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HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

COUNTY WICKLOW'S WISH LIST FOR 2021

It's been a year that many of us will be keen to see the back of, so with 2020 coming to a close, Wicklow Times asked our TDs, and the Cathaoirleach and County Manager of Wicklow County Council, what their hopes are for County Wicklow in the year ahead.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Pat Kennedy said "2020 has been extremely challenging in so many ways, but I believe that it is when we are most challenged that we are often at our best. I have never seen our communities come together to support each other in such ways and



Cllr Pat Kennedy

in such amounts before. "However, it is not the big actions that have caught my attention but rather the small, everyday things that people have done for one another. Phoning isolated people everyday to ensure they don't feel lonely, collecting and delivering shopping, ensuring isolated people



Artist Helen O'Connell pictured with her daughter Aoife Naima Turrissi at work in her Bray studio creating a specially commissioned sculpture for The Ark Children's Cultural Centre, which will debut in a free exhibition for children, 'Winter Light', due to open in January. The exhibition will run at weekends from 9th Jan - 7th Mar 2021 (subject to Government guidelines) and will feature a range of newly commissioned artworks.

Cllr. Pat KENNEDY

Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council

Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year

Stay Safe, Stay Local



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Kirikee, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

FIANNA FAÍL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

have their prescriptions and medications, cooking and delivering meals, making masks and delivering them to vulnerable people.

"Special mention must also go to the children who have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability in these strange times. They have been an inspiration to all of us in how they have dealt with the pandemic.

"It is my wish for 2021 and beyond that we continue to show this community spirit and continue to work together and support one another. We have a way to go yet in the fight against COVID-19 but, together, we can persevere, and that community spirit can take us through."

Chief Executive of



Council CEO Frank Curran

Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "I wish the people of Wicklow a peaceful New Year. Although COVID-19 brought unprecedented challenges, Wicklow County Council continued to provide essential services to the people of Wicklow.

Continued on page 4

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BIFE Music Centre student Felicia Cojan was presented with a gold medal from the Royal Irish Academy of Music for her performance in the recital exam. A piano student of Artemis Kent, teacher at BIFE Music Centre, she excels at both piano and violin at Grade 6 level, while still only 13. She has also been awarded a place in the Dublin Youth Orchestra for violin which she studies with at Bray Music centre under the guidance of Tim Doyle. BIFE stated "We wish Felicia much success in her final studies."

Pictured is Ray Tedders (Principal), Felicia Cojan, and Artemis Kent (Music Teacher).

New Jigsaw site in Wicklow has opened its doors

A new Jigsaw service in Wicklow is now in operation, providing supports for young people age 12 to 25 with mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

It delivered a number of appointments to young people last week and will be escalating its level of service from early January 2021.

Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler, TD commented, "the Wicklow Jigsaw service, that was approved as part of new development funding in Budget 2019, will be a key component in ensuring that young people get early access to youth focused mental health supports in their own local community. To date, Jigsaw services across the country have been of significant importance in enhancing early

intervention to mental health supports, building up community services and ensuring that young people get access to supports at the lowest possible level, potentially reducing demand on specialist mental health services such as CAMHS". This approach is very much in line with Ireland's new mental health policy Sharing the Vision, which promotes the continued development of a broad continuum of mental health supports from mental health promotion to acute and specialist mental health services.

The Minister added, "a Jigsaw service is also due

to open in Tipperary in the coming weeks, as arrangements to open the new site are significantly progressed. A lease for permanent premises for the new service has been signed and this will now pave the way for minor adaptations on the building to commence after the Christmas period. Recruitment measures, including interviews for new staff, are on-going throughout this week and it is expected that the new service will open at the beginning of next year.

"The opening of the two new sites will expand on the existing 12 Jigsaw services operating across the country, therefore

enhancing youth mental health supports at community level. Enhanced access to direct and appropriate mental health services for young people, has become increasingly important in the context of COVID-19 and the additional challenges and experiences, including stress, anxiety and fear facing our young people".

Jigsaw, which works closely with the HSE, has been very pro-active in developing new service responses in light of the pandemic, particularly around a more blended service delivery model using digital technologies.

Brockagh Resource Centre

"Contact Log will be positioned in the lobby where people who are staying in the building for some time will be asked to sign in and leave a telephone number (this is not required but is good practice). Groups' leader will sign in for the group and keep own list of names and telephone numbers which can be accessed if needed. One entrance into the building through the front door exit by the back door. Parents of children must drop them outside front door not in Lobby and collect them at the back door of the building. People outside the building must observe the notice for social distancing outside (Poster up) Reception ensuring that each group are aware of 2 metre distancing and observe the notices around the building. Notice that we are compliant with covid 19 will be sent out with each e-mail. Each community group will provide a copy of their own Response Plan before starting back. Each group is responsible for social distancing within their booked room space and the provision of hand sanitiser in the room reporting to reception when they arrive and when they leave the building."

Online fundraising plea from Wicklow Lions

Wicklow and District Lions Club members have held their annual Quiz Nights for the past 25 years without a break. In fact it is the longest running continuous quiz in the world.

Through the weekly quiz the club supports at least 20 local charities every year in the Wicklow area and the hard working committee has handed over in excess of 300,000 euro to sports clubs, schools plus all types of deserving charities as well as private families and individuals.

The club normally raises its funds through various fundraising activities and collections. Unfortunately because of Covid-19 all fundraising events have been cancelled. No quiz nights, no supermarket collections for food and money, no street collections or money raising events like the Christmas Concert in Tinakilly with the Rathmines

and Rathgar Singers.

The demand is still there, if not even greater, this year and as a result the club has gone online for essential fundraising. The President and members are depending on the generosity of the public to come to their rescue to help people and families in need. The club also works closely with St Vincent De Paul in Wicklow and surrounding areas.

It is very easy to donate, just log into IFUNDRAISE.IE and give whatever you can which will be extremely appreciated.

"Sincere thanks to those who have subscribed so far," Wicklow Lions Club stated.

New initiative for ex-offenders seeking tenders

Bray Area Partnership and Southside Partnership DLR's new TRASNA Initiative is seeking tenders for a feasibility and market research study for a potential new social enterprise that would provide employment for ex-offenders. The study is being supported through the KickStart Fund, a Probation Service grants scheme linked to the Dormant Accounts Fund. Full details are available at www.brayareapartnership.ie.

Try something new for 2021 at Baltinglass FETC

"Covid-19 may still be around in the new year, but we have a range of courses available to brighten up the dark days and evenings for all who are interested. For more information contact Annette on 0868462771 or 0596482642 Annette/Maeve. See our Facebook page or email us: abebaltinglass@kwetb.ie."

Courses starting in Baltinglass Further Education and Training Centre include: Basic and improver computer skills; Maths for everyday needs; Reduce stress and lead a healthier life; Help with reading, writing, spelling and communications; English for speakers of other languages; Introduction to Art.

"Our courses are free of charge and open to those who never fully completed their formal education. A great way to learn and have fun in a safe and friendly environment. All Covid-19 guidelines are strictly adhered to."

Alpha Film Series - explore life, faith, meaning

You're invited to participate in the Alpha Film Series which is being run online via zoom. Alpha is an opportunity to explore the basics of the Christian faith and to ask big life questions. Why not join in this exciting 10-week journey? It will run on Thursday evenings for 10 weeks, beginning on January 7th, from 8pm to 9pm. Everyone over the age of 16 is welcome.

Email alphawicklow@gmail.com to find out more or to book a place.

Lions on the streets entertain Wicklow Town shoppers

Wicklow and District Lions Club decided to give the shoppers and community of Wicklow town a little surprise on Sunday 19th December, as the main street was clear of all traffic the Lions members walked through the town dressed in their novel Lion costumes to entertain the hundreds of people between the Gaol and the Christmas Market.

It's a time when everyone needs a lift and a badly needed smile and this was in abundance on Sunday. Children's faces lit up at the sight of the Lions led by King Leo but especially as the Lions were joined on their journey by the one and only Santa.

The shoppers and people in coffee shops couldn't believe their eyes when they saw Lions on the street and quickly reached for their camera phones to take a once in a lifetime picture of not one but seven Lions parading in the town of Wicklow.

Lions President Sean Olohan was astonished at

the reaction of the people in the town on a beautiful fresh Sunday before Christmas. He would sincerely like to thank the community for their generous donations to the bucket collection.

He also thanked Wayne Kelly for helping collect in his Fruit and Veg shop.

Because of current restrictions Lions members were unable to collect at supermarket doorways this year for obvious reasons. Instead thanks to Kevin and Robert in SuperValu Wicklow they were able to leave buckets at the checkouts and an unmanned trolley for food collection which has been distributed to Vincent De Paul.

Sean said "Sincere thanks once again to the public for their ongoing support throughout the past year."

The Lions online fundraising continues so the club can help local people in need throughout the coming year. To donate please login to iFundRaise/Wicklow and District Lions Club.

The Lions crew "on tour" were; Maria Neilan, Santiago Balbontin, John Mulqueen, Denis Laverty, Maurice Corr, Declan McInerney and Seán Olohan.



Lions at the Christmas Market in Wicklow with organiser Ed Horgan

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Planning permission granted for major new film studio

State-of-the-art facility in Greystones to create up to 1,200 jobs

Greystones Media Campus Limited has received planning permission from Wicklow County Council for a new state-of-the-art film/TV studio and media campus on an 18-hectare IDA Ireland site at Killincarrig in Greystones. The new facility will provide an unrivalled boost to the growth of Ireland's film and television industry and local economy, and also create up to 1,200 jobs in the region.

The proposed facility will seek to build upon, and contribute to, the existing Dublin-Wicklow film and screen cluster, the leading economic cluster of its type in the country. It will also consolidate Wicklow's position as the traditional heart of television and film production in Ireland.

The successful planning application proposes 14 studios, offices and ancillary production buildings in a landscaped setting - more than doubling the available stage capacity

available to film, TV and media crews in Ireland. The development has already drawn international attention from several media enterprises.

A number of conditions were attached to the decision to grant planning permission, relating to environmental, landscaping and traffic and pedestrian safety considerations during development. Greystones Media Campus has committed to meeting them in full and working alongside the local com-

munity to ensure the project is a success.

Under the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Area Plan 2013-2019, the Killincarrig site had previously been prioritised for "the development of high-density people-based employment". The proposed Greystones Media Campus will address this priority by contributing to the economic development of Co. Wicklow through the delivery of high-quality new job opportunities.

The audio-visual sector is currently worth over €1 billion to the Irish economy, with 12,000 people employed in film, television and animation production. However, as outlined in the Olsberg report (2017)**, Ireland currently suffers from a shortage of high-quality studio space for its television, film and media industry and the report highlights a requirement to make the sector more competitive internationally.

Addressing this



Pictured are Karen Boyle and John Hayden of Wicklow RNLI Fundraising Branch at the launch of the contactless donation machine in the window of the RNLI Lifeboat shop on the East Pier, Wicklow harbour. The machine is set at €3, simply tap your card to donate €3 to Wicklow RNLI lifeboat Station. Photo courtesy of Wicklow RNLI Fundraising Branch



report, the subsequent Audiovisual Action Plan (2018) aims to make Ireland "a global hub for the production of film, TV drama and animation" and double employment and turnover in the industry

over the next five years. The government's Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 also noted that Wicklow and the east coast possess an established screen creation sector with a long tradition of content creation for the film and television industry, a large number of skilled crew and talent living in the area, and an attractive connected location.

Speaking following the decision to grant planning permission, a spokesperson for GMC said "We're delighted with the decision from Wicklow County Council to approve planning permission for what

will be an exciting development for the Greystones area and the Irish film and TV sector as a whole.

"The Greystones Media Campus has the potential to be an exciting new chapter in the story of the Irish film industry and will lead to a wealth of new opportunities in the sector and across the entire county.

"With increasing global demand for content from the likes of Netflix, Amazon and Disney, this development presents a wonderful opportunity for Ireland to continue to make its mark on the global stage."

Minister Stephen Donnelly said "I'm abso-

lutely delighted to see the Greystones Media Campus getting their planning permission. The development is a massive boost not just for Greystones but for the whole of North Wicklow. For a number of years I've been in talks with the IDA about bringing jobs to the county.

"Wicklow has suffered from not having enough local employment which is one of the key reasons behind the traffic gridlock on the N11/M11. Creating more jobs in Greystones and in the county is not only good for the local economy, the environment but also peoples' quality of life."

Brexit - if you need to call

As a result of the UK leaving the EU, major changes come into effect on 1 January. Substantial advice is available for businesses and citizens at **GOV.IE**. For situations requiring urgent and immediate assistance, Government departments and agencies have put in place a number of resources to assist business and citizens for the critical days ahead. Contact details for some of the key services are below. A full list of relevant Government services is available on gov.ie/brexit



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Area	Contact details	Opening hours
Customs Clearance Import/Export/Transit Controls (if you already have a declaration reference number).	Tel: 01 738 3685 (Revenue Commissioners)	24 hours
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Advice line for stakeholders in the agri-food and fisheries sector. Queries in relation to import consignments of animals, and products of plant and animal origin should be directed to the relevant border control post of entry.	Tel: 076 106 4443 Email: BrexitCall@agriculture.gov.ie	24 hours
Border Control Posts:	DAFM Dublin Port Tel: 01 615 7792 Email: BCP.DubPort@agriculture.gov.ie	24 hours
	DAFM Dublin Airport Tel: 01 615 7650 Email: BCP.DublinAirport@agriculture.gov.ie	Mon to Fri: 9am - 5:45pm Saturday: 9am - 1pm
	DAFM Rosslare Port Tel: 053 911 4157 Email: RosslareBCP@agriculture.gov.ie	Mon to Sun: 4am - Midday and 2pm - 10pm
HSE Dublin Port and Airport	Tel: 01 921 2851, 087 633 6510, 01 897 6140 Email: importcontroldublin@hse.ie	24 hours
Business Supports	Tel: 01 631 2002 (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment) Email: infobusinesssupport@enterprise.gov.ie	Mon to Sun: 9am - 5pm
Freight shipping - procedures and timings etc.	Dublin Port Tel: 01 887 6000	Mon to Sun: 7am - 11pm
	Rosslare Port Tel: 053 915 7929	Mon to Sun: 3.30am - 10pm
Department of Foreign Affairs Advice line for Irish citizens overseas requiring Brexit related information or assistance.	Tel: +353 1 613 1769 or call your local Embassy	8am - 8pm: Friday 1 January - Monday 4 (inclusive) January
Callers from Northern Ireland	Tel: 0300 123 1510 (LoCall)	



Long Service award for Wicklow RNLI Volunteer

RNLI Lifeboat volunteer Carol Flahive has received a long service badge in recognition of 20 years' dedicated service to the community.

Carol joined Wicklow lifeboat in November 2000 and over the years has been in charge as the Helm on the Inshore lifeboat and crew on the all-weather lifeboat Annie Blaker.

In recent times Carol qualified as a Navigator on the all-weather lifeboat and looks after crew training as Local Training Coordinator at the Station.

Carol has built up a wealth of experience and knowledge during exercises with Wicklow lifeboat, which she has passed on to the new generation of crew.

Carol has been on numerous launches on service and exercise over the last 20 years. Two "Shouts" in particular stand out, from July 2014 where multiple casualties were rescued after being cut off by the tide at Silver Strand Beach and in July 2016 when the crew assisted a solo French yachtsman south of Wicklow Head in bad weather. The Coxswain and crew were later commended for their actions during the callouts.

Carol was awarded her long service medal during an outdoor Covid-19 compliant ceremony on Saturday afternoon by Lifeboat Operations Manager, Mary Aldridge who said: "It gives me great pleasure to present this award to Carol after 20 years voluntary service to the maritime community in Wicklow. It's such a pity that all the crew members cannot be present to honour Carol, but such are the times and challenges that Covid presents. It is fantastic to see Carol's family here. It is the family and partners that also give a big commitment to the RNLI when the pagers go off and they are at home worrying about their loved ones. I want to take this opportunity to thank the families and partners of all our volunteers at Wicklow Lifeboat Station, and on behalf of all the Crew congratulate Carol for her dedicated service."

Continued from page 1...

"The community call helpline was established with trained staff on hand, along with community and voluntary groups, to co-ordinate assistance to elderly and vulnerable persons throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Much needed COVID-19 business supports were rolled out by the Local Enterprise Office and the Finance Department by way of rates waivers, the business restart grants scheme, business continuity and trading online vouchers.

Throughout 2020 we made significant progress on the delivery of social housing. Indeed, over the course of the next two years, we will deliver newly constructed homes for more than 400 families on the Council's social housing list.

The newly established supported homeless facility opened its doors in Bray in October and the family services hub facility in Wicklow Town is nearing completion

ation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus will commence construction in the new year. We look forward to major tourism initiatives such as the development of the Avonmore Footbridge and the Blessington Greenway."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said "There's no doubt it's been a tough year but we are definitely facing into a much brighter 2021. Despite the extraordinary stresses of life under Lockdown we have still seen real progress in Co. Wicklow. The Blessington Greenway is fully funded and the West Wicklow pool is going to happen. In Arklow work on the long-awaited water treatment plant is now finally ready to start paving the way for the town to really prosper. Nearby there are incredibly exciting things happening in Wicklow town from the new library opening to the push for the Greystones to Wicklow Greenway. 2021 will see some really ambitious plans being rolled out for the town.

Greystones is welcoming a new film, studio and media campus which will bring jobs to the town and help to reduce commuter traffic. By next summer we will know the final plans for the N11/M11 and should see the first bus lanes being put in place.

Across the county there's a real need for school improvements and greater school places, an issue I will continue to work hard on. But I'm certain next year Wicklow will bounce back stronger than ever from what has been a year to forget."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "For 2021 and in a post Covid era I'm wishing for the strongest Climate Action Bill to be passed this year to provide a future for our children. A future with an environment



Steven Matthews TD

where we can provide proper health services, energy efficient housing, good public transport, reliable renewable energy systems and support for farmers and food producers. That Green future would provide thousands of well paid decent jobs and a thriving economy. Also on a national level. I'm working to change the building regulations to provide Changing Places facilities for disabled users. Locally I working on providing better rural public transport and more train services on the rail line, to continue the provision of cost rental public and social housing in places where it's needed most. And ensuring that those locations have the necessary services and enough school places through proper land use and transport planning."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said that his 2021 wish list is for a new normality: "The last year has been a very difficult and challenging year for so



John Brady TD

many people, families and businesses across Wicklow due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, many families in Wicklow have lost loved ones, seen family members hospitalised or have had to fight the pandemic themselves, I know how difficult this is as like many other families we had firsthand experience of dealing with Covid.

"Many have lost a lot during 2020, some have lost everything, so 2021 is going to be hard for them and their loved ones. It's essential that all the supports needed are there for them and for anyone that may need them in 2021, this must include business and social protection support. I also think that Covid has had a big impact on many people's mental health, thankfully 2021 will see the opening of two new services in the county, the Jigsaw Youth Mental Health Service and Talk to Tom in Arklow. We however need to see more services right across the county.

"In 2021 like many people I want us to return to some sort of normality, but there are still many challenges facing us. We still have a housing crisis and major issues remain in our health service and inequality throughout society. In 2021 we need to focus on a new normality where all these issues are comprehensively tackled. While 2020 was dominated by Covid we can't allow that to be the reason why important projects such as the upgrade of the N11, N81 or the swimming pool in West Wicklow shouldn't be progressed in 2021. Huge praise must be given to all our frontline workers during 2020, our nurses, doctors, retail workers and all our essential workers deserve more than praise though. I hope 2021 will see a proper wage for all our frontline workers as opposed to another round of applause."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "2020 is definitely one of those years that we will be



Jennifer Whitmore TD

happy to say goodbye to. It was such a difficult time for everyone in Wicklow and across Ireland. But it was also a year that really highlighted very clearly what we treasure and what is important.

"So, if I had one wish, it would be that we always remember the lessons that 2020 taught us...How important our public services are, our nurses and doctors, our schools and teachers, our gardai and postal workers. But not only that...how vital everyone is to our communities across the county including our delivery people, our supermarket workers, our local shops. And 2020 really showed us what we can all achieve when we work together, as a community, for each other.

"I'd also like us to remember how much we enjoyed being out and about in Wicklow enjoying the fresh air, appreciating our local beautiful natural county whether it was Brittas Bay, The Murrough, Blessington Lakes or the Bird Sanctuary in Newcastle listening to the amazing bird song. We are turning that appreciation into actions which protect our environment and wildlife. We are a great people and we live in a great county and I believe that we could use the last year to make us stronger, together. But most of all for 2021, I want everybody to be able to wrap their arms around their loved ones and give them a big, tight, full-of-love hug. I think we could all do with one of those!"



Minister Stephen Donnelly

Urban and rural regeneration projects are underway in Wicklow Town, Arklow and Baltinglass and much progress was made on the new Town Centre in Bray which, when open in the New Year, will bring a cinema, shops and restaurants to the heart of the town. The proposed new content cre-

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This project has been part-funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media from the Live Performance Support Scheme

Charity song for Wicklow Dementia Support

Singer/songwriter/producer Neil Byrne, released an original single 'Christmas Time 1983' with 100% of the proceeds being donated to Wicklow Dementia Support.

Neil's father, Eddie Byrne, passed away from dementia on 7th May 2018 and prior to his passing received in-home care provided by Wicklow Dementia Support, an organisation that is operated and staffed by volunteers to help people with dementia retain their independence and to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

"These volunteers were some of the kindest, most selfless people I had ever met in my life. They made my dad as comfortable as possible. They became friendly faces for dad to interact with and were so professional, sensitive and caring when it came to personal care."

"Christmas Time 1983' is available for digital download for €2 at www.neilbymemusic.com.

New library for Rathdrum

Use of the library services in Rathdrum is expected to more than double when the new library is opened in the village next summer.

Construction is well underway on the library which is located in the Market Square development which also includes a Primary Health Care Centre

The current Rathdrum library comprises less than 40 sq mtrs and is limited in its capacity to deliver services relevant to today's needs.

Nonetheless, despite its limitations, the current library is well used by the people of Rathdrum with 500-plus registered readers paying over 5,000

visits and borrowing over 10,000 items in 2019.

Increases of 150 per cent are anticipated when the new library opens in Summer 2021.

The new library will be four times the size of the current building and will have a greater selection of stock and increased opening hours. There will be multiple study spaces and public access computers.

Maximising the use of natural light will ensure a bright and attractive facility.

During a recent site visit, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "I am delighted by this news. I am sure that a modern library will be welcomed and supported by all, including Librarian Margaret Byrne who has provided a great service from the current library in Gilbert Row for more than 20 years."

He added: "Its location in the new Market Square development will ensure Rathdrum library is at the

heart of the community it serves and will provide a steady footfall to other local businesses".

Director of services with the Council, Michael Nicholson, added that this latest development in the County's library service, along with the new library in Wicklow town, which is nearing completion, was further evidence of the Council's commitment to library services throughout the entire county.



Librarians Margaret Byrne and Carmel Moore at the site of the new library in Rathdrum.

Age friendly winter care packages being distributed

Special Age Friendly Winter Care packages are being distributed by Wicklow County Council to the most isolated and vulnerable in the county.

Each of the 500 packs contains a number of age friendly items such as an Eircode fridge magnet and an information guide to services for older people in Wicklow.

Under the "Keep Well" campaign, people are being encouraged to switch off and be creative and to this end, the packs include art supplies and a deck of playing cards.

People are being encouraged to keep active and the Road Safety Authority has provided Hi Visibility armbands for inclusion in the packs as well as an easy exercise booklet from the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.

It is hoped that the Environmental Awareness Office Christmas recipe book in the pack will provide some novel ideas to using up any festive leftovers.

Also included is the Wicklow County Council Christmas card with community call information. If anyone is in need of assistance the community call information number is 1800 868 399.



GREEN CHRISTMAS RECYCLING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Recycling Centre

Race Against Waste

Repak

CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2021

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below. They will be shredded, composted and used again!

No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.

	LOCATION	TIME	DATE
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm	4th -16th January
Aughrim	Tidy Towns, The Pavillion, Rednagh Road	Mon-Sat: 9.00am-4.00pm	4th -16th January
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre, Ballymurlagh, Avoca	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm Closed for lunch 1.00-2.00pm every day.	4th -16th January
Ballinglass	Rampere Recycling Centre, Rampere, Ballinglass	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-3.00pm Sat: 9.00am-1.00pm	4th -16th January
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	Mon to Fri: 10.00am-4.00pm	4th -16th January
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	Mon-Fri: 9.00am-4.00pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm	4th -16th January
Bray	Festina Lente Foundation, Old Connaught Avenue Car Park	10am-4pm Daily	4th -16th January
Greystones, Mill Road	Carpark in front of the Wicklow County Council Offices on Mill Road near to the bottle banks	9.00am-6.00pm Daily	4th -16th January
Greystones, Blacklions	Lidl carpark, Blacklions	9.00am-6.00pm Daily	4th -16th January
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	10.00am -12.00 midday	9th January only 10am-12 Midday
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm Sat: 9.30am -1pm	4th -16th January

Illegal Waste Collection

Beware of unauthorised waste collectors operating in the County Wicklow area.

Only give your waste to Collectors who have a valid Waste Collection Permit. Always ask to see the Waste Collection Permit. Always note the Waste Collection Number on the Waste Collection Permit.

The Waste Collection Permit will display the Waste Collector's Name, Address and Waste Collection Permit Number. The vehicle should clearly show the Name of the Waste Collection Permit Holder and the Waste Collection Permit number.

It is a criminal offence to give waste to a unauthorised collector. Penalties upon conviction can be up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment

Report any information you have on illegal dumping to Litterline, 1890 548837 or 0404-20127

COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES

Christmas Opening & Closing Times

Wednesday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	9am-1.45pm
Monday 4th Jan	9am-4.30pm
Tuesday 5th Jan	9am-4.30pm

Avoca

Wednesday 23rd Dec	9am-3pm
(Closed for lunch 1-2pm)	
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	Closed
Monday 4th Jan	Closed
Tuesday 5th Jan	9am-3pm
(Closed for lunch 1-2pm)	

Bray

Wednesday 23rd Dec	10am-2pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	10am-2pm
Tuesday 29th Dec	10am-2pm
Wednesday 30th Dec	10am-2pm
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	10am-2pm
Monday 4th Jan	10am-4pm
Tuesday 5th Jan	10am-4pm

The Murrough

Wednesday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	9am-1.45pm
Monday 4th Jan	9am-4.30pm
Tuesday 5th Jan	9am-4.30pm
(Closed for lunch 1-1.45pm)	

Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on www.wicklow.ie or ask for a copy from eo@wicklowcoco.ie or **Local 1890 222276**

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.

WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN?

Free talks available from the recycling ambassadors programme by VOICE. For Details See www.voiceireland.org/general-news/voice-launches-nationwide-recycling-and-waste-management-workshops/

#RecyclingListIRL

News
Paper & Cardboard
Milk
Rigid Plastic
Tins & Cans



Tiney Timmons, the girl who was lost in the woods for 4 days, turns 100

Last week Margaret Tiney Timmons of Clarabeg, Rathdrum, the girl who went missing in the woods for four days when she was just three years old, celebrated her 100th birthday.

In August 1924, Tiney Harvey as she was then called, went gathering fraughans (bilberries) with her brother and sister in the woods just a mere hundred yards from their home. According to newspaper reports at the time, her two older siblings helped her to fill her can and then sent her home, but Tiney took a wrong turn along the way and wandered off across the hills and fields and became lost.

When they discovered she was missing, her family conducted a search of the area, and when that failed, a more large-scale search was organised with the whole neighbourhood joining in.

According to an August 1924 article in The Herald, "All Wednesday night, all day Thursday, Thursday night, Friday and Saturday, were spent scouring wood and dale for the little wanderer."

Tiney travelled three miles from her home, scrambling through brambles and bushes, crying and scared by the dark, sleeping when she could.

Then on Saturday evening, carters passing along the road by the side of the Clara River, spotted a bundle on the other side. Two boys swam across the river then, and found that the bundle was little Tiney, asleep. They carried her back to the men who then brought her home to her parents who wept with joy.

Tiney was weak and emaciated after three days without food, and did not speak for some time, but eventually made a full recovery. She grew up to marry the late James Timmons and had four daughters and three sons of her own.

Applications lodged for telecommunications masts at Avoca, Laragh, Djouce

Cignal Infrastructure Ltd has lodged three planning applications with Wicklow County Council for telecommunications mast structures in Avoca, and on Coillte lands in Laragh and Djouce Woods.

The structures, which would be 24-metres, 18-metres and 30-metres tall respectively, would be located in Kilqueeny, Avoca; Brockagh, Laragh; and Deerpark Townland, Djouce Woods.

Cignal Infrastructure Ltd is a company of Cellnex, a European Telecommunications infrastructure provider.

The application for the Laragh site is to address a coverage blackspot in the area and also to meet service delivery in the future as customer requirements increase.

The Laragh site is on Coillte forestry lands on a hillside about 650 metres west of Laragh village. An architectural heritage impact assessment report was prepared by ACP (Architectural Conservation Professionals) consultants. It concludes that the proposed development would have no physical impact on the protected structures within the

vicinity of the proposed site.

In terms of the visual impact, the report notes that changes introduced to the landscape by the development would result in some adverse effects on the landscape character and visual amenity of the views, and that these would range from slight to significant.

To counteract these, the report outlines some mitigation measures such as coating the proposed tower and fencing green. It also suggests planting gorse or ferns around the site compound boundary to blend it in to the mountainside.

The Avoca site on agricultural lands at Kilqueeny has been selected to address deficiencies in 3G and 4G coverage in Avoca Village and surrounds, and improve broadband coverage. The current telecoms infrastructure is being hampered by surrounding trees and foliage.

The mast would be located in the corner of a field on an elevated position south west of the periphery of Avoca Town. A visual impact appraisal was undertaken at the site. It did an analysis from 15 different viewpoints and concluded that the upper section of the structure will be visible from some sensitive views along the R752 and from certain spots in Avoca town. However it says the impact of these views will range from slight to imperceptible. It also suggests that the mast and equipment be painted green. The analysis also concludes that the mast will be located adjacent to mature forestry and that this will also help to screen it.

The Djouce site is located on the northern side of Djouce woods, about 1.5km north east of Powerscourt Waterfall and 3.7km south west of the village of Kilmacanogue.

The site was selected to improve broadband services in the area, particularly Powerscourt waterfall and Djouce Woods, Powerscourt

waterfall car park and all surrounding picnic areas and pedestrian walkways, part of the R760, the R755, and all surrounding regional roads Business and housing. The proposed structure will allow multiple network operators to deploy 2G voice, 3G and high speed 4G broadband services.

Regarding the visual impact, an analysis was carried out and the conclusion was that although the upper section of the structure will be visible from other public and private viewpoints in the area, the backdrop of existing Coillte forestry will provide adequate screening.

The applications for both the Avoca and Laragh developments were submitted on 30th November and public submissions are invited until 12th January, 2021. The Council is to make a decision on the applications by 2nd February, 2021. Regarding the Djouce application, the Council will make a decision on 20th January 2021, and the deadline for submissions was 21st December.

Pony rescued with horrific neck injury makes a full recovery

On 9th December, Pronsias O'Broin with an address at Stringers Lane, Arklow, appeared before Arklow District Court accused of offences under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (AHWA).

The case stemmed from an incident in March 2019 when ISPCA Chief Inspector Conor Dowling responded to a report about an injured pony in Ferrybank, Arklow.

ISPCA Chief Inspector Dowling gave evidence to the court of visiting and seeing a number of ponies. He said that it was immediately obvious that one of them had an extensive injury to its neck but that it was impossible to give a precise cause of the injury.

Chief Inspector Dowling seized the injured pony and enlisted the support of the nearby Irish Horse Welfare Trust to remove it for urgent veterinary treatment.

Giving evidence in his defence, the accused said that "the land comprised of 40 acres, eight to ten acres of which was dry land and the remainder marshy ground which he asserted could not be fenced". He claimed to own only three ponies on the land, which were not found to be a concern, and denied owning the injured pony saying that it must have wandered onto his land. He told the court that "he was made aware that there was an injured animal on his land some days prior to its seizure but claimed to have been unable to locate it".

Under cross-examination by Rory Benville, State Solicitor, Mr O'Broin conceded that none of his equines were microchipped. He claimed to have seen the pony in question before it was injured and admitted that it may have been on his land for "a good few weeks". Mr Benville put it to the accused that his account was "simply not credible".

In ruling, Judge David Kennedy said that he had an issue with Mr O'Broin's credibility and that his account changed over the course of his evidence. Judge Kennedy convicted Mr O'Broin of one offence under section 11 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, with a section 12 offence taken into consideration. He imposed a three month custodial

sentence, suspended for one year, a €100 fine, and ordered that Mr O'Broin pay €1500 in costs. In addition he made an order forfeiting the pony to the care of the ISPCA.

