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Tuesday 6th July 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'NPHET DOMINATE AGAIN!'

Fears of rolling restrictions into Autumn and Winter despite vaccinations

"Yet again, the unelected group of people in NPHET have displayed complete domination of the elected Government and people of this country," a frustrated Cllr Joe Behan declared last week.

Independent councillor Joe Behan has lashed out at the Government following last week's announcement to delay re-opening indoor hospitality until at least 19th July. The re-opening of some other indoor activities has also been delayed.

Cllr Behan continued, "We were told in no uncertain terms during

the recent lockdown that vaccinations held the key to our freedom. The HSE confirmed this week that almost 70% of the entire adult population has now been vaccinated with their first dose and almost 50% are now fully vaccinated. Vulnerable people, including senior citizens, have been fully vaccinