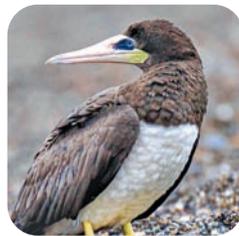


# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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DEATH OF BROWN BOOBY page 4



DRUGS SEIZURE page 6



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Summer Special 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# WHY DID SO MANY DIE?

## DEMANDS FOR MINISTER STEPHEN DONNELLY TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS IN WICKLOW NURSING HOMES

"Questions remain to be answered about the reasons why so many older people died in nursing homes in this country during the Covid crisis. These questions arise for us in County Wicklow as much as anywhere else. A total of 17 out of the 49 residents of the HSE run St.Brigid's Community at Crooksling on the border of West Wicklow lost their lives in the period after they were moved to a new facility in Tallaght," declared Independent councillor Joe Behan, last week.

"In addition, about 40 staff at the nursing home contracted Covid.

"Cllrs Gerry O'Neill, Patsy Glennon, Deirdre O'Donovan and I sought answers at the meeting of the Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum held in Tullamore on Tuesday 21st July. We

were told that a decision was made to move the residents of Crooksling at the end of March based on clinical advice from the Department of Public Health and Consultant Geriatrician. We were told that a Risk Assessment was undertaken and that the move

was necessary because of the increased risk of Covid transmission in the existing facility. "While acknowledging that Covid risk was a major factor, I believe that the risks attached to moving older people from a place they knew as home for many years to a

new facility posed an equally serious risk. It is not clear whether the dangers in moving these elderly people at such short notice and in the already stressful circumstances of a pandemic were also risk assessed.

"As Councillors, we are determined that a full independent enquiry should be held into the circumstances of the deaths of so many people in such a short space of time. We called for such an enquiry at the meeting in Tullamore and it was agreed that the HSE management would meet us to discuss in more detail our concerns and their response to those concerns. However, a full independent enquiry is also needed and I call on



Fiadh Bradley having fun in the recently opened playground in Roundwood.

## QUEUE-TAINMENT IN AUGUST AT BRIDGEWATER

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"As Councillors, we are determined that a full independent enquiry should be held into the circumstances of the deaths of so many people in such a short space of time. We called for such an enquiry at the meeting in Tullamore and it was agreed that the HSE management would meet us to discuss in more detail our concerns and their response to those concerns. However, a full independent enquiry is also needed and I call on

the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., to hold such an enquiry."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has reiterated his call for an inquiry into the deaths of former residents of St Brigid's Nursing Home in Crooksling. He said "The residents died as a result of Covid-related illness following a move from the nursing home in Crooksling to the Tymon North Community Nursing Home in March."

Deputy Brady also said that he is deeply disappointed that the Health Minister hasn't even acknowledged correspondence from him with the request.

"Unfortunately, here in Wicklow we have seen the devastation Covid-19

continued on p 3.

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Fr Michael Murtagh is pictured with members of the local Arklow soccer teams at the Mass in memory of former Republic of Ireland football manager Jack Charlton.

## Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement

Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement Group will be meeting Tuesday morning the 18th August for tea/coffee, light exercise and a catch up from 10.45am - 12pm at the Brockagh Centre. Active Retirement group meet every Tuesday morning from 10.45am - 12pm in the Brockagh Centre and they have a great line up of activities each week.

So if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and some light exercise, bowls, dancing and music come along on Tuesdays. They hope to start doing other activities e.g. bingo, arts & crafts and informative talks.

"If anyone would like to offer their services or share their skills with the group please contact the centre. For more information call Denise on 0404 45600, email brockaghoffice@gmail.com or drop in to the centre."

## Application for Newcastle off-licence

Newcastle Garage has applied to Wicklow County Council for a full off-licence for alcohol sales at the existing filling station. Currently the only place to buy alcohol in the village is the Castle Inn pub, which doesn't operate an on-site off-licence. The Council is due to make a decision on the application on 6th September.

## Supports for KINNERO Greenway Project

Minister Simon Harris recently met with the Kinnero Greenway Team in Newtown and reiterated his support for the project.

Minister Harris said "The Kinnero Greenway has great potential for enhancing Wicklow's tourism industry. The route will link the mountains to the sea and compliment the East Coast Greenway under development.

"The new programme for government commits to a substantial increase in funding for cycling in

the transport budget.

"I am looking forward to the implementation of this in County Wicklow. I am seeking the support of the Minister for Transport to allocate additional funding for schemes such as the KINNERO Greenway in County Wicklow.

"One particular issue I would like addressed by the National Roads Authority is ensuring the upgrade of the N11 junction at Garden Village (junction 12) ensures safe crossings for pedestrians and cyclists as part of the greenway, and they can count on my full support."

## Tidy Towns and Environmental Awards

Wicklow County Council will take the opportunity to recognise the work with the annual Tidy Towns and Environmental Awards. Covid-19 has led to the postponement or cancellation of some projects and initiatives and has made it very challenging for groups to organise activities and complete work.

However the Council is launching its annual competition despite the national competition being cancelled.

The closing date for entries is the 31st July with an extension for schools until the 4th of September to allow for submission of entries after schools reopen.

Contact (0404)64120/1890 222276, eao@wicklowcoco.ie

## Brockagh Resource Centre bookings

The Brockagh has a large main hall and conference rooms available which can be booked for events under government guidelines for groups indoors or you can avail of our spacious car park for outdoor events with larger groups.

If you wish to make a booking call (0404)45600 or else you can email email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com.

# Wicklow Municipal District distributes 2020 Estate Development Grants

Nine local estates in the Wicklow Municipal District successfully shared in €8,000 allocated under the 2020 estate development grants scheme.

Members and Cllr Snell encouraged more residents to apply and avail of the grants and stated: "It is widely known that resident participation is a key element in the successful management of our local authority estates and by forming resident associations and committees it enables residents to have more of a say in the running of their

estate and with the grant can make it possible to decide on and follow through with projects and improvements."

This annual funding scheme is advertised in January and application forms can be requested from Wicklow Municipal District, Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow A67 YO18 - 0404 20173 wicklowmd@wicklowco-

co.ie. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 Estate Development Grants were posted to the successful Resident Associations.

The successful estates are: Darragh Park ; Ballinalea; Sycamore Drive; Mountainview; Gleann Chill; Mountainview Drive, Rosehill; Hillview , and Carrig Court.

## Spruce up your street

Delgany Community Council is encouraging people to volunteer from home and think about how they can spruce up their street! There are lots of really simple things you can do to brighten up your surroundings like:

Have bits and bobs lying about the house, shed or garage? Can you make something with them like an insect hotel or a bird feeder? You can use twigs, branches, bamboo canes etc.

Planning to cut the grass? Maybe you could offer to cut a neighbour's grass at the same time? Remember if the grass is dry it can be used as a mulch for your flower beds.

Going for a walk? Bring a pair of gloves and a bag (even better if you have a litter picker) and pick up some litter when you're out and about.

Pick up litter or sweep the area in front of your home, clean your gutters, clean your front windows, trim hedges, sweep along the roadside kerbs on your street, clear debris away from roadside gutters. Adopt a green area near you.

Plant flowers in your garden or in a pot on your windowsill. This is a great time for planting summer bulbs. Try and plant flowers that the bees will enjoy.

Make up a pot of flowers for an elderly or isolated neighbour to put in their window



Members of the group 'Feel the Pinch' Gerry Power, Fran Harper, and Paul Tyrell at the launch of the Special Tribute Concert for Frontline Workers DVD. The concert was held recently in St's Mary & Peter's Church, Arklow.

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LOCAL Times

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is published by Wicklow Times,  
First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

# WHY DID SO MANY DIE?



Cllr Joe Behan

*continued from p1.*

had in our Nursing Homes. In June it was revealed there were 31 deaths at six different nursing homes across County Wicklow. Those included the deaths of 24 people in Bray, with 10 in just one nursing home in the town. These figures don't include the Covid deaths in St Brigid's Nursing Home in Crooksling which is on the border between Counties Dublin and Wicklow."

Deputy Brady continued "Things got so bad here in Wicklow that the State health watchdog HIQA was granted an emergency court order to shut down Donore Nursing Home in Bray in May over fears residents could not be protected during the Covid-19 outbreak. This was the only Nursing Home closed in the State due to Covid.

"Last week I sent comprehensive correspondence to the Health Minister, Stephen Donnelly in relation to St Brigid's Nursing Home in Crooksling, in it I outlined the situation in Crooksling and asked him to investigate what happened there. Over a week later I still

haven't received anything back, not even an acknowledgement."

Deputy Brady concluded "I agree with Minister Donnelly when in opposition he said that Wicklow's nursing homes were 'left screaming for help' as they battled the Covid crisis. He is now the Minister for Health and has a responsibility to find out why so many people died in Crooksling and other Nursing Homes. In May a Covid-19 Expert Panel on Nursing Homes was established to examine the issues surrounding the management of Covid-19 among people in Nursing Homes. It will not look at what went on in individual Nursing Homes. That is why a stand-alone investigation is needed for Crooksling."

Councillor Behan added "We also demanded that the HSE drop its plans to sell the St.Brigid's site on the open market next month. This magnificent site of 42 acres was gifted to the community for care of the elderly by Mr. John James Verschoyle in 1856. It now seems that the HSE, having moved the 49 elderly residents off the land, is now

planning to cash in by putting it up for sale to the highest bidder. This is grossly unjust and unfair to the local community and to the memory of the man who donated the land many years ago.



**"Nursing homes left screaming for help": Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly**

"The local community and local councillors led by Cllr Gerry O'Neill, Cllr Patsy Glennon and Cllr Deirdre O'Donovan organised a public meeting (on Saturday 25th July) in the grounds of St.Brigid's. We are sending out a clear message to the HSE and the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D. that this sale must be stopped and the lands used for the purpose for which they were intended. The sale process must be approved by the HSE Board which reports to Minister Donnelly and we expect that he will use his powers to ensure that the St.Brigid's land is kept in public ownership and used for the care of the elderly in the community."



John Brady TD



Billy and Will Winters enjoying the recent sunshine in Wicklow Town

## Wicklow's Covid cases and deaths

The Central Statistics Office has published data on the number of Covid-19 related deaths between 28th February and 17th July.

During this time period, there were 655 cases of Covid-19 in Wicklow and 42 deaths. The median age of those that died from Covid-19 was 83. The median age of those who contracted Covid-19 was 49.

The number of confirmed Covid cases in Co. Wicklow peaked during the week of April 24th when there were 86 cases. By 15th May the number of Wicklow cases had declined to 10, and finally to zero by the week of July 3rd.

The week of July 10th however saw a spike in Wicklow cases to 9, the third highest spike in the

country that week. It was however the ninth week in a row that Wicklow had recorded less than 10 new cases.

The latest publication is the eighth in the CSO's series of information bulletins produced by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), that aim to provide insights into those who have either died of, or contracted, COVID-19, by using data from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) provided to the CSO by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

## Sunbeam Shines Through Covid-19

Since March Sunbeam House Services have continued to provide Social Care services to residential clients. Respite and Day services were suspended in mid-March in line with government guidelines. Sunbeam has been working hard to ensure that all their residential clients are safe and well and keeping in contact with their families and friends as featured on RTE's "Ireland on Call" programme in May. Some limited contact was maintained with day service clients during the last four months.