The pony, later named Kay, thankfully began responding to treatment for her injury, which was extremely badly infected. Not long after her rescue, she gave birth to a healthy foal, named Poppy by her carers.

ISPCA Chief Inspector Dowling said: "Owners have a legal duty to provide for the animals in their care and turning a blind eye will simply not be tolerated. Thanks to the assistance of the IHWT, we were able to remove this pony immediately before her injury deteriorated any further and thankfully she made a full recovery."

"Many more vulnerable animals will need to be rescued and cared for, and will need to stay with us for some time during their rehabilitation, before they can be responsibly rehomed. Our frontline work cannot stop during these uncertain times and if you have already been in touch with a donation to support our vital work, thank you so much. If you would like to help the ISPCA, please if you can, make a kind donation at www.ispca.ie/donate/."

If you suspect that an animal is suffering from abuse, cruelty or neglect, please continue to report your concerns in confidence by calling 1890 515 515, email helpline@ispca.ie or report online at www.ispca.ie/donate/once_off



The recovering pony Kay with her foal Poppy

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Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement

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Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Derek Mitchell cuts the ribbon to officially open the new boardwalk at Greystones Marina, with Norman Lee, Pamela Lee, CEO of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran, Merlin Ovington and Breege Kilkenny

Greystones boardwalk and coastal park opened

A new 16-acre coastal park together with an extensive boardwalk overlooking Greystones Marina was opened on Monday 14th December by Cllr Derek Mitchell, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District.

The boardwalk, which is over 300 metres long, links the coastal park to Greystones Harbour, with the two newly opened amenities forming an integral part of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk which runs from the Bray Promenade to the Harbour Square, Greystones.

Commenting on the project, Cllr Mitchell said: "I am delighted the entire harbour project is now virtually complete. It has transformed a derelict harbour into a community focal point for a large town with the boardwalk being a key visual feature forming a line with Trafalgar Road pointing towards Bray Head".

He went on: "The 300m development provides excellent promenades, substantial north and south breakwaters, a 200-berth marina, two public slipways, club facilities for sea scouts, rowers, divers, sailors and anglers, as well as 340 homes on what was a Brownfield site".

The Cathaoirleach concluded by saying he hoped the final small block of retail space and 33 apartments would be completed within two years.

Speaking at the opening, Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "Today's opening represents a significant milestone in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) between Wicklow County Council and SISPAR."

The project, he said, had revitalised and expanded Greystones Harbour and made it a central feature of the town, as well as providing an ultra-modern facility with the deepest marina on the east coast.

Mr Curran noted that "the last harbour constructed on an open coast in the country was Rosslare Harbour in 1906, which makes this a rare project and a complex one for the Council to have implemented".

Also present at the opening event were representatives from Glenveagh Properties PLC and Greystones sailor Pamela Lee who set the Round Ireland double-handed circumnavigation record from Greystones Harbour earlier this year.



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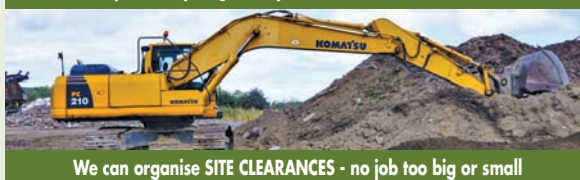
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'Serious lessons need to be learned from Greystones schools debacle'

Wicklow TDs met with the Department of Education's School Building Unit on 17th December to receive an update on resolving the accommodation needs for Greystones Community National School and Greystones Community College.

Following the meeting Minister Simon Harris said "The conciliation process between the builder and Department of Education about the new Community National School building is ongoing. While the process is subject to confidentiality the Department intends to have this completed by the end of the present school year."

"Last week the Department of Education applied for planning permission for six additional classrooms on the Rugby Club site, primarily to be used as specialist rooms for the Community College. The Department has also commenced discussions with the Eire Og GAA club with a view to utilising part of their grounds for further temporary classrooms for the Community College for September 2022 and also, if required, as a contingency option for September 2021."

"I am very much of the view that the accommodation needs of Greystones Community College need to be separated from that of the Community National School. That's why we have asked that plans for the new specialist rooms should be cited on Eire Og's lands and that Community College's accommodation for autumn 2021 not be at the mercy of the ongoing conciliation process taking place regarding the

Community National School Building.

"I wish to pay tribute to Principal Ruairi Farrell and all the team at Greystones Community College who have had to work in impossible circumstances over the past few months. Eire Og GAA club has stepped forward to facilitate a solution for Greystones Community College that would decouple the school's accommodation needs from that of the Community National School and the Department of Education should proceed on that basis," Minister Harris concluded.

Also speaking after the meeting, John Brady TD said that there is deep frustration with the lack of progress on the school debacle in Greystones and that serious lessons need to be learned.

"Unfortunately, again there is little progress on this deeply frustrating process which continues to drag on. The first meeting with the newly appointed conciliator took place and the contractor has until February to furnish a report on the school building, at that point the Department can make a submission. Little information has been given on the nature of the issues in the new school, however the officials have again reiterated that it is their hope that the National school will be able to move into their new school this school year.

"A planning application has also been lodged with Wicklow County Council for 6 additional prefabs for the temporary Rugby Club location. A number of these are for technical rooms for the Community College which is currently sharing the location with the National school. The Department estimates that this along with the tender process for the prefabs is a five-month process.

"The Department have stated that the hope is that GNS will be in their new school prior to September 2021, at that point the Community College will have use of all the space at the Rugby Club. If for some reason that doesn't happen, they have informed us that the contingency plan is to utilise lands at Éire Óg GAA club and that they have had discussions with the club.

"Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be much progress on the site for the permanent school for the Community College. The Department have said that there is ongoing 'active engagement' with the owners of the land in Charlesland that has been identified for the school. They also said that the option of a compulsory purchase order remains and that it could be used if they felt progress hadn't been made on the acquisition of the land. Despite being asked how the progress was going they refused to say, stating that

it is a confidential process. This unfortunately adds to the frustration regarding the entire process.

"The last update that was received was in relation to school places and the desperate situation that many children are without a school place for September next, this is despite having their names down from all schools in the area. A meeting took place between the Department and the 4 local secondary school principals on December 2nd to look at the issue. They will look at the lists of pupils in an attempt to see how many may have applied for a school place in more than one school. While there is no full outcome on this yet, it is hoped clarity will come shortly."

Deputy Brady concluded "The situation with the schools in the Greystones/Kilcoole area is deeply frustrating. I've been working with many parents who are deeply worried about if and where their child might get a school place in September next. There has been a complete failure on the Departments behalf to plan for the expected growth in the area.

"Serious lessons need to be learned from this saga as similar pressures are building in other areas of the county. I will continue to work to have these issues resolved as soon as possible."

Mitchell stands by Three Trouts decision

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, has reiterated his support for the controversial decision to approve the development of 41 social houses on the 'Three Trouts' site. Greystones councillors voted 3 to 2 in favour of the development.

Cllr Mitchell (FG), Cllr Gerry Walsh (FF), and Cllr Jodie Neary (SD) voted for it while Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind) and Cllr Mags Crean (Ind) voted against it.

Cllr Mitchell said "I welcome the majority vote of Greystones Councillors by 3 to 2 to provide 41 Social Homes at the Council owned site. This was purchased probably a decade ago for housing and lots of money has been spent preparing detailed plans, studying flooding, how to reduce it and other issues.

"The Government has agreed to fund building and I hope they will be ready in two years. There are 394 people on the Greystones

housing list, many for a long time and I believe that we have a duty to provide houses.

"The bridge and houses will be above the 1 in 1000 year flood level. Attenuation tanks will be installed under the new area to slow down, below current undeveloped site, rate of water run off in the 1 in 1000 year storm. This reduces flood risk from present.

"There were some suggestions that traffic should go through Charlesland Court however that would mean driving past about 70 houses as against 20 with access through Burnaby Lawns. Also the Council does not own the Charlesland road. There were also

suggestions to combine the site with others but that would delay the homes by 3 years at least.

"After the vote Cllr Fortune stormed out of the meeting criticising both the Director of Housing and myself as Chair. I have complete confidence in the Director who works hard in a dedicated manner to try to solve the problems of people without housing, a difficult task. Councillors should be supporting his efforts. As Chair I applied the normal rule that councillors can only speak once and for 5 minutes on a topic but this time I had a stopwatch and recorded each speaker. This rule is to ensure that all six Cllrs can speak on a topic.

