution to their communities. Competition remains high with so many inspiring projects deserving awards."

## Kilmacanogue History Society

The Opening Talk for 2020 (an historical tale concerning espionage in Ireland during WW2) turned out to be fascinating- the large crowd who attended were not disappointed. At one point a lady spoke up from the audience and appeared very knowledgeable on the subject, she turned out to be the daughter of one of the German alleged spies! What had felt like a story from the distant past suddenly became very real.

The next Talk entitled 'Irish Arctic Explorers' will be given by someone who has very personal experience of the Arctic and mountaineering in the most hostile environments in the world. Frank Nugent is an experienced mountaineer, explorer and expedition leader. Among his many accomplishments, he was deputy leader of the first successful Irish Everest Expedition. In 1997, he followed in the footsteps of Shackleton across the Island of South Georgia. He published Seek the Frozen Lands - Irish Polar Explorers 1740 -1922 in 2003. The Talk is in the Glenview Hotel on Tuesday 4th February at 8pm.

## GoFundMe campaign for breast cancer battle

Monika is a mother to a little girl called Adela. She lives in Greystones. Despite working as a personal trainer and living a healthy lifestyle on December 13th 2019 she got news that changed her life, as she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Monika has been following all doctor's orders, but she also strongly believes in alternative treatment. She has found a clinic in Germany (Klinik im Leben) that specializes in holistic treatment for cancer. At the treatment center, they carry out detoxification, immunotherapy, hyperthermia and many other treatments. They also focus on nutrition, mind and energy balance in order to create an environment in which Monika may fully receive the treatments needed to let her immune system fight off the cancer naturally. The cost of the treatment is €18,000. Monika has set up this GoFundMe campaign in order to fund this treatment. To make a donation see [www.gofundme.com/f/monika039s-battle-with-breast-cancer](http://www.gofundme.com/f/monika039s-battle-with-breast-cancer)

## Table Quiz

There will a Table Quiz in aid of Bray Sorooptimists' charities on Friday 31st of January in Bray Golf Club starting at 8pm. There will be a raffle, prizes, brain teasers and trivia. Table of 4 costs €40.



Peter Dignam pictured with Bobbie Dignam from Rathnew who was announced as the 'Club Person of the Year' at the Wicklow GAA Awards night in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Lusra Teo, seek planning permission for residential housing development consisting of 99 dwelling units and creche, comprising 2 no. 4 bedroom detached 2 storey, 14 no. 4 bedroom semi-detached 2 storey, 53 no. 3 bedroom semi-detached and terraced 2 storey, 12 no. 2 bedroom terrace 2 storey, 1 no. 5 bedroom detached 2 storey, 1 no. 2 bedroom bungalow, 8 no. 2 bedroom apartment units with 8 no. 3 bedroom duplex above apartments, public parkland, together with ancillary site development works and services with connection to sewers on adjoining Meadows Estate 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

I, Carl Farmer, seek planning permission for (1) a two-storey extension to the side, (2) a single-storey extension to the front and (3) relocation and widening of the existing entrance pillars to the existing dwelling at 103 Fairhill, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 EP66. 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

Planning permission is sought for development consisting of the following: (i) the erection of a 5 meter high ball stop netting barrier to the North side of the playing pitch (ii) associated site works including excavation, all located at St. Cronan's B.N.S., Vevay Crescent, Vevay Road, Bray, Co Wicklow for the Board of Management, St. Cronan's B.N.S. 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 Richard Drapper intend to apply for permission for new access road and footpath to serve zoned lands, connection to public water and wastewater networks and associate works at Kilmacanogue South, Kilmacanogue, 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 Aidan Losack intend to apply for permission for revised house type and position on site as granted under planning reference 15/1320 and associate works at Castlekevin, Annamoe, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Sinead Kenna intend to apply for permission for revised house type and position of dwelling and garage on site, new site boundaries, revised wastewater system as granted under planning reference 17/1504 and associate works at Sleanaglouh, Moneystown, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

# RECRUITMENT



## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form panels from which the following vacancies will 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 (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](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

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

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

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

Phone: 0404 20159  
Fax: 0404 20112  
e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

# CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

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

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



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](mailto:joebehan@outlook.ie)