Sunbeam has recommenced limited day and respite services using HSE guidelines from the 22nd of June and is currently developing new buildings, reconfiguring services, and assessing what needs to be done to enable a safe and effective environment and to ensure that as many clients as possible can avail of services. As the organisation's capacity increases, or if the risks associated with Covid-19 reduce, Sunbeam intends to increase service delivery to clients.

The CEO, Joe Lynch, told us, "Sunbeam House Services recognises that there has been immense strain on clients and their families and for the organisation's own staff. We are working as hard as possible to increase services as quickly and safely as possible." Sunbeam will be welcoming more than a dozen new school leavers to their day services in Wicklow in October.



# Sunbeam House Services

Sunbeam House Services,  
Southern Cross House,  
Southern Cross Business Park,  
Wurzberg Road, Bray.  
Tel: 01 286 8541.

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





## Tropical Brown Booby dies

The Brown Booby which was spotted on Greystones beach the week before last, died after spending four days in intensive care at the Kildare Animal Foundation Wildlife Unit where it was receiving round the clock care.

The bird, which is thought to have ended up in Greystones after being blown off course, by a storm, caused a much excitement when it was spotted as it was the first time a live one was spotted on Irish soil.

At first appearing in good health, the bird's condition deteriorated throughout the day, and it became weak with exhaustion.

The large tropical seabird breeds on islands and coasts in the pantropical areas of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and can be found on the islands in the West Indies and Cape Verde Islands.

The Kildare Animal Foundation Wildlife Units stated "Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their lovely messages and calls of support since admitting the Brown Booby into our care late on Tuesday night.

"It's with deep regret however, that we need to inform you that despite everyone's best efforts the condition of the bird deteriorated late on Thursday evening, just like it had on the beach on Tuesday afternoon, and it passed away peacefully.

"The bird had travelled a huge distance and lost a third of its body weight on its journey, and then during its time here, it had to deal with a much colder climate than it was used to. It's also probable that there had been an underlying condition that caused it to become ill in the first place.

"We were very realistic from the outset but, as with all our cases, we look at them with optimism and positivity, with the animal's welfare always being our utmost priority. All life is of equal value. Be it a feral pigeon or a rarer species they all receive the best veterinary, nursing and rehabilitation care that can be provided. We are saddened by the loss of this bird but grateful and overwhelmed by how people came together to help this rare visitor to our shores. Despite the outcome it gave everyone some well needed distraction and focus during these challenging days.

"A special thanks to NPWS ranger Jason Monaghan for taking the correct decision to remove the bird from the beach when it became obvious that it was the only realistic option, and his follow up and support since.

"Thanks to Kilcoole Vets, Mi Night Vet, Greyabbey Vets and Bairbre O'Malley, for their advice and veterinary care, the RSPCA for sharing their advice, and last but not least the wonderful volunteers of Kildare Animal Foundation who help to make a difference to so many animals' lives each and every day. The bird's remains will be given back to National Parks & Wildlife Service for consideration for further scientific use."

# Wicklow remains top for herd incidence of Bovine TB

Wicklow West and Wicklow East have the highest herd incidence when compared to the national 12 month rolling average (4%), according to figures released last week by the Department of Agriculture. These regions combined represent 2% of the national herd.

There are 1,065 herds in East Wicklow; out of 574 herds tested there was a 12-month rolling herd incidence of over 10%; In West Wicklow 300 out of 523 herds were tested and there was rolling herd incidence of almost 14%. No other county apart from Louth has a rolling herd incidence of over 7%.

The report states that "Rising herd incidence and reactor numbers are of concern to all stakeholders. Senior Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) officials at policy and operational level are closely reviewing national and regional trends in order to determine the main factors influencing these changes.

Continuing cooperation between farmers, Private Veterinary Practitioners and DAFM officials will be required to take action to reduce disease spread and target more effectively the high-risk factors associated with bTB transmission in order to bring disease trends back on a downward trajectory.

"At around 4%, bTB herd incidence in Ireland remains at lower levels than in previous decades. However, disease trends have deteriorated over the past three years and this has continued through the second quarter of 2020. This

has resulted in an increasing number of farm enterprises dealing with the challenges of a bTB restriction. It has also led to significant funding penalties imposed by the EU.

"The reasons why this is happening are multifactorial and often relate to local factors. The expansion of the dairy herd since 2015 has played a role in this, since dairy herds, larger herds, farm fragmentation and herds which introduce more cattle are all more at risk of bTB breakdowns. 52% of all bTB reactors in 2019 were in dairy herds, while there were approximately 2.8 million farm-to-farm cattle movements last year.

"We know the risks that contribute to increased herd incidence from many years of scientific research. Risks must be addressed both by national policy changes and by actions at farm level. As we enter into the decade towards 2030 this is a pivotal year for Ireland's bTB Eradication programme and it is critical that, through working in partnership and joint ownership, all stakeholders take the necessary actions to reduce disease transmission, protect herds from new infections, and clear bTB from restricted herds."

These recommendations are part of the

Department's efforts to help farmers tackle bTB; Reduce the risk from badgers; Reduce the risk of contiguous spread; Reduce the risk of residual infection; Reduce the risk of introducing cattle which are infected.

The Department also offers general advice such as: Ensure good quality bTB testing facilities are available and the vet receives any assistance needed; Farmers engaged in contract rearing should consider their biosecurity measures and how they would manage a bTB breakdown affecting the contract arrangements. Avoid feeding pooled unpasteurised milk to calves in dairy herds; Effective cleaning and disinfection of any areas where reactors were kept is essential and will reduce the risk of environmental contamination infecting other cattle; If sharing machinery, trailers, etc. with other farms, minimise the risk of bTB spread through environmental contamination by cleaning and disinfection before moving from one farm to another; When breeding, select bulls which are genetically more resistant to bTB and avoid those more genetically susceptible.

ICBF provides bTB scores for bulls on their website, using a traffic light system.

## Kilmacanogue Horse Show adapts to keep the show on the road and the community safe

The Kilmacanogue Horse Show is now in 49th year and many would say that no summer is complete without this wonderful show.



Nicholas Finn and Poppy

The aim of the committee has always been to run a community based show and raise funds for local charities. Over the lifetime of the show it has raised much needed funds for local charity partners in Wicklow, provided an excellent family day out and put a smile on many a child's face.

This year due to COVID-19 the committee have decided the main priority is to keep everyone safe so they won't be hold-

ing the show in its traditional manner. The committee of volunteers were determined that the show must go on and took to Zoom to plan a fun and exciting virtual show, with something for everyone in the family.

This year they are running limited classes and asking people to enter online. There are some classic equestrian classes including performance hunter, riding classes and style and appearance along

with the show favourite fancy dress.

For those horseless amongst us, there are plenty of fun classes. A new one this year is the 'Lockdown Living - Back to Basics' class where entrants can display the activities that keep them going during the COVID-19 pandemic, whether that be baking, gardening, nature-watching, yoga, painting, etc.

There is also a fun 'Back-Garden Dog Agility'

class where participants can submit a 1 minute video showcasing their dog's agility over a home-built course which will be judged on accuracy, speed and adorability. In the 'Best Pet' class, all pets are welcome and participants are asked to submit a picture of their favourite pet. So far entrants have ranged from a sunglasses wearing Labrador called Mello to a goldfish called Frankie.

The star class of the virtual show is undoubtedly the 'Guess the Weight of

the Lamb' class featuring the wonderful show lamb Speckles. All you have to do is watch the video on the website and guess his weight. There is a fabulous prize for the winner of an annual family pass to Powerscourt Garden and Waterfall, kindly donated by the Powerscourt Estate.

This virtual show is definitely worth taking part in, entries are open now and winners will be announced on 3rd August 2020. Check out [www.kilmacanoguehorshow.com](http://www.kilmacanoguehorshow.com) for more details.



The star class of the virtual show is undoubtedly the 'Guess the Weight of the Lamb' class featuring the wonderful show lamb Speckles

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## Revenue seize drugs worth €20,000

Last Tuesday as part of an intelligence led operation, Revenue officers seized 550g of herbal cannabis, 110g of cocaine (subject to analysis) and 105 valium tablets with a combined estimated value of €20,000.

The seizures were made following a search, under warrant, of a premises in Co. Wicklow as part of a joint operation conducted by Revenue's Custom Service, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, the Wicklow Divisional Drugs Unit and the Baltinglass Detective Unit.

Gardai arrested a 29 year old Irish man at the scene. The man is being detained under Section 4 of

The Criminal Justice (Drugs Trafficking) Act 1994 at Baltinglass Garda Station. Investigations are ongoing.

This operation was part of ongoing joint investigations targeting organised crime groups.

If businesses or members of the public have any information regarding drug smuggling, they can contact Revenue in confidence on Confidential Phone Number 1800 295 295.

## Harris calls for site for West Wicklow Pool to be identified

Minister Simon Harris TD has called on Wicklow County Council to name the site for a municipal pool for West Wicklow.

Minister Harris said "I recently met with the Pool for West Wicklow Committee. This excellent community group has undertaken an enormous amount of work over the past year.

"There is a long standing anomaly in County Wicklow that West Wicklow does not have a

municipal pool unlike the rest of the county despite its growing population.

"I have written to my colleague Minister for Sport Catherine Martin TD supporting the application by Wicklow County Council to the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund for this project.

"To progress the project the council needs to identify a site for the pool and I will be meeting with the CEO of the council in the near future to discuss this," concluded Minister Harris.

# Progress made on NWETSS works

Progress has been made in relation to the North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWETSS) in Bray, with work likely to commence on site in the coming days.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed the news, after raising the issue of delays in securing accommodation for the school with the Minister for Education in the Dail recently.

At the time, the school was mid-move to their new accommodation in Ravenswell, Bray but refurbishment work had yet to commence on the school, and there were serious delays in contractors getting onsite due to

issues in getting a licence for the works to commence.

Deputy Whitmore said "I have just received confirmation from the Department of Education that the licence agreement between the Department and Religious Sisters of Charity to use the former St Philomena's Primary School, Ravenswell, Bray for NWETSS has been finalised, and that the Department is in the final stages of signing the con-

tract with the preferred contractor to undertake refurbishment works in this building."

Deputy Whitmore continued "The Department have stated that the contractor should commence on site in the coming days and that they will continue its engagement with the patron relating to these works to ensure that contingency arrangements are in place where necessary.

"Whilst it is very

welcome that there is now some movement on the matter, there are serious questions to be asked as to how such delays were allowed to occur. It will also be important to keep in mind that, as Ravenswell is only intended to be a temporary stop-gap for the school, they still need to secure a permanent site and I will work with the school, and the Department on this issue going forward."

## Caravan and campervan owners urged to park smart following recent thefts

As part of the Garda Park Smart appeal, Gardai are appealing to caravan and campervan owners to take extra security measures following a cluster of recent thefts.

This comes as a result of 13 caravans being stolen since March, 2020. 43 caravans and campervans stolen between 1st January, 2019 - 10th July 20, one of which was in Wicklow.

Crime Prevention Officer Sergeant Ber Leetch said "With 'staycations' expected to rise this year, and more people using caravans and campervans, there is a need to be extra vigilant with their security. As a campervan owner myself, I always make sure we have the hitch lock on when we are parked up for the evening or when it's not in use. We have also invested in a tracking device, they can be purchased for around €150.