"Being involved in politics involves difficult choices but all of us have to learn to cope with being outvoted and the need to move on for the benefit of the area."

New council chamber and customer service hub officially opened

Wicklow County Council recently launched a newly developed Customer Service Innovation Hub at County Buildings on Station Road, Wicklow Town, and also officially opened the refurbished Council chamber.

The Hub, which is open and fully operational since the beginning of October, will lead in the process of major organisational change and improvements to promote efficiency of operations and customer service.

The development of the Customer Service Hub supports a key strategic goal of Wicklow County

Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024 which focuses on an excellent service delivery, promoting inclusivity and efficiency for all users.

All Public Counters, including Motor Taxation, Cash desk and Housing are now incorporated into the Hub, providing a much-improved comprehensive space for cus-

tomers to do their business.

Welcoming the completion of the Customer Service Innovation Hub, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, said: "The new Customer Service Hub provides an inclusive environment for a range of services and will significantly improve

communication and engagement with our citizens."

Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, stated: "The delivery of an efficient and effective service to the highest possible standard is one of our main overarching goals in the Council's Corporate Plan. The development of the



Frank Curran (CEO of Wicklow County Council), with Lorraine Gallagher (Director of Services), Gemma Whitty (Administrative Officer), and Cathaoirleach Pat Kennedy at the new Customer Service Hub at County Buildings



Pictured in the new council chamber are Lorraine Gallagher (Director of Services), Pamela Kennedy (Architect), Gemma Whitty (administrative officer), Cllr Pat Kennedy (Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council), Kieran McCarthy (executive Technician), Frank Curran (CEO of Wicklow County Council), Helena Fallon (Senior Engineer), and Michael Nicholson (Director of Services)

new Customer Service Innovation Hub at County Buildings will be a key channel in 2021, to deliver a much-improved customer service, reflecting the importance of innovation in our service delivery".

The Public foyer has been refurbished to create a bright modern area with upgraded public facilities with separate private meeting rooms available to discuss matters in a confidential environment.

Essential improvement works have also been carried out on the Council Chamber and Elected members' rooms.

A modern civic space that is fully accessible to all with an extended pub-

lic gallery for members of the public and representatives of the media has been created by architect for the project, Ms Pamela Kennedy, KUBE Architecture, and Moston Construction.

The refurbishment project addressed essential repair works and was completed alongside the recently launched Customer Care innovation hub.

Completion of the works is timely as the recently signed Ministerial Order giving effect to the holding of remote Council meetings or a blend of remote and physical meetings means that elected members can return to the Council

chamber in a safe environment with other elected members participating remotely.

Welcoming the completion of the refurbishment works, Cllr Pat Kennedy said: "The newly refurbished Council Chamber is now a bright, inclusive and welcoming space that will not only facilitate the elected members in performing statutory Council business but will also be a place to welcome communities from all over County Wicklow to civic events and functions. I look forward to a time when we can all gather together again safely to celebrate all of our achievements in a civic

environment that we can all be proud of and enjoy."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Frank Curran, stated: "Wicklow County Council like the wider business community, as a result of the challenges that Covid 19 presented, has had to adapt to new work practices and embrace new technology in order to continue to deliver essential services to the people of County Wicklow. Modern technology systems now available in the Council Chamber will assist the Councillors perform their policy making, representational and oversight role in a professional, effective and efficient manner."

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BIFE would like to thank all their staff and students who donated to BIFE's Wicklow Homeless Five Loaves Charity fundraiser. "This year has been such a hard year for everybody and the generosity shown to us over the last few weeks has totally overwhelmed us," said Tommy Gordon from the Five Loaves. Pictured is Tommy Gordon (centre), with Ray Tedders (Principal), and Pauline Kavanagh and Naomi Kidd (BIFE Reception).



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**SECTION 10 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 2004
SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT AT ROAD WORKS
M11/N11 (NORTHBOUND/SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY)
ROAD WORKS SPEED LIMIT ORDER NO. 2 OF 2020**

Road works on the M11/N11 between junction 7 and 8 (Bray South to Kilmacanogue) are ongoing.

Notice is hereby given that in exercise of the powers vested under Section 10 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004, and in the interest of safety, it is necessary to make a Road Works Speed Limit Order, in respect of the area where the works are to be carried out.

Subject to the Road Works Speed Limit Order No. 2 of 2020, 60 km/h per hour shall be the Road Works Speed Limit for mechanically propelled vehicles on the roads as specified in the First Schedule hereto, this Special Speed Limit to continue to apply until the 30th July 2021, or such earlier date as may be determined by Wicklow County Council.

First Schedule

60 kilometres per hour shall be the Road Works Speed Limit for mechanically propelled vehicles on the roads as specified hereto.

- The M11/N11 northbound carriageway from a point 47 metres south of the centre point of the M11/N11 Kilmacanogue Over Bridge at Junction 8 to a point 67 metres south of the centre point of the M11/N11 Bray South Over Bridge at Junction 7.
- The M11/N11 southbound carriageway from a point 168 metres south of the centre point of the M11/N11 Bray South Over Bridge at Junction 7 to a point 22 metres south of the centre point of the M11/N11 Kilmacanogue Over Bridge at Junction 8.
- The M11/N11 northbound off-ramp at Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) from its junction with the M11/N11 northbound carriageway to a point 17 metre south of the centre point of the roundabout at Kilmacanogue Village (R755).
- The M11/N11 northbound on-ramp at Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) from a point 62 metres north of the centre point of the Kilmacanogue Village Roundabout (R755) to its junction with the M11/N11 northbound carriageway.
- The M11/N11 northbound off-ramp at Junction 8 (Glencormick) from its junction with the M11/N11 northbound carriageway to a point 123 metre south of its junction with the Glencormick Road (L1019).
- The M11/N11 northbound on-ramp at Junction 8 (Glencormick) from a point 35 metres north of its junction with the Glencormick Road (L1019) to its junction with the M11/N11 northbound carriageway.
- The M11/N11 northbound off-ramp at Junction 7 (Bray South) from its junction with the M11/N11 northbound carriageway to a point 77 metres south of the centre point of Kilcorney Roundabout (R768).
- The M11/N11 southbound off-ramp at Junction 7 (Bray South) from its junction with the M11/N11 southbound carriageway to a point 112 metres south west of the centre point of the Killarney Roundabout (R768).
- The M11/N11 southbound on-ramp at Junction 7 (Bray South) from a point 52 metres south west of the centre point of the Killarney Roundabout (R768) to its junction with the M11/N11 southbound carriageway.
- The M11/N11 southbound off-ramp at Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) from its junction with the M11/N11 southbound carriageway to a point 58 metres north of the centre point of the Bohilla Roundabout (R755).

Transportation & Roads Infrastructure,
Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow.

Festival in a van visits wicklow nursing homes

Wicklow County Council supported the Keep Well Initiative through Healthy Ireland, Sláintecare and the Creative Ireland Programme by presenting a series of "Festival in a Van" concerts at nursing homes in Wicklow.

Residents and staff alike have been able to embrace the season in a safe way with Christmas Carols and other works performed live in their nursing home grounds by Irish musicians.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "We hope that in a very difficult year for older people and nursing homes in particular, that this will bring some joy and good cheer to their homes. This is being brought to Wicklow through the switch off and be creative strand of the Healthy Ireland Fund."

The Van has been visiting

locations in Kilcoole, Wicklow Town, Dunlavin and Baltinglass. Musicians include Niall O'Sullivan (Trumpet) and Shóna O'Sullivan (Voice) and Dr Eamonn Sweeney.

The Keep Well initiative is part of Government's resilience and recovery plan for Living with COVID-19 2020 - 2021. This campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. Most importantly it is also designed to

foster connection and safe engagement with friends, family and neighbours as we try to live with Covid-19.

"Festival in a Van" is new mobile live outdoor venue that brings the magic of live COVID safe performances to community settings around the country. Supported by the Creative Ireland Programme, the initiative offers local audiences and event organisers with a completely mobile and flexible solution to the current restrictions of live performance.

Three vans have been transformed into mini

mobile pop-up venues, with drop down staging and full sound and lighting rigs. Led by a group of theatre professionals, the "Festival in a Van" team have re-configured the indoor performance experience to an outdoor setting with a mission to support artists and give small communities access to live cultural experiences.

The team of sound technicians, stage and production managers, all with full COVID safety training, have been travelling travel with the vans, thereby providing welcome employment to events support industry.