"A caravan or campervan can be very expensive, and the items you

have inside them could be irreplaceable if they hold a sentimental value. I would recommend that you keep valuables out of sight and make sure everything is locked when you go out. Criminals are opportunistic, so on't give them the opportunity by not securing it. Please make sure you park smart and lock up your caravan or campervan no matter where you are."

As part of the Park Smart campaign, Gardai have previously highlighted that over €30 million worth of items has been stolen from vehicles in the last four years. Caravans and campervans are no different and should be kept secure with no valuables left inside, if possible.

Crime prevention advice is to:

Ensure a good quality hitch lock and wheel clamps are in place and that the caravan is locked to a secure point; Get an alarm fitted if one is not already in place; Keep valuables out of sight and remove when not in use; Ensure windows and doors are locked; Park in a well-lit area. Keep a light on if leaving unattended overnight; Use a cover when not in use. This may deter thieves as pulling off a cover can be noisy and add to the time taken to steal the caravan; Keep good records of all serial numbers, unique markings, image of the caravan/campervan etc; Keep documents secure; Consider voluntarily registering your caravan with the Central Registration and Identification Scheme.



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

ARMY RIFLE RANGES

### WARNING

If you are walking in the countryside do not walk onto any of the Military Firing Ranges as you could be in GREAT DANGER at all times from unexploded shells and other dangerous ammunition RED FLAGS indicate LIVE FIRING Watch out for the warning signs AND TAKE CARE!



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

### FOLÁIREAMH

Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath, ná siúil isteach i gceann ar bith de na Raonta Lámhaigh Míleata mar d'fhéadfá a bheith i nDEARG-BHAOL i gcónaí de bharr sliogáin neamhphléasctha agus armlón contúirteach eile Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!

## A burglary occurs every 31 minutes

With the excitement of reuniting with friends and family after months spent indoors, anxiety can come.

With a burglary taking place every 31 minutes in Ireland, PhoneWatch, Ireland's leading provider of monitored home safety systems, shares some simple tips that will ensure you feel confident and comfortable transitioning into the new way of living.

\* Check your windows and doors: When we are home all day, we are often less conscious of windows being open. Be sure to close and lock all windows when you leave the house, or even if you are in the garden.

\* Secure your outdoor valuables: Make sure garden equipment or bicycles are secured in a shed or garage, and kept out of sight where possible.

\* Close gates: Make a habit of closing gates, especially those leading to the rear of the home.

\* Maintain your garden: Cut the grass before you go away, overgrown grass can make a house look empty. Also, prune trees and shrubs that may

grow more quickly in the summer for clearer views, large bushes can act as cover for anyone who may be watching a home.

\* Don't advertise your trips on social media: Keep those photos of your days out and staycations until you return home.

\* Leave a light on: Timer switches for lamps can provide a cost-effective way to keep your home looking occupied if you are gone over night.

\* Arm your alarm: If your home is equipped with an alarm, be sure and use it. Research shows that an alarm is one of the most effective ways to keep your home safe.

\* When going away, nominate a next-door neighbour: An important tip for keeping your home safe is "maintaining an appearance" that your home is occupied. A neighbour or family member can help you keep your house look occupied by keeping post or deliveries clear from the letter box, parking a car in the driveway for a few hours, putting the bins out and taking them in on the same day and acting as the nominated key holder to your monitored alarm provider.

# Supporting wellbeing through economic recovery

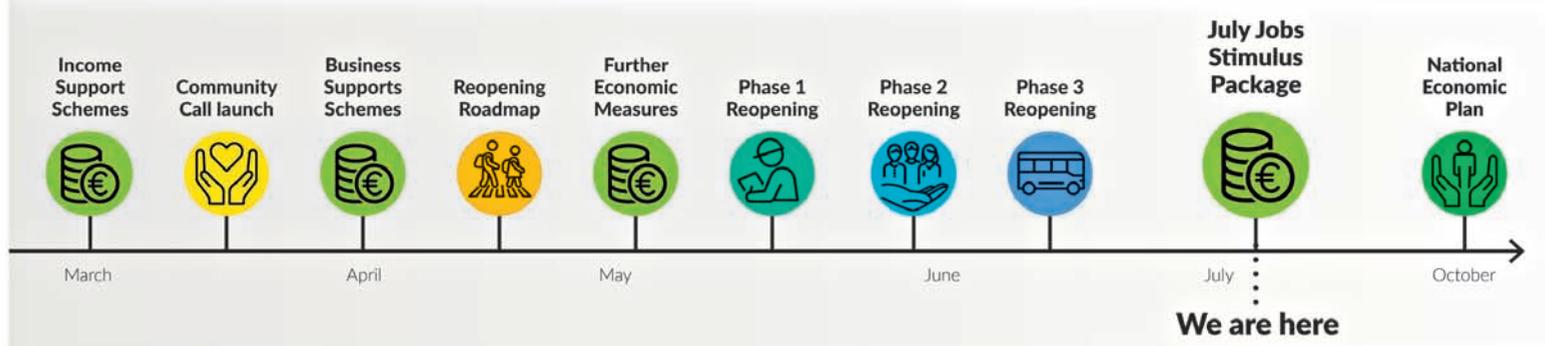


Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
National  
Programme

Covid-19 has had an enormous impact on Ireland, on our communities, our businesses, our families and on individuals across our country. The priority throughout the crisis has always been the wellbeing of our people and our communities.

**To help our society to recover, we need to help our economy to recover.**

## Rebooting Ireland's Economy



## These are the 4 Immediate Actions to deliver these objectives

### 1 Backing Ireland's businesses, supporting and creating jobs

The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme will be succeeded by the **Employment Wage Support Scheme**.

The Employment Wage Support Scheme will run until April 2021 and is targeted at businesses whose turnover has fallen by 30% and new businesses in certain sectors.

Credit Guarantee Scheme of €2 bn.

Zero-interest loans for Small and Medium Enterprises.

Increased and more widely available Business Restart Grants.

Extended waiver for commercial rates (30th September 2020).

Supports for start-ups and other business support measures.

### 2 Helping people, especially young people, get back to work

The Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) will be extended to 1st April 2021.

€200 million investment in training, skills development, work placement schemes, recruitment subsidies, and job search and assistance measures.

35,000 extra places will be provided in further and higher education.

10,000 additional places on work placement and experience schemes will be made available for those unemployed for over 6 months.

12,500 additional places will be funded through the Training Support Grant for short term skills training.

8,000 recruitment subsidies will be provided under the JobsPlus scheme.

The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance and Back to Education Allowance will be extended to people currently in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

The Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme will provide a €2,000 payment to support employers to take on new apprenticeships in 2020.

### 3 Building Confidence and Solidarity

Financial Certainty through the Enterprise Wage Support Scheme, the Pandemic Unemployment Scheme, Rates waivers etc.

€500 million investment in communities, schools, transport infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency National Retrofit Programme.

Stay and Spend incentive to support the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Tax measures to support cash flow for hard hit businesses.

Investment in heritage, arts, tourism and Gaeltacht-related projects.

Town and Village Renewal.

### 4 Preparing Ireland for the Economy of the Future

€25M Investment in Life Sciences.

Training and Skills Development.

€10m to be provided under a new Green Enterprise Fund.

Increase in Seed and Venture Capital for innovation driven enterprises.

Additional supports for IDA promotional and marketing initiatives targeting jobs.

Additional supports to businesses to develop their online presence.

€20 million Brexit fund to help SMEs to prepare for new customs arrangements.

Expansion of Sustaining Enterprise Fund scheme.

For information on how to avail of these supports, please go to [www.gov.ie/recovery](http://www.gov.ie/recovery)



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland



Lynda Bolger, Sue Kinsella, Dawn Byrne, Paul Canna, and Pdraig Lancaster at the recent Knockananna GAA Drive-In Bingo event which was held in the local GAA field.

# Work on delayed Arklow Primary Health Care Centre due to commence in August

The HSE has confirmed that construction on the long-awaited Primary Health Care Centre in Arklow is due to commence in August. This follows delays to the project for nearly two years.

Sinn Fein TD John Brady welcomed the news, and also the confirmation from the HSE that the Primary Care Services in the new Bray Primary Health Care Centre will be operational in the new facility from September.

Speaking following receiving updates on the Primary Health centres in Arklow and Bray, Deputy Brady said "Unfortunately there have been many delays in rolling out Primary Health in communities across the State and Wicklow has been no different.

"Work was due to start on the long awaited Arklow Primary Health Care Centre in 2018, there have been numerous delays and the work hasn't proceeded to date.

So, I welcome confirmation from the HSE that they have entered into a lease agreement with the developer of the Arklow Primary Care Centre and that works are programmed to commence in August.

"The estimated time frame for construction is two years and they are hopeful that the centre will be operational in Q3 2022. This is good news for the people of Arklow who have been promised this facility now for many years."

Deputy Brady also spoke about the delays with the new Primary Care Centre in Bray.

"Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the relocation of Primary Care clinical services for the Civic Centre in Bray to the new Primary Care facili-



John Brady TD

ty was delayed. The HSE now hopes to have the Primary Care operational from the new premises from September.

"The HSE has also informed me that they plan on relocating the Civil Registration Office

back to Bray from Wicklow Town when works take place in the Bray Civic Centre when space is fed up due to the moving of the Primary Care services to the new centre on the Killarney Road."

Deputy Brady concluded "Getting clarity on the time frame for the delivery on these centres is important, the HSE must now ensure that they are adhered to. There is an onus on the Minister for Health to ensure that adequate resources are given to ensure that these centres can roll out proper Primary Care services and that there are sufficient staffing levels, fancy new buildings are only as good as what services are delivered from them."

## International cat day

Maxi Zoo are gearing up to celebrate International Cat Day on 8th August. Ireland's largest pet retailer recognise that animal owners love to treat their pets, and to celebrate their feline friends they will have free treats for cats on the special day.

Maxi Zoo know pet owners love their animals and have now come up with a feline-feel good checklist so pet parents can tell if their cat is happy all year round, and not just on their special day.

### Feline feel good checklist for cat owners:

A happy cat will show you they are content by:

- Purring when you offer them a treat.
- Enjoying quality time together, and gets involved with play time.
- Has a shiny, well-groomed coat and enjoys being petted.
- Constantly spends time around you and purrs when they are being stroked.
- Plus if you notice your cat observing you through half-closed eyes and blinking at you, then you're definitely on the right track as a blink is the equivalent of a smile in cat language.

For more pet advice, you can call in to your local Maxi Zoo store to speak with one of their friendly staff members.

## Wicklow as gaeilge: viewing Wicklow Town through Irish this heritage week

A new initiative of Cainteoirí Chill Mhantáin in association with the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Municipal District seeks to display the prevalence of the Irish language in Wicklow Town.

The Irish language is scattered all over Wicklow Town: it appears on road signs, historical sites and landmarks, shops and other buildings. The project will highlight this often overlooked aspect of our heritage via an online photographic exhibition for Heritage Week and the organisers are seeking the public's help to gather images.

To participate simply send photographs showing examples of the Irish language in Wicklow town today or indeed in times past.

Submissions received will be archived on Wicklow's community heritage website, and a selection of those received by 7th August will be displayed as an online exhibition for Heritage Week 2020.

To submit images visit [heritage.wicklowheritage.org](http://heritage.wicklowheritage.org) and click on the "contribute" button, or alternatively email images to [wicklowheritage@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowheritage@gmail.com) with "Wicklow as Gaeilge" in the subject line. Images should be sent as jpegs. Cainteoirí Chill Mhantáin is a voluntary Irish language group based in Wicklow Town whose aim is to promote the language through community classes and Irish language events.

It is hoped that taking the time to notice and document the use of Irish all around us will give participants a greater awareness of, and connection with our Irish cultural heritage.

National Heritage Week takes place from 15th to 23rd August and is co-ordinated nationally by the Heritage Council. Communities and individuals in County Wicklow are invited to undertake projects that explore a topic associated with this year's theme - "Heritage and Education: Learning from our Heritage" and to register these on [www.heritage-week.ie](http://www.heritage-week.ie)

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer with Wicklow County Council, said: "The focus has moved away this year from hosting physical events to showcasing heritage projects. The new approach is designed to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge and to complement the good heritage work happening in communities all over Wicklow. Projects can comprise researching an aspect of heritage on your doorstep, sharing or re-learning a heritage skill, or exploring an aspect of Ireland's educational heritage.

"The Irish language is present all over Wicklow Town: it appears on road signs, historical sites and landmarks, shops and other buildings," said Ciara Wadden, organiser of the project and co-chair of Cainteoirí Chill Mhantáin.

She added: "It is hoped that taking the time to notice and document the presence of Irish all around us will give participants a greater awareness of, and connection with our Irish cultural heritage."

The results of projects can be presented in a format that can be shared widely, for example an online talk or exhibition, a video, podcast or oral history recordings, a PowerPoint presentation or newsletter.

The community heritage website [www.wicklowheritage.org](http://www.wicklowheritage.org) features the County Wicklow site and a network of associated mini sites that can be freely used by all to host and share their heritage projects.

For more on Heritage Week contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer with Wicklow County Council on [dburns@wicklowco-co.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowco-co.ie).

## Arklow welcomes Indian Ambassador

The Indian Ambassador, His Excellency Sandeep Kumar, and his Second Secretary, Mr Terence Dick, paid a courtesy visit to Arklow on Thursday 16th July as part of the Indian Embassy's provincial outreach programme which aims to strengthen the relationship between India and various counties in Ireland.

The Ambassador met with the Cathaoirligh of Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District Cllr Pat Kennedy and Cllr Sylvester Bourke respectively and Council officials, Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive; Mr Colm Lavery, Arklow District Manager, and Ms Claire Lawless, District Administrator.

The Cathaoirligh and officials briefed Ambassador Kumar on the exciting developments in the pipeline for the Arklow District and its many benefits as both an investment location and as a place to live and work.

The Ambassador spoke about India's close ties with Ireland and the Wicklow area and of his desire to grow those ties further into the future. He also stressed the potential business linkages between India and the District particularly in the tech, pharma-chem and renewable energy sectors where India has been to the forefront in market leadership.

The Ambassador visited the office of Arklow Municipal District where he signed the visitor's book.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke, speaking on behalf of the Members of Arklow Municipal District, stated that "Ambassador Kumar received a very warm welcome to Arklow and we had a very good exchange of views on social, political and economic matters of mutual

interest. It is hoped that we can deepen our relationship with our Indian friends as a result of this visit."

The Cathaoirligh of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, presented the Ambassador with a gift of a cheeseboard - made by Asgard Woodturning - containing local produce. He thanked the Ambassador and his colleagues for visiting Arklow and stressed that he looked forward "strengthening ties between Arklow and, indeed the whole county of Wicklow, with the Indian Embassy" while noting that many Indian nationals reside in the county.

Following the engagement, the Ambassador met with the Arklow and District Chamber of Commerce and its President, Mr Gareth Dempsey.



The Indian Ambassador, His Excellency Sandeep Kumar, with councillors Pat Kennedy and Sylvester Bourke

# ABP green lights Kilcoole development

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has granted permission for a mixed development on Kilcoole Main Street consisting of six apartments, three commercial units, and six car parking spaces. A third party appeal had been made against the development.

Douglas Hatton Developments had applied to Wicklow County Council for permission for the development in July of 2019. The Council granted permission with 20 conditions. The site, Kilcoole House (Urells) is located at the corner of the intersection of Main Street, Lott Lane and Sea Road.

The third party appeal, from local residents whose home is situated immediately to the north of the development site,

raised several issues including: concerns about the height of the proposed development (2-3 storeys) and proposed concourse; The proximity of the proposed buildings to the appellant's boundary in terms of potential overshadowing.

In its decision, ABP stated "Having regard to the zoning objective for the site as set out in the Greystones Delgany and Kilcoole Local Area Plan 2013-2019, and the over-

all scale, design and height of the proposed development, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions, the proposed development would not seriously injure the visual or residential amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, height and quantum of development and would also be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety and convenience.

The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area." The conditions include details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed dwellings being submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development in the interest of visual amenity.

# HiQA publish inspection report of Wicklow's child welfare services

A HIQA inspection report in relation to child protection and welfare services in Dublin South East/Wicklow undertaken in February 2020, highlights many positive aspects of the child protection and welfare service in Dublin South East/Wicklow.

These include: Children were protected through good practice relating to the screening, preliminary enquiry and initial assessment processes; A child-centred, open and transparent approach was taken to encourage the child and family's engagement with the service; The area developed a new child friendly website (changingfutures.ie/) to help young people better understand the work Tusla does.

This local area initiative was later adopted by Tusla on a national basis as the 'Changing Futures' project; There was good cooperation between the social work teams and An Garda Síochána in taking protective action to ensure that children were safe; The area was

found to be managed by a highly motivated management team with clearly defined governance arrangements in place.

HIQA also identified areas for improvement, including further progress in ensuring the consistent monitoring and review of safety plans for children, and improvements on recruitment practices to ensure that the appropriate copies of references were on file. Work is underway to make the improvements required.

Commenting on the report, Joanne Cullen, Area Manager, Dublin South East/Wicklow said: "We are pleased that the area was found by the inspectors to have high levels of compliance with the standards assessed. In particular, we are pleased that the inspection highlighted the child-centred, open and transparent approach which is taken in the area to encourage the child and family's engagement with the service. We will continue to improve and maintain our services so that the children and families in the areas receive a timely and effective service."

# Gardai seek help in search for missing Chloe



At the time of going to press, Gardai were seeking the public's help in tracing the whereabouts of 16 year-old Chloe Fitzgerald who went missing from her home in Avoca.

Chloe was last seen at the Cherrywood Luas Stop in Dublin on the evening of Tuesday 21st July 2020. She is described as being 5' 2" in height, with black hair and blue eyes.

When last seen, Chloe was wearing black leggings, a navy GAA top with green stripes and white runners.

Gardaí are concerned for Chloe's wellbeing. Anyone with any information on Chloe's whereabouts are asked to contact Dun Laoghaire Garda Station on 01 666 6500, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111 or any Garda station.



Blacksmith Damien Hogan from Annacurragh is pictured at his homemade forge ahead of National Heritage Week which takes place from 15th to 23rd August.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Who is spreading Covid?

Dear Sir,

Has the State's National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) too dominant an influence on Health Minister Donnelly? In my opinion, the current Government position on Covid may be making the problem worse.

On July 19th I took two taxi rides. Both taxi (night time) drivers told me that taking young customers to private parties in North Wicklow are their main source of business. GPs first noticed the increase in cases on Monday, July 7, according to a web platform that allows GPs to track community health issues, GPbuddy. The referrals and requests for tests have climbed steadily since, said Dr Darach O Ciardha, one of its co-founders. More than 90% of cases were acquired in the community, rather than from travel, or hospitals or nursing homes. "This is not Americans coming in from Texas with Covid-19 - the problem is Covid-19 is circulating in the community and that is 88% of the problem," said Dr Jack Lambert, a consultant at the Mater hospital in Dublin. "I think we need to have a balanced view on this and understand where our priorities lie. If you have a crack in the dam and there's a little one downstream, are you going to fix the one downstream and let the big one break?"

The big problem is still Ireland and the young adults that are spreading the virus.

John McEvoy

## Shared moments of happiness at a small price

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[maxizoo.ie](https://maxizoo.ie)





Niamh and John Roche at the Knockanna GAA Drive-In Bingo which was held in the local GAA Field

## New SOLAS strategy will benefit Further Education and Training

A new strategy aims to expand the role of Further Education and Training in Kildare and Wicklow and all across Ireland. That's according to Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority, who was speaking at the launch of a new five-year strategy for FET.

The strategy, 'Future FET: Transforming Learning', aims to reposition FET as an attractive, in-demand and quality choice for those engaging in upskilling and lifelong learning, as well as for school-leavers. It envisages "FET Colleges of the future" as "beacons of community-based learning excellence, which can start to change the hearts and minds of Irish society" with regard to school-leaving and education for career development options.

Speaking at the recent launch of the new strategy, Andrew Brownlee said: "FET is for everyone. It is available in every community in Ireland, and offers every individual, regardless of any previous level of education, a pathway to take them as far as they want to go. It is delivered locally by 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) ensuring that FET reflects regional characteristics and meets regional needs. SOLAS looks forward to working with Kildare and Wicklow ETB who play a vital role in the local community in supporting people to reach their potential and will strengthen this role under the new strategy.

"FET can offer personal development and fulfilment, a link to community and social networks, and a range of supports that reflect the diverse base of its learners. It also offers great opportunities to move into exciting and interesting vocations and careers, or a platform to develop the skills that will allow someone to flourish if they go on to further study in higher education.

"Our new strategy sets out an

ambitious vision for the expansion of the FET sector. By 2025, there will be a greater overall penetration of FET across the population. A greater share of Kildare and Wicklow school-leavers will be choosing FET or apprenticeships as their first destination.

"People will move seamlessly - in large numbers - between FET and higher education, with clear transition criteria. A significant and growing cohort of people in employment will be using FET to upskill, with employers viewing FET as a critical enterprise resource.

"Progression levels through FET will increase strongly, with pathways from core skills courses and community education available to all who wish to pursue them. A digitally transformed FET system will offer a large portfolio of flexible, online and blended opportunities."

Mr Brownlee said the new FET strategy comes at an exciting time for the education sector.

"The ambitious Programme for Government set out by the 33rd Dáil makes commitments to education; to expansion of apprenticeship and vocational training; to job creation through innovation, digital enhancement and research; to climate action; and to community, inclusivity and equality. FET can enable delivery of all these commitments," he said.

"We are moving towards an integrated tertiary education system, combining FET and higher education, and we are embed-

ding the key role that lifelong learning has to play in social inclusion and economic success. The creation of the new Government Department for Further and Higher Education is a significant milestone in this regard.

"Further Education and Training has a long, proud and successful history. The FET sector we know today is built upon decades of hard work and co-operation, and is characterised by an ability to embrace change and accept the challenges that come with this.

"FET was a lifeline for many during the last economic recession, and FET will be critical to our post-Covid recovery. Now more than ever, FET will support the economy through targeted initiatives, particularly around re-skilling and upskilling opportunities.

"We need to ensure we can meet the needs of the future world and be responsive and adaptable in times of necessity. Our ways of working are constantly evolving, and the idea of a static 'job for life' is becoming less and less of a feature of our working lives.

"We are working differently, we are working for longer over the course of our lives and, as the world changes around us at a rapid pace, we need to be equipped to adapt to these changes. The new FET Strategy, in cooperation with the Programme for Government, provides a roadmap for the future," concluded Mr Brownlee.