A busy year for Wicklow PPN with 70 new member groups

Co Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) was delighted to welcome 70 new member groups of all different types from all around the county in 2020. The PPN supported groups are to be informed and have their voices heard through Wicklow PPN's 35 representatives who bring the community voice and experience to 18 different boards and committees.

The online 'Meet Your Councillor' events facilitated over 100 people to ask their local councillors about the things that matter to them. The PPN also ran consultations on various national plans and strategies and made submissions on a few.

Co Wicklow PPN worked closely with Wicklow County Council to support vulnerable communities during the pandemic. PPN members very quickly set up support services and activities that were entered on to a mapping system that was used to connect people to any help that they needed through the community call. The PPN also worked with the Irish Red Cross to distribute Nestlé Food hampers to groups that were providing food to the sick and elderly. Working with Wicklow County Council, the PPN was involved in an initiative to address the problems created by the lack of access to digital equipment and supports. The PPN continues to provide the latest pandemic support information from national and local government through all our media platforms.

Community groups were challenged in many ways during the pandemic. Understanding the new health guidelines and social distancing was at times confusing and groups' capacity to fundraise was severely impacted. Co Wicklow PPN provided training to support groups to adapt so they could safely provide limited services and activities and explore new ways of funding. The PPN recorded the issues and concerns of community groups and compiled them into reports that were sent to local and national government.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. Co Wicklow PPN worked with Avril Bailey of the Dublin Human Givens Centre this year to develop Super Charge Your Self Care, a set of six sessions ran with groups to help community activists to mind their mental and physical health.

Towards the end of the year these sessions were further developed into video resources and linked in to the government's Keep Well campaign. The PPN is currently providing groups with Good Governance Training using the Charities Regulator's Governance Code. The first of four modules took place at the end of November and the remaining modules will run in 2021.

Co Wicklow PPN highlighted the great work going on in the county to combat social exclusion using Social Inclusion Week in November to do so.

"We work collaboratively with the Wicklow County

Council Disability and Inclusion Group to work towards a more accessible county for people with disabilities."

The PPN continues to raise awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Working with the Environment Office of Wicklow County Council, a mapping tool was developed in 2020 that allows community groups to link the things that they do to the SDGs clearly showing that even the smallest local actions can have an impact on achieving the SDG targets.

Co Wicklow PPN has also commissioned an animation to raise awareness of the goals, show how community actions help to achieve the targets and encourage groups to enter their actions on the WCC mapping tool. Their animation, training resources, Representative Reports, submissions, newsletters, work reports and much more is available on their website www.countywicklowppn.ie

"Co Wicklow PPN would like to take this opportunity to thank our member groups for their energy, commitment, passion, and empathy, particularly in this difficult year. We look forward to working with you and our collaborative partners to support you in the coming year."



Wicklow PPN helped to connect the Irish Red Cross to food distribution groups in Wicklow



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Co. Wicklow is full of business success stories, and Wicklow's vibrant food industry is no exception. Across the county there are many passionate food producers working to bring fun and flavour to our plates and palates.

These products, as well as being delicious, are helping to serve Wicklow's reputation on the national and international food scene, creating jobs and helping to bring tourism to the county.

Born from passion and homemade with care, these businesses have inspirational stories behind them and are a tasty showcase of Wicklow's prowess and creativity when it comes to food.

See the ads below for a 'sample taste' of what Wicklow has to offer.

Rhoda Cocoa

Rhoda Cocoa was an idea that came to Rhoda at Christmas time, when the homemade chocolates she made for her friends went down so well that they began asking if they could buy more from her.

Rhoda decided to try and turn her lifelong love of chocolate into a career, and since the birth of that idea, and following Rhoda's training as a chocolatier, Rhoda Cocoa has gone on to win nine Blas na hEireann Awards and two Great Taste Awards.

Rhoda's handcrafted chocolate creations are truly unique tasting experiences which delight the senses.

"My chocolate bars are truly a labour of love," says Rhoda. "Creating the infusions and toppings that complement and enhance the flavours of the chocolate I work with allows for the creativity I need to be happy. I think everyday should be marked with a moment of delight. I find mine through crafting the chocolate bars which I hope will lead to yours."

Miena's Nougat

Miena's Nougat is bursting with unique flavours, and the best part is that it's all made from natural ingredients and is good for you! Working from her home in the Glen of Imaal, and taking inspiration from

her beautiful surroundings, Miena has turned her business into an international success, with her handmade Nougat stocked in luxury stores such as Harrods.

It's been eight years since Miena started making her nougat in her kitchen, and since then her business has grown to the point that she now has a purpose-built facility beside her home to cope with the huge demand. This success is down to Miena's dedication, care, passion, and attention to detail. Her nougat has won many gold and silver accolades for the flavours Miena has created.

Mic's Chilli

Mic's Chilli sauces, made from his dungeon in Kicloole, are specially tailored to suit everyone, "from fire imp to hardcore chilli fan".

It was over 25 years ago, while travelling in the Caribbean, that Mic discovered his passion for chilli sauces, and when he returned to home he wanted to share his passion with the people of Co. Wicklow and beyond. He got to work perfecting his recipe and his 'Inferno Sauce' was born. This has since been followed by a range of sauces, all handmade with love and natural ingredients. Two of his Chillis have gone on to win Great Taste Awards.

Mic's range of Chillis consist of: Inferno Sauce Junior, Inferno Sauce Lite, Inferno Sauce Original, Inferno Sauce Extreme (Great Taste Award winner), Chilli BBQ, Sauce (Great Taste Award winner), Sweet Chilli Sauce, Naga Knockdown, Trouble in Trinidad, Voodoo Reaper, Of Foam and Fury.



Happy Christmas from all of us at Miena's!

"We hope you have a lovely break and we wish you the best for 2021!"

www.mienas.ie

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Bray's 2020 Endeavour Awards honour the people who have done extraordinary things

The Bray Endeavour awards have been presented by Bray Chamber of Commerce since 1981, to honour and recognise the wonderful achievements and successes in business and the community in the town of Bray. With the business awards presented in October, it was finally time for the Community awards with a feel good Friday on 11th December.



Albert Kerr, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award

Unable to do the usual gala dinner event, the committee had to change the way things were done and decided to bring the awards to the winners, arriving to surprise them. And surprise them they did, delivering the wishes of the over 5,000 that voted this year.

First stop was a presentation to North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWETSS) students Molly Redmond, Grainne O'Sullivan, Lucy Sky Dunne and Georgia Doherty for their achievements with the Student Climate Action Network. Cian O'Neill was surprised on his way to a meeting in Ballywaltrim Community Centre, when friends and family were there to see



North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School students Grainne O'Sullivan and Georgia Doherty, with their Bray Endeavour Award for their achievements with the Student Climate Action Network (SCAN). Not pictured are Lucy Sky Dunne and Molly Redmond who were also part of SCAN.

him receive his award for volunteering with Connect Ballywaltrim.

A visit to the beautiful new premises at Purple House Cancer Support centre was an emotional one, where the wonderful drivers who give so much of their time to transport patients to over 16 hospitals for their treatment, were recognised and thanked. A trip to Steven Haines beautiful garden in Raheen Park, where he was presented with a civic award for all his hard work and acknowledgement of the pleasure he has given to the People of Bray with his amazing "secret garden" over the last 25 years. Nathan Prunty was surprised as he volunteered at the Bray Emmets family day for all his volunteer work with the club.

Another stop-off was in Seacrest where Albert Kerr was surprised on his doorstep with family and friends and a lifetime achievement award. Albert Kerr was recognised for five decades of service to the Queen of Peace Youth Adventures Group amongst other community groups. Another big award of the day was given to someone who received so many nominations for keeping the county going during these difficult months, and in recognition of his work for so many people and community groups in Bray, as the crew in East Coast and family came out to see Declan Meehan receive the top Person of the Year award.