# Whitmore given new spokesperson roles for SocDems

The Social Democrats last week announced their line-up of Spokespersons for the six TDs in the Party. Jennifer Whitmore TD has been confirmed as the Party Spokesperson for a range of portfolios including Climate & Biodiversity, Children, Communications Networks, Disability, Equality and Integration.

Speaking on the announcement Deputy Whitmore said "I'm delighted with the announcement of my new Spokesperson roles for the new Dáil term. They cover a long list of issues some of which will be new to me while others will be familiar ground. Either way I am committed to representing all issues equally in a constructive and practical manner and will use an evidence-based approach to problem solving.

"I have been Spokesperson for Children for a number of years since I was a Social Democrats Cllr. This will be familiar ground for me where I've a wealth of experience including helping set up the inclusive South Beach Playground, getting a new primary school for Greystones and successfully legislating for increased unpaid parental leave. My work in this area will continue to focus on bringing the voice of the child front and centre of policy-decision making particularly as we face changes in the childcare sector. Supporting children, supporting parents and supporting working families will be a large focus for me in my Spokesperson role.

"For me Climate Action, and in particular Biodiversity, is a priority for me because of the urgent need for Ireland to act. I bring with me both professional and practical experience in this area both as a marine scientist and as a climate action advocate. I take this portfolio very seriously because Ireland has been so slow to respond to the urgency of the situation and biodiversity continues to be treated as the poor relation to climate action. I've already proposed amendments to climate action legislation to try rectifying this imbalance and funding gap. I look forward to the relevant Committee being established so I can scrutinise legislation and Departmental efforts on climate action further. The next few years will be crucial to climate action and mitigation, and I want to use my Spokesperson role to accelerate Ireland's response to the climate and biodiversity crisis.

"My portfolios cross many different policy areas including communication networks. Broadband is the most important communication network we have in Ireland but inequality of access remains a huge issue across Ireland including Co. Wicklow. Working from home will likely be the new norm but won't be possible for many who are still without adequate access. I want to address this inequality by proposing the establishment of co-working hubs which I've been outspoken about as a Councillor. Proper access to Broadband will not only assist people to work from home more, it will reduce our overburdening reliance on cars reducing congestion and pollution, while also increasing social cohesion as people spend more time with families and within their communities. I look forward to working on innovative ways we can use to increase broadband access in Wicklow and across the country.



Jennifer Whitmore TD

"For my portfolios on Disability, Equality and Integration there will be much overlap because one is affected by the others. If you think about disability, it's the environment that disables people rather than the other way around. I want to ensure that we are creating an environment that is inclusive of people with disabilities or from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. I want to see more maternity and family supports for women, cost barriers addressed in childcare so women are facilitated to return to work and I want to see women's healthcare given equal consideration in policy decisions. I want to see the Government do everything in its power to facilitate integration in a way that is respectful and dignified and which is culturally sensitive which means ending Direct Provision and institutionalisation of immigration, expanding family reunification and tackling racism that is evident across all aspects of Irish society. Everyone fares better when these toxic elements are eliminated, and I look forward to working with the relevant Government Departments and all stakeholders to tackle these problems.

"As I enter my new role as TD for Wicklow, I feel very honoured to be given these briefs and feel supported by the Social Democrats Party and its members to lead on these very important issues. Throughout my tenure I will be supporting social democratic solutions to problems and will lead with compassion and respect bringing with me the voices of those who are affected by Government policy or inaction. Only by putting these voices front and centre, and that of the environment, can we begin to create a more inclusive, safer and fairer Ireland."

## 'Be a good ancestor'

The review of the County Development Plan is a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for Co. Wicklow to do its part for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) according to Sinn Féin Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien.

Cllr O'Brien said "The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have ten years left to achieve the ambition of changing the world for future generations. Ireland was the Co-Chair in the negotiations to develop the 17 Goals and with 193 countries signing up to implement them it really does represent a roadmap for a better world for all.

"The expression 'be a good ancestor' is one that motivates me because it challenges me to consider what I can

do in my lifetime that will serve those who come after me. If we wonder how future societies will look back on our performance in terms of caring for people and the planet, I would say we've got work to do if we want to be good ancestors.

"The review of the County Development Plan in Wicklow represents an opportunity to use the SDGs both as a guide and measurement tool. The goals are relevant across all Council Departments and should complement the great



Cllr Dermot O'Brien

work already being done in Environment, Heritage and Climate action with the support of the newly formed Climate & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee which has

both a young person from Comhairle na nÓg represented on the group and also a young person in the Chair with Cllr Rory O'Connor currently in that role."

According to Cllr O'Brien this County Development Plan is the one that matters: "This review gives us an opportunity to shift the emphasis to a more sustainable future for Wicklow. To prioritise short term and unsustainable gains or to pursue a 'business as usual' approach would be to waste that opportunity."



The days are longer and the weather is better, so now is the time to tackle those home and garden projects you've been putting off. Being stuck indoors for the last few months will have given us plenty of time to ponder the improvements we'd like to make, whether it be to extend, renovate, paint, fix, or otherwise improve your house. The summer is a perfect time to paint and decorate, and materials and skilled labour is readily available. The decision to improve your home is an important financial commitment and thought and careful planning are needed. Contractors are eager for work, so get planning for your ideal home improvements.

There are many options when it comes to paint, flooring and wallpaper and it is important to choose the right one for you and your home. Whether it be wooden flooring, tiles or carpet, different people have their own preferences of what the most suitable type of floor for each room may be. You may want to give each room its own aesthetic or keep a common theme going throughout all the room of the house.

Tiles in the kitchen and

bathrooms are a popular choice, while elsewhere in the home the switch from carpet to wood or vice versa is a common change and improvement that many people make.

If you are planning on renovating your kitchen, bedroom, living room or any room of your house, don't rush in without knowing exactly what you're looking for. Hire a professional or if you're planning a DIY job, make sure you know what you're doing, make a

check-list, don't scrimp on materials and choose the best time to carry out the renovation.

Installing a kitchen, for instance, is a major outlay which requires planning and budgeting, no matter what your price bracket. The first consideration with doing up any room or having any major interior work done is analyzing how much you are willing to spend. No matter what your requirements, everyone has a preference for either traditional or con-

temporary looks, and also their own preferences for colours and textures.

The importance of layout cannot be stressed enough. With regards to the kitchen, for example, you will be working in it so it is not sufficient that it only just looks effective.

Whatever room you're tackling, or whatever work you are having done to the interior of your home, you should do some homework first and have a fixed idea in mind of what you want. Buy the magazines,

decide on what you like and what you hate. Get an overall concept in mind. Be realistic with your budget. It's also worthwhile to spend a little extra to ensure your comfort and happiness.

Once the main part of the work is completed - the installing of the new kitchen or new flooring, etc - it's time to furnish the room. This is where you give the room its character and bring it to life, making the selection of furniture one of the most important decisions and something you shouldn't just leave as an after-thought.

The right choice of

sofa, table, bookcase, bed or cabinet can make the room, but equally the wrong choice can ruin the room and haunt you. When choosing furniture, don't just pick something that looks nice in the shop; you must always visualise how it will look in your own home and how it will compliment the other furniture and décor of the room. Do you want a wooden or glass table, for example, and if you choose wood, do you want pine or oak or something else?

In the bathroom, a dash of paint, a few tasteful additions in terms of orna-

mentation, lighting - even plants - will go a long way towards improving it. But these are mere small changes. We can affect real drama in the bathroom with a change of suite, window dressings, tiles and even floor coverings.

The compact dimension of a bathroom should not inhibit the choice of furniture. The basic components of a toilet, basin, bath, plus all brassware and basic accessories can be fitted into the smallest of areas without sacrificing convenience or mobility for users. As with all other rooms, careful preparation, planning and

organisation are all essential ingredients for creating the perfect bathroom, but there are several things you can do to help maximize the feeling of light and space in a bathroom, for example; choose plain colours and simple patterns. These will help to maintain an uncluttered look and the lighter colours will create the illusion that the room is bigger than it actually is.

Here in Wicklow, you will find many outlets for choosing the perfect kitchen, flooring, wallpaper, furniture and furnishings.

## 'A bedroom should be cosy and relaxing'

We spend about a third of our lives in the bedroom so it's important to get things right with regards to décor, furniture and colours.

Since much of our time in the bedroom is spent relaxing or sleeping, many people prefer to choose calm and serene colours when it comes to the walls. This can mean choosing a more toned down version of what your preferred colour might be. In the bedroom, the ceiling takes on more importance than it does in other rooms, since many of us spend time looking up at it while lying in bed. You can make the ceiling more interesting simply with some added texture, colouring or design. Think of the ceiling

as extra wall in the room rather than ignore it. A bedroom should be cosy and relaxing, and the positioning of the furniture can matter a great deal with regards to this. The bed shouldn't be an obstacle you

have to constantly walk around, and other items of furniture such as desks and dressers should be tailored according to the size of the room; if the dresser is too large for example it will be too domineering in a smaller room. On the other hand, if your bedroom is large, small items of furniture will look lost.

Less is more when it comes to the amount of furniture in the bedroom. A bed, a bedside locker, a wardrobe and a dresser are generally thought of as essentials. A dresser can sometimes fit inside a wardrobe to maximise space. If you have a TV in your bedroom, perhaps it can be mounted on the wall to save space also, and if you must have some shelving for books or dvds, this can be mounted on the wall as well.



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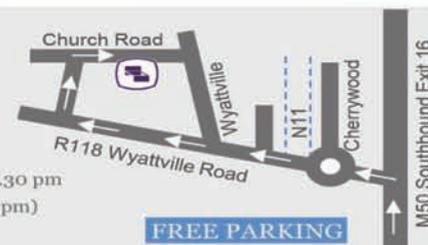
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# Home exterior & garden improvements

## Install a patio or garden decking

Make sure your garden is up to scratch for those long summer evenings and lazy weekend BBQs. Decking and patios are a great extension of indoor space and can provide a seating and dining area; try shading with an awning and install lighting and outdoor heaters to make the most of the space. If you want outdoor areas for storage and growing fruit or vegetables, now is the perfect time to install that shed or greenhouse.

## Maintain your garden

General garden maintenance like mowing, weeding and repairing fencing is important too. Gardens can look untidy very quickly. Make sure that your lawn is well cared for, grass can suffer in extreme heat so you may need to install a sprinkler system and fertilise regularly.

Check that your fencing, shed or greenhouse hasn't been damaged during the winter and Spring and clear the garden of debris. You may find that outdoor furniture and fittings are covered in mould or mildew from the wet conditions, these can be easily cleaned with a soap and water mixture. Garden paths or driveways may also have come under attack from moss or algae, which is simple to remove too. Spring is a good time to repaint or stain outdoor furniture to protect it from further weather damage and to start composting.

## Exterior home improvements

Warm, dry weather means you can carry out all those other exterior home improvements you've been putting off such as plastering, painting and cleaning outside walls, windows and doors. Don't forget to check the condition of your roof and clean your gutters too. Your roof is the most important part of your home; it has to be in good shape.

Spruce up the exterior of your weather-worn walls, but first, check that they don't have any cracks in them. Painting will also protect your home from damp - don't forget that window frames can also be transformed with a lick of paint or gloss. Painting your front door can also make a big difference to your home.