Young Achiever Award Winner Cian O'Neill

The public spoke and the 2020 recipients of the Bray Chamber of Commerce's Endeavour Awards are:

- Person of the Year:** Declan Meehan,
- Lifetime Achievement:** Albert Kerr
- Community Award:** Purple House Drivers
- Civic Community:** Steven Haines
- Large Business:** Ventilux
- Small Business:** AB Print
- Customer Service Person of the Year:** Edward Gray, SuperValu
- Best Retailer:** Fleuritique
- Best Coffee Shop:** Catalyst Coffee
- Best Restaurant:** Pink Salt
- Best Emerging Business:** Glovers Café
- Best Online Service:** Linzyo.ie
- Social Media Award:** Dee Dooley
- Special recognition:** 100 years of trading Tansey's Bray
- Special Recognition Award:** 50 years of Brennanstown RS
- Young Achievers:** Woodbrook College PE Expo Abhi Santhoshkumar, Ruby Roche and Michelle Dolores. Connect Ballywaltrim Cian O'Neill. Bray Emmets Nathan Prunty. NWETSS SCAN Students Molly Redmond, Grainne O'Sullivan, Lucy Sky Dunne and Georgia Doherty

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Karen Verschoyle of Bray Credit Union, presenting Suzanne Cox, Open Door Development Officer, with a cheque for €330. This donation was raised by the staff at Bray Credit Union and will go towards activities for adults with physical disabilities at Open Door.

'ReadsDirect really value support from Bray & Wicklow'

ReadsDirect.ie would like to thank all of their customers from Bray and surrounding areas in Wicklow for their continued support and purchases.

They said "We were very conscious of the great support and loyalty we received while we were trading on Main Street Bray up until October 2019 and the continued support either instore in Stillorgan, Sandford or online, Remember to stay in touch through our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and see the website especially the great Savings Store now open. Also why not sign up for free in the members store for an extra free 10% over and above the reduced prices. You can now enjoy 30% of all stationery and art supplies with particular emphasis on the new Home & Office stationery to cater for the client who works from home these days. "Thank You Bray & Wicklow and remember to Shop Local, Shop Safe & Buy Irish."

Wicklow is the most generous county

ActionAid Ireland, which works with women and children in the developing world, has announced that Wicklow has become the second most generous county in Ireland per percentage of the population, moving up from fourth place. Wicklow was the most generous when it came to people newly signing-up to become supporters of ActionAid.

Siobhán McGee, CEO of ActionAid Ireland, said: "This has been a very tough year, for everyone, but we are heartened by the continued generosity of the Irish people, especially people in Wicklow, where people not only stuck with us but many began supporting us for the first time. We are expecting 2021 to continue to be difficult for the communities that we work with, as the effects of the pandemic on global economies become worse. Thank you to the people of Wicklow for continuing to care about these global issues and for all of those who began supporting our work this year."

Sponsorship from the Irish public provides children with opportunities to transform their lives. This year despite very challenging circumstances we continued to work closely with communities and helped to protect vulnerable people from the pandemic - including by providing water, sanitary items, and trainings.

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Tenants receive digital devices before Christmas

€10,000 has been awarded to the Tuath Housing 'Be Connected' initiative by the Housing Finance Agency's Social Investment Fund which will provide elderly tenants with digital tablets to stay connected.

Tuath Housing, a not-for-profit approved housing body which provides long-term housing at an average rent of less than €68 per week, recently provided a number of tenants with new digital tablet devices ensuring they stay connected with friends and family members whilst also allowing them to take part in Tuath's digital initiatives. The funding will also help enhance and improve the tenant engagement services provided by Tuath to its tenants.

Tuath was awarded €10,000 for the "BeConnected" initiative as part of the Housing Finance Agency's Social Investment Fund. BHP Insurance also donated €1,000 towards the initiative. Training will be provided by Tuath's Tenant Engagement team who will now be able to easily

engage with tenants through online activities and education, which will include coffee mornings, virtual bingo, art classes amongst other initiatives.

Tuath has recently launched its Strategic Plan, entitled, Resilience, Recovery, Rejuvenation; 'Building a better future', have plans to deliver 5,000 further homes across the country by 2025.

Tuath tenant David Caffrey, living in Greystones with his wife Catherine commented "I'm delighted to have received the tablet. It has opened a whole new world for me and brought me into the digital age. It really does help me keep in touch with everyone and everything that's going on. I'm learning things every day about how to use it and I never

thought I'd be embracing new technology like this".

Louise Thompson, Tuath Housing Services Manager, said that "We are very thankful to the Housing Finance Agency and BHP for sponsoring this wonderful initiative. The funding provided enabled Tuath to roll out the "Stay Connected" Initiative in response to Covid -19, allowing us the opportunity to provide our older residents the means to become "virtually" connected with loved ones in these challenging times. We believe the 'Stay Connected'

"Initiative will go a long way in ensuring that our elderly residents will now have the ability to connect with family and friends and will also open further means for them to actively

engage with Tuath."

Tom Conroy, Head of Finance at the Housing Finance Agency said: "The HFA is delighted to be able to fund Tuath's 'Be Connected' initiative through our Social Investment Fund. This Fund, which was newly established this year, aims to support local projects to complement social housing communities."

Siobhan Tobin, Associate Director with BHP Insurance also noted that "In these challenging and uncertain times, connecting with loved ones is more important than ever. BHP was delighted to support Tuath's 'Be Connected' Initiative and we hope our involvement brought families together and continues to bring us closer together well into 2021."



Photographed with a cheque for €10,000 is Louise Thompson, Housing Services Manager of Tuath Housing, Barry O'Leary, CEO Housing Finance Agency, and David Caffrey, Greystones resident, with his new tablet

Report finds 2019 performance of Council was mixed

An independent oversight body has identified several areas of improvement and concern across Ireland's local government sector.

A report by the independent watchdog of local government has revealed the performance of Wicklow County Council in 2019 across eleven areas. The annual report, by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC), found the Council delivered mixed results in a range of areas including housing, the environment and financial management.

Some of the key findings in the report include:

Housing: Wicklow County Council owned 4,544 social housing dwellings at end of 2019 with 2.77% vacant. The average time for rehousing in vacant properties was 29 weeks

Finance: The level of collection of commercial rates was 87% and the level of housing loans collection was 80%.

Environment: 10% of the Council's area is unpolluted or litter-free while energy savings made since 2009 is 16%.

Fire service: Attendance at the scene in

respect of fire within 10 minutes was 39%, and 49% within 20 minutes.

Public Libraries: There were an average of 4.06 visits per head of population and 428,186 items issued to library borrowers in 2019.

Commenting on the publication of the report, Chairman of NOAC, Michael McCarthy, said: "This report highlights some of the important work our local authorities carry out each year. We would encourage all local authorities and public representatives to review the report to learn ways they can continue to help local communities thrive. Local government plays in an important role in people's lives and as we look beyond the pandemic, NOAC is looking forward to working with all stakeholders to build on this work."

Michael McCarthy concluded by thanking local authority staff, the LGMA, and all organisations who provided or reviewed data for NOAC's 2019 Annual Report.

The NOAC uses 39 indicators across eleven areas to measure local authority performance. The data is submitted by the local authorities and other State and regulatory bodies.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

When someone has a stroke, minutes matter and they cost real lives. A stroke kills two million brain cells every minute - and every 60 seconds saved between having a stroke to getting effective treatment saves ones week of healthy life for a patient.

A new Act F.A.S.T. campaign (Face, Arms, Speech, Time), warns stroke patients how crucial early hospital treatment is to limit long-term damage.

An Ipsos MRBI survey, commissioned by the Irish Heart Foundation and the Government of Ireland shows that almost half of Irish people would not call an ambulance immediately if they suffered a stroke, wasting vital minutes that could save lives.

Stroke is one of the few conditions where your own actions and the speed of your response can determine your outcome. While treatments for stroke have improved dramatically over the past decade, they still rely on people getting to hospital as soon as possible after a stroke.

Stroke is unlike any other disease. It can hit anyone, of any age at any time. If it doesn't kill you it can rob you of the power of speech, leave you paralysed, forced to spend the rest of your life dependent on others. Survivors struggle to get their lives back on track post discharge and those who do return to work can experience a huge loss in income.

As a stroke survivor myself I urge you to print this letter to remind people in our community that stroke doesn't stop during a pandemic and it is as important as ever that if you or someone you know is having a stroke, that you call 112 or 999 immediately. By spreading the FAST message we can save lives.

Finally, I'd like to let other stroke survivors know they are not alone. They can find support and friendship from other stroke survivors through the Irish Heart Foundation's network of stroke support groups.

Yours sincerely,
Seamus McNamee



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Dated December 28th 2020

I, Kirsten Myler, seeks permission for development at 4 Claremount Terrace, Meath Rd., Bray, Co. Wicklow.

The development will consist of:
1) Material Change of Use from 3 apartments to a single dwelling.
2) Addition of a fire escape and stairwell to the rear of the property.

3) Demolition of shed and extension at the rear of the property.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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