## Home extensions and conversions

Longer, drier summer days are ideal for large scale home extension and conversion projects. An extension means lots to organise, so consider hiring an architect, quantity surveyor or project manager to keep everything on track. On the other hand, if you already have an unused loft or basement, why not convert that instead? Conversions are cheaper than extensions and eight times out of ten, they don't need planning permission. Conservatories are also a low budget way to resize your home.

## Lay a new driveway

If you are looking for a simple way to revamp the exterior of your property, then laying a new driveway could be the answer. There are a variety of driveway materials to choose from; tarmac, gravel or cement are low-cost options, whereas stone or clay paving slabs are a more attractive but expensive driveway material.

## Make a budget

The first tip for surviving a summer home improvement project is to make sure to make a budget.

## Skill Level

Make sure you start one at your level, which can help to make sure you finish it. If you are a beginner, which is you have never started a summer home project make sure to pick a small one with clear instructions that you can finish in a day. If you at medium level, which is you started several summer home improvement projects and you finished all of them pick a small to medium size project you can finish in several days. If your skill level is higher, you can try for two to four small projects.

## Buy all materials in advance

There is nothing like starting a home improvement project and realizing that you need to go back to the DIY store to pick up something else.

## New Furniture

As the saying goes: "Out with the old, in with the new". New furniture is a great way to change things up at home and who doesn't love the feeling of a new sofa in the living room or a fancy new dining set in the kitchen. There are great deals locally with free delivery so no need to travel far to check out what's on offer and then just sit back on the old chair and wait for delivery of the new one!

## Clean what you already have

Sometimes you might not want to part with that rug in the living room or that sofa you love so much. If that's the case, consider professional cleaning and upholstery.

## Weather

Make sure to check the weather especially if this is an outdoor home improvement project. There is nothing like having everything set and then having to put all on hold because it's raining.

## Check your roofing and guttering

Winter and Spring may have taken its toll on your roof, causing holes, leaks or broken tiles. The best thing to do is regularly check your roof, look at the tiling, cement work, verges and chimney. Your guttering is just as important and can easily be effected by ice, snow and excess water, so check you have no blockages or leaks. If water in your gutter isn't running freely it can overflow and cause serious damp problems.



## SKC Providers

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## First impressions count

**First impressions count! So if your lawn is overgrown and unkempt, it is time to call in those in the know to ensure the front of your house has the neighbours talking about you for all the right reasons.**

Maintaining your lawn is an all year round job. Grass can quickly become overgrown, patchy, unhealthy and full of weeds.

There is nothing like a well-kept lawn. Having a lush green lawn requires a lot of work, and it is advisable to get a professional gardener or lawn mower in to give you a hand. This service usually won't cost the earth but will go a long way to ensuring your garden is looking its best for the summer months.

An expert will know for example, that when it

comes to mowing the lawn, you should never cut off more than one third of the blade and avoid mowing a lawn at the lower blade setting. If the lawn is cut at a higher level it is less cost effective as it requires less watering. Weeds also tend to grow less when the lawn is higher.

A lawn expert can also inspect your lawn for disease, insects and weeds and manage any disease using fungicides and weed killer.

Most lawns need to be fertilized every year, because they need more nitrogen, phosphorus, and

potassium than soils usually contain. Lawns need to be fertilized to maintain colour, density, and vigour. Healthy lawns can better withstand heat, drought, and traffic pollution. The amount of fertilizer to apply and the timing of application can affect both turf and groundwater quality and that is why it is best to invest in some sound advice from those who know these things.

To compliment your lawn, a new wall, a garden shed or a gazebo can be assembled with ease and you might also take the opportunity to build some decking or lay a new patio. Again local tradesmen or gardeners can be invaluable in helping out with the trickier jobs for a few days.

## Selecting windows & doors

**Selecting doors and windows for your home and conservatory can be a daunting task because of the sheer choice that now exists. Not only is no home complete without them, but they also provide security, ventilation and restrict the entry of strong wind and other elements.**

Do your homework before investing to ensure that you adhere to building regulations, buy the best quality within your budget and have them correctly installed.

While the current economic situation is forcing many people to make cutbacks when building or renovating, skimping too much on doors and windows is a false economy and can cause major problems in the future. It is recommended that you do some research and make your own decision as to which to go for. Advice from builders should be welcomed but make sure you do your own homework as well.

You may want to take into consideration the weather conditions of where you live before choosing your doors and windows. Also keep in mind that windows and doors can help reduce your electricity bill. If fitted

well they will help block the escape of heat and stop the entry of cold wind from outside. Don't forget that the frames in which the windows and doors are fitted should be strong and the colour should be compatible with the home décor.

There are a number of materials to choose from including timber, aluminium, PVC, aluclad/composites, steel and structural frameless glass. There are pros and cons to all possibilities depending on your house type.

It is worth remembering, that if you have existing timber frames in good condition, there are companies who can machine these in situ and fit real double glazed units into them. By doing this you get to keep your treasured timber and perhaps, avoid a lot of re-tiling, plastering and decorating.

Internal doors are another thing to consider. Recent years have seen an advancement of different and stylish internal doors. As well as wood, they can be made of glass or steel. The front door gives a first impression of a home and a well chosen door can make your home stand out from the crowd as well as providing proper insulation and security.

## Get your boiler serviced

**As with all heating appliances, your boiler should be serviced on a regular basis to ensure that it is operating efficiently and safely. The service should be carried out by a qualified and experienced service technician / service engineer.**

When carried out by a competent technician, a boiler service should entail little disruption to your routine. A typical service should take around an hour and leave you with a safe and efficiently operating appliance.

A service engineer will perform a number of tests on the boiler during a service. This will depend in part on the fuel and boiler. While there is no set standard or regulation specifying what constitutes a boiler service at this time, we have prepared checklists of the type of work that the Service Technician should carry out during the course of a typical service.

An annual boiler safety check and boiler service, carried out by a professional service engineer ensures that your boiler is functioning properly. Regular servicing of your boiler is important as it ensures that the boiler is working to the specifications designed by the boiler manufacturer. This will help prolong the life of the boiler as well as reduce the risk of faults and expensive repairs down the line.

## Summer renovations

**Late July and early August are traditionally the busiest times for home renovations. It's the middle of the summer break and while people take holidays from work, often they get those DIY and home improvement jobs done & dusted, that they've been putting off all year.**

When you're thinking about Home Improvements, one of the most important things to consider is which part of the home you want to improve first. Often, finances don't allow for every room in the house to be upgraded at one time. So whether it's a new bathroom you want the most, or a brand new living room, it's always best to make a list of where to start.

If it's a case that you may want to sell your home in the coming months or years, perhaps it would be wise to consider what improvements will add the most value to the house. An attic conversion is always a good place to start. An extra bedroom adds value to any home and attic conversions are becoming more and more popular, often a cheaper alternative to an extension.

But for most of us who are not selling up and moving on, we want our home to be as comfortable and as nice as possible.

Clearing out some old carpet and replacing the area with some hardwood flooring is always a cost-effective way to add a more modern feel to a room, and a fresh coat of paint always brightens up any room. There are a number of qualified painters and decorators locally who do not charge an arm & a leg, and can have your home painted to perfection while you're at work.

If you have a long list of things you want to get done in the home, tackling the smaller projects first could get you a nice head-start. Maybe you are saving for a new kitchen, but in the meantime, making some simple and cheap improvements can help boost your living space. Some new appliances, light fittings or maybe a coat of paint can be a great

way to get the ball rolling on home improvements. Don't feel like the biggest job needs to be first job. Sometimes it takes time to prepare and save some cash.

Remember to always pick the right person for the job. An age old saying that is so important. Finding the right contractor for your home improvements is as important as finding a good doctor or dentist. We always hear of horror stories of homeowners begin

scammed by dodgy builders, but there are ways to make sure you don't hire the wrong person. Make sure you ask for references, and that all contractors are certified and insured. Meet with them first, and make sure they understand exactly what you want. It is important that you feel comfortable with whoever is carrying out works in your home, which is another reason why having a good meeting with contractors before agreeing to anything, is highly advisable.

It's also worth remembering that while it's nice to get jobs done cheap, you get what you pay for. Make sure the price is reasonable, but if it's shockingly cheap, you may need to ask yourself why.

One of the worst things you can do when it comes to home improvements is to start a pro-

ject without the major details-cost, time, materials, and design-as realistic as possible from the start. Nothing costs more than having to "change horses in midstream" (e.g., you want to move the fridge somewhere else now or want to change your tile choice). The key to successful home improvement is realistic planning. Make sure you know what you want, and make sure it's realistic to obtain what you're looking for. Spring is a perfect time to start and by Summer, you could have your dream home!





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# 'Community and public facilities must be frontloaded in Fassaroe plans'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said the strategic housing development plans for over a thousand residential units on the old Fassaroe lands by Cosgrave Property Group must be front loaded by constructing the critical community and public facilities and infrastructure first.

An Bord Pleanála is due to decide on the case on 7th September. The plans are to develop 1,161 residential units (496 houses and 662 apartments), as well as a crèche, on the site between Bray and Enniskerry.

Speaking after Cosgrave Property Group lodged a Pre-Application Consultation to An Bord Pleanála Deputy Brady said "The application that has been recently lodged by Cosgrave Property Group to An Bord Pleanála is for a pre application consultation to develop 1161 residential units. This is a huge application; however, I'm concerned that the critical community and public infrastructure seem to be a secondary consideration in the plans.

"This is a massive development which will take place just off the N11 at Old Fassaroe, it is intended that the development will be done in a

number of phases, the first phase is for 1161 residential units and a crèche. It is estimated that the entire project will take about 10 years to develop. In a Master Plan for the entire site there is provision for an educational campus, a sports campus which Sinn Féin have been campaigning for. There is also provision for the LUAS to be extended to the area, however there is no mention of any of these in this phase."

Deputy Brady continued "Whilst we badly need houses, we also need proper community and public infrastructure. I believe that the provision of the schools and Sports campus should be frontloaded in this development. We already have a need for these, and they shouldn't be pushed back to be included in later phases of the development.

"This is a pre application consultation submission to An Bord Pleanála. The next step will see

Wicklow County Council, Cosgrave Property Group and An Bord Pleanála meet to discuss the plan. An Bord Pleanála will then issue an opinion on the proposal and this will help shape the actual planning application that will ultimately be lodged to An Bord Pleanála."

Bray Municipal District councillor Grace McManus said "There's a lot of interesting conversations at the moment around sustainable development and planning; what that looks like, and crucially how it will be delivered.

"This development is the perfect opportunity to put our sustainable planning ideals to the test, and to see where Wicklow County Council and An Bord Pleanála place value in discussions with developers. Key issues that should be included in these discussions are the environmental impact of this development, how energy efficient the properties will

be, if there is scope for affordable housing, and crucially how local infrastructure can be guaranteed, before we see an increase in demand. Some of this will need to be provided by the developer, but there's a wider challenge too in terms of local services such as schools, our fire service etc that will need to be addressed.

"The Sinn Féin team in Wicklow will be sure to keep these ideas of sustainable development on the table as the discussion around this development progresses."

Deputy Brady concluded "It's important that all planning is sustainable, that's why it's critical that at this stage in this huge application that it is got right, and the needs of the community are met first. The council need to ensure that plans for the Sports Campus, Education Campus and LUAS are advanced in this first phase of this development."

# Housebound families prepare for the single-use plastic challenge

Wicklow households will generate a combined 8,600 tonnes of single-use plastic packaging waste in 2020, it's been estimated.

"The 'Single-Use Challenge' is about tackling this environmental scourge that is scarring the beeches, rivers, streets and amenity areas across County Wicklow, by harnessing the power of community spirit to collectively reduce the volumes of single-use plastic waste generated across the county," according to CUSP founder Simon Ruddy. "We have developed the free CUSP app. Participants simply tap in their current number-of-units day 1; then, after 30 days and following CUSP 'Hints & Tips for Reducing', participants tap in their new reduced volumes to see their reductions."

The 'Single-Use Challenge' is looking to each family in County Wicklow to reduce their household single-use plastic packaging waste by just 1kg monthly. Simon explained "1kg monthly isn't just a random target. Both the EU and the UN have set as a key sustainability goal the elimination of all non-essential single-use plastic packaging by 2030, which accounts for approximately 70% of current global consumption.

"Applying this metric to County Wicklow and each household in the county would need to reduce from the current average of 171kgs annually, to 51kgs annually by 2030."

The CUSP app is available to download free for both iOS and android devices - search 'CUSP: Single-Use Plastic Calc'.



## Sod turned at new Community Sports Facility in Aughrim

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, has turned the sod on a new Community Sports Facility in Aughrim.

The new Facility in Aughrim will consist of a new tennis court, bowling green, and exercise area. Cllr. Pat Kennedy said that he was delighted to have been involved and to be able to assist with securing the funding for the project. The project has been undertaken by Aughrim Community Hall with a funding application made by Wicklow County Council to the Department of Rural and Community Development. An allocation of €60,000 was secured to begin works however further funding will be required to complete the project over time.

Cllr Kennedy said, "I look forward to working with the Aughrim Community Hall committee to help secure further funds to complete the project."

Cllr Kennedy is pictured with Hughie Doyle, Teresa Byrne, and Tom Keenan

# 'July Stimulus package will deliver for Wicklow'

Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey says the July Stimulus package marks another step in an unprecedented state response to the global pandemic.

He commented, "In Wicklow so many businesses and their employees have struggled due to the public health restrictions implemented since early March. The package announced by the government has over 50 measures and is worth over 7 billion.

"We are known the world over as a desirable tourism destination, but many bars, restaurants, and hotels have struggled following their temporary closure and a massive decrease in visitors. I am delighted to welcome the Stay and Spend Initiative. This is a tax rebate customers can avail of. The initiative will see more people dining and staying in our hotels and restaurants, helping the local economy.

"The Restart Grant, aimed at supporting small businesses, has been increased in terms of funding. The maximum payment has been increased to 25k and the minimum payment will

now be €4k. Importantly, the eligibility criteria to apply for the grant has been broadened to include non-rateable B&Bs, rateable Sports Clubs and more.

"I know a lot of businesses have used the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme to ensure staff stay on their books but the business is supported financially.

"The new Employment Wage Support Scheme will be a successor of this scheme and will run to March 31st next year. Crucially, this new scheme will include seasonal workers and new employees. This has been a hard year for our county. I am confident the measures announced by government, along with the programme for government, will support families, communities, and our local economy to overcome the unprecedented challenges COVID19 brought to our shores," concluded Senator Casey



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<b>CHOICE OF FILLING</b>			
<b>MEAT &amp; VEGGIE OPTIONS</b>		<b>CHILLI SALSA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smoky spicy slow cooked rib of beef with chipotle chilli, garlic, paprika and tomato pork</li> <li>4 hour slow cooked pulled shoulder of pork with Mexican caritas seasoning chicken</li> <li>Ancho chilli mole, oven roasted chicken breast chopped and rolled in its own juices chilli con carne</li> <li>Beautiful slow cooked chilli with beef mince, pinto beans, ancho chilli, chipotle chilli, tomato and beer chilli con verduras</li> <li>Vegan chilli made with oomph soya mince, pinto beans, ancho chilli, chipotle chilli, tomato and beer chilli salsa</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pica de gallo mild fresh tomato and cucumber salsa</li> <li>2. Salsa verde tomatillo and jalapeno salsa</li> <li>3. Chipotle mild chipotle mayo salsa (vegan)</li> <li>4. Habenero hot spicy habenero and pineapple salsa</li> <li>5. Diabolo very spicy salsa with dried habenero</li> </ul>	



Carmen Cullen pictured with her Little Library on the Lower Dargle Road

# Carmen's Little Library

If you've recently been in the vicinity of the People's Park, Bray, you will probably spotted the new Little Library on the Lower Dargle Road. It is colourful, cheerful and very popular with young and old.

The little Library is one of Carmen Cullen's ideas for combating the blues associated with Covid-19.

Based on the idea of bring-a-book, take-a-book, it was inspired by another little library in Waverly Terrace. The People's Park little library, however, has been specifically put up to bring something positive to all who want their spirits lifted and feel isolated during the pandemic.

Carmen says it draws readers from the local community, some of whom love the idea of a library so close to home, but it is also used by more casual passers-by. Since it has been put up the library has been videoed, photographed, and featured widely on social media. Parents use it with their children

and children themselves are falling in love with its magical colourful appearance.

Since the library was erected, Carmen says there has been a great flow of books coming and going and the content is constantly changing.

Carmen Cullen is a local writer and her new series of poetry called *Pandemic Poetry* is also proving to be a popular hit during these difficult times. *Pandemic Poetry* is Carmen's other project, to positively fill up her day during lockdown. The poems are inspired by her childhood. They are illustrated by the striking photographs of Bray's Deirdre Ridgeway and the original music of Gerry Anderson from Ashford. The visually beautiful poems can be



seen on Carmen's website [carmencullen.com](http://carmencullen.com) and on *Pandemic Poetry* Playlist by Carmen Cullen on YouTube.

She plans to continue with them well into the

future, and has also devised a show called 'My Aunt and I', to incorporate the poems. The show also the story of her famous aunt, the singer, Delia Murphy.

## Re-ImagineNation Competition

An Post have launched the Re-ImagineNation Competition. Working with Children's Books Ireland and some of Ireland's leading children's book artists, the Re-ImagineNation competition encourages children and families from all over Ireland to re-imagine themselves as a character in a favourite book.

With lots of online creative workshops from children's book illustrators and authors, children aged between 6 and 12 years are invited to get creative, re-imagine themselves as a character inside their favourite story, and enter the competition by creating an artwork of themselves in a scene.

Leading Irish illustrators and children's book artists Fatti Burke, Jennifer Farley, Tarsila Kruse and Alan Nolan will be on hand to encourage creativity with weekly video workshops on Facebook showing the many ways children could re-imagine a story, as well as sharing tips and

tricks and showing children the materials they work with.

All competition prizes have been carefully chosen to help nurture the child's creative development including a year's supply of books and Art & Hobby vouchers to encourage children to continue reading, creating and using their imagination.

Winning artwork will be displayed on a post box in child's local area. Competition closes 14th August 2020 and will be judged by leading children's book artists, An Post and Children's Books Ireland. Art materials will be delivered to families experiencing homeless-

ness and living in family hubs.

The competition is part of the overall ImagineNation project which is an exciting partnership between An Post and Children's Books Ireland which promotes the joy of reading and creating to children all over Ireland. The #ImagineNation playbook, bringing together leading Irish authors and illustrators, encourages children to read, draw and create and has been delivered to nearly 250,000 children and their families in homes, family hubs, direct provision centres, children's hospitals and through other children's charities all over Ireland.

## The Hands want to See, The Eyes want to Caress

This exhibition, by Conor Wickham, which runs in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from 17th-30th August, consists of drawings created over the last two years.

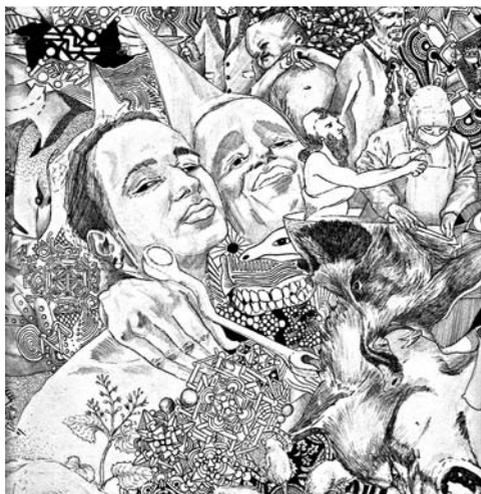
The drawings aim to explore how we interpret and reflect upon experience, both first and secondary experiences. Therefore, the exhibition is an exercise in Reflective Drawing. The term 'reflective drawing' refers to the use of drawing as a means of expression

during the reflection process.

Conor explains: "Each piece has begun life with no preconception of what the finished image will be or what processes/images or designs will be explored throughout the creation. They are reflective pieces with no linear narrative. These drawn reflections do not have a predetermined structure like a written diary, but they span many states of mind over a two-year period. They cannot be read as a narrative but must be interpreted by the viewer, where they are required to give their own meaning to the images or symbols within each composition."

"Everything I have experienced, both real and through secondary sources, I have taken as my own. All memories/imaginations are constructs. We can change them, make them more interesting, make ourselves more interesting. Does it matter, if you imagine something, isn't it the same as having lived it. Through my constructed memories and imaginations, I have lived infinite lives, in different times and places. The drawings are my way of interpreting what I have experienced, both directly and indirectly. There are elements of both rational analysis and subconscious driven within the work. There's nothing fixed, the pieces are constantly changing, only coming to an end when there is no more space left to explore."

"It is an aim to overwhelm the viewer with content, to make them feel lost, uncomfortable, confused as well as excited and positively stimulated. There is no fixed meaning within any piece, that's constantly changing and open to continuous reinterpretation."



## Mermaid announces new Artistic Director

Mermaid Arts Centre has announced the appointment of Julie Kelleher as their new Artistic Director. Julie will step down from her current position as Artistic Director of The Everyman, Cork to take up the role in mid-September 2020.

Her appointment sees her take on the position previously held by Niamh O'Donnell.

Commenting on the appointment, Mermaid Arts Centre's Chairman Martin Davidson said: "The appointment of Julie Kelleher as our Artistic Director is wonderful news. We're delighted to welcome her to Wicklow. It's Mermaid's priority to ensure we support the work of local artists and creatives as well as bringing world class cultural experiences to Wicklow audiences. I know Julie will bring vision and energy, providing bold, diverse and ambitious artistic programming to as diverse a range of audiences as possible".

Commenting on her new appointment, Julie Kelleher said:

"I'm thrilled to be joining the team at Mermaid Arts Centre, which has an outstanding reputation as a centre for fun, entertainment and for making and enjoying art, and that has artists and audiences always at heart. These are matters of great importance to me too and I'm very excited to have the opportunity to build on the excellent work of my predecessors, especially that of Niamh O'Donnell. I'm grateful to the board for their faith in me to lead the organisation, and I greatly look forward to working with them and the Mermaid team as we continue to ensure that the communities of County Wicklow are enriched through unforgettable artistic experiences."

Julie's background is in performance, directing and producing. Recent directing credits include: *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh (2018), *Bluetooth* by Rachel Thornton (2018), *Autumn Royal* by Kevin Barry (2018 remount, associate director), *Dancing At Lughnasa* by Brian Friel

(2017), *The Factory Girls* by Frank McGuinness (2016), *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* by David Greig (2015), *Lovers* by Brian Friel (2015).

Julie is Chair of the board of Theatre Forum Ireland which she joined in September 2016. She joined the board of Graffiti Theatre Company in September 2017 and sits on the Irish Playography Panel at Irish Theatre Institute.

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Julie Kelleher

# Empty vessel off Arklow coast sparks major search operation

On Monday 20th July Arklow Lifeboat was launched following a pager alert and receipt of a report of a vessel with nobody aboard, having been located by a passing motorboat.

Sparking fears that the crew had fallen overboard, a large search operation was launched. However, it was later discovered that the vessel had merely broken loose of its mooring at a nearby holiday park and drifted out to sea.

The alert went out just before 3pm. Arklow's All Weather Lifeboat Ger Tighear proceeded to the initial reported sighting of the empty vessel North East of Arklow.

With no sign of any-

body aboard the vessel, Arklow RNLI commenced a search of the reported area for potential casualties in the water, the motorboat who had sighted the stricken vessel initially had proceeded to tow the casualty vessel to Arklow.

Given there was no one reported aboard the vessel, the Arklow RNLI volunteers had to assume there was potentially casualties in the water and plotted a search pattern to search of the area.

Given the large area which was potentially to be covered, Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Jock & Annie Slater was also tasked to the search along with Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter rescue 116 from Dublin.

Other local vessels diverted from their work and came to the area to assist in the search.

As the afternoon wore on and with the search looking like it might continue into the evening,

news came through that a vessel had broken its mooring near a local holiday park North of Arklow Harbour, this information was later confirmed.

All vessels and the helicopter were then stood down and all then returned to their respective bases.

Following the callout, Mark Corcoran, Community Safety Officer at Arklow RNLI said: "This unusual call out was a difficult one for all involved, with the vast area involved it was going to be a real challenge to locate any casualties in the water, we'd like to say a big thanks to the helicopter crew, our Wicklow RNLI colleagues and all of the various other vessels who assisted in the search, special thanks to the crew of the motorboat who had initially spotted the stricken vessel, luckily there was no one in the water and it turned out the vessel had broken a mooring further up the coast. Once again I'd like to remind anyone planning to be on or in the water to please always wear a life-jacket and carry a means of calling for help."



## First 'Shout' for Peter during late night callout

New RNLI volunteer Peter Byrne participated in his first callout as the Wicklow all-weather lifeboat launched shortly after 10pm on Wednesday 15th July,



Wicklow RNLI volunteer Peter Byrne

The lifeboat was launched after a member of the public reported seeing a wind surfer having problems getting ashore near Brittas Bay beach as darkness fell.

As the lifeboat proceeded south to the last known reported position, more information was relayed from the Coast Guard and it was confirmed that the craft was in fact a trimaran.

The lifeboat was on scene at 10:23pm and began a search, conditions in the area were calm with good visibility. At 10:35pm contact was made with a solo sailor on a 16-foot trimaran near Potter's Point.

He had secured his boat on the beach and was waiting for the tide to turn before resuming passage north and no assistance was required.

Once Coxswain Nick Keogh was satisfied the sailor required no further assistance, the lifeboat was stood down by the Coast Guard and returned to station.

Following the call out, Wicklow RNLI Press Officer Tommy Dover said: "We would like to commend the vigilant member of the public who contacted the Coast Guard, fortunately the sailor did not require assistance."

The crew on the callout were Coxswain Nick Keogh, Mechanic Brendan Copeland, Tommy MacAulay, Graham Fitzgerald, Connie O Gara and Peter Byrne.



Caroline and David McCoy are pictured in the recently opened playground at the Brockagh Centre in Laragh.

## Dogs in hot cars - what you should know from Maxi Zoo

Every summer, countless dogs die in their owners' cars from heatstroke. Just a quick trip to the supermarket can mean death for your four-legged friend.

Even if the window is open, the temperature inside of a parked car can skyrocket in minutes. Not only does this cause your trapped dog to panic; it can also lead to serious brain damage or even death. And it's not just when the sun is splitting the stones, this summer has seen temperatures rise while the sky is overcast, which can lull pet owners into a sense of false security thinking it's cool enough for them to leave their dogs inside their vehicles.

### Why is the interior of a parked car so dangerous for dogs?

- Dogs barely sweat. They regulate their body temperature almost exclusively by panting and in addition require a lot of water.
- When parked, even if your car is not directly in the sun, heavy breathing is not enough, as the temperature can shoot up in a matter of minutes.

### How can animal lovers react if they see a dog locked in a car when it's hot?

- If it is a supermarket car park, you can try to have an announcement made for the owner of a car.
- Draw other people's attention to the dog.
- If possible, document the situation with a photo or video.
- If the owner returns in time, explain the danger of a hot car interior.
- If the owner doesn't return, call the local authorities.

### How can I help an overheated dog?

- Cool the dog down carefully. If possible, get him into the shade quickly.
- He is heavily dehydrated and desperately needs water at the right temperature - do NOT give cold water!
- Moist compresses on the legs and paws help; the evaporation of water helps to lower his body temperature.
- If your dog is not reacting and can't drink by himself anymore, he must be rushed to the vet immediately so that he can receive the missing fluids via infusions.

For more information on Maxi Zoo, Ireland's largest pet retailer, you can visit [www.maxizoo.ie](http://www.maxizoo.ie), or call in to your local store with your pet pal.

## Ark Housing: Helping house vulnerable people

Ark Housing is a Bray charity that gives vulnerable people in Bray and Co. Wicklow their forever homes. Following the completion of six houses in the next few months, it will bring the numbers of those housed by Ark Housing close to seventy! In addition to providing housing and support to residents, Ark Housing runs a charity shop six days a week.

Ark Housing Association was set up in 2005 as a response to the very obvious needs of people presenting as homeless in the Bray area. With the assistance of grant aid, fundraising and donations, Ark Housing purchased and converted a property to provide six units of accommodation for homeless men who would benefit from support that would help in the transition from homelessness to independent living.

Driven by this mission, Ark increased the housing stock to provide sixteen additional properties for families and is currently in the process of another acquisition which they are hopeful to complete soon which will bring the numbers of those housed by Ark Housing close to seventy.

Supports provided are varied, depending on the current needs of the individuals, some of whom have complex, specific needs due to mental health and physical illness.

In addition to providing housing and support to residents, Ark Housing assist people to search for accommodation in the private sector and help with any issues regarding applications with finance.

Due to the increased demand for homes, Ark Housing is now fundraising and concentrating on being at the forefront of delivering housing and support services in Co. Wicklow.

"Our goal is to participate in reducing the numbers presenting daily to register for emergency accommodation. Ark Housing has never received any operational funding and has had to rely solely on fundraising activities for the success of the projects. To date, the achievements have been accomplished by the very arduous fundraising efforts, which not only purchased property but maintain them to a high standard and provide the supports needed to the residents which yielded a positive outcome."



## Piccolo Pizza wins 12-month contract

Wicklow business, the Piccolo Pizza Co, was one of six winners of this year's Grow with Aldi Supplier Development Programme, whose products have been chosen to form part of the core range of products, and will launch in all 142 Aldi stores nationwide over the coming weeks and months.

Piccolo Pizza Co. has successfully won a contract with Aldi with the following products: The Piccolo Pizza Co. - Basil & Garlic Pizza Sauce; The Piccolo Pizza Co. - Herb & Spice Pizza Sauce.

Janet Drew, The Piccolo Company (Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow) said, "Winning this 12 month contract with Aldi is such a unique opportunity for

The Piccolo Pizza Co.

And we know that Aldi customers will be delighted to have the choice of a plain sauce plus our very innovative Herb & Spice and Basil & Garlic flavours."

Pictured at the Aldi in Terenure, were Laura Harper (Buying Director, Aldi), Janet Drew (The Piccolo Pizza Co.), and Karen Tyner (Bord Bia).

# Arklow back in business - a public survey

Residents of Arklow are being asked to suggest improvements for the town's shopping and business areas.

The survey is the result of ongoing efforts by Wicklow County Council, Arklow Town Team and Arklow Chamber of Commerce who continue to meet during the current COVID-19 crisis and are fully committed to supporting the local business community.

They are now looking for the public's input and are inviting the citizens of Arklow to participate in a short survey of nine questions on the town.

These include ques-

tions about traffic, parking, onstreet trading/dining, priorities when people go out in Arklow, suggested improvements etc.

The survey can be completed on-line and should take no more than five minutes to complete.

All respondents will remain anonymous and the information provided will not be used for any other purpose.

This survey will remain open until the 5th August

2020 and can be found at: [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Online-Consultation-Hub/Arklow-Town-Re-opening-Committee-Public-Survey](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Online-Consultation-Hub/Arklow-Town-Re-opening-Committee-Public-Survey).

A paper copy of the survey can be obtained from the Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow.

The Council, Town Team and Chamber of Commerce stated that "We would like to thank the public in advance for

their and input and helping to make an important contribution to the town. People completing the survey will be entered into a draw for one-month free parking in the public car parks in Arklow town.

Remember: Consider local businesses first. A shop local campaign will be launched soon.

The hashtags #LoveArklow, #ShopLocal, and #VisitArklow are being used to support the campaign.

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# First VW custom electric car to arrive in September

The very first versions of VW's first custom designed all electric car, the ID3, will arrive in Wicklow in early September.

This introduction could rank in significance with the launch of the Toyota Prius at Mt. Juliet in 1997. VW have been making electric cars for years but these have all been adaptations of petrol or diesel engined machines. The

ID3 is designed only for an electric drivetrain and to take maximum advantage of the freedom this allows, in layout.

VW have built a brand-new factory to make this car in the most efficient way. When you factor in the zero BIK and minuscule fuel costs, the ID3 could be first electric car to sell by the thousand in Ireland and lead the way to a family of no compromise, all electric cars, which other car makers are sure to follow.

*By Martin McCarthy.*

The 1st Edition of the ID.3 has the larger 58 kWh battery which is driven by an electric motor at the rear axle. Volkswagen will be offering these special edition models to the Pre-Bookers who placed a €1,000 reservation fee over the last few months. The entry-level ID.3 1st costs €33,625\* and includes a navigation system, a DAB+ digital radio, 'Air Care Climatronic' air conditioning system with 2-zone climate control, seat heating and steering wheel heating, armrest at the front, fast charging with

100kW direct current (DC) or 11kW alternating current (AC) and 18-inch alloy wheels. Standard features include 'Light Assist', natural voice control and 'ID.light' in the interior, and many more. It has a WLTP-measured range of 424km on a single charge.

June 17th marked the priority ordering window for ID.3 1st Pre-Bookers, for a period of 4 weeks. Would-be customers who placed a €1,000 Reservation Fee for their car, now have the opportunity to secure a 1st Edition within this four-week period.



VW's first custom designed all electric car, the ID3



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

We, Emmett Kinsella & Fiona Wynne, intend to apply for planning permission for development site at Ballyguile Beg, Co. Wicklow  
The development will consist of a new dwelling, garage, secondary effluent treatment system to current EPA guidelines, percolation area, new entrance, and all associated site development works.  
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours.  
A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the application and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

**THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER**

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen. St Therese Little Flower, St Catherine, St Pio, hear my prayer. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail **B.B.**

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**GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going'. Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me'. **C.J.**

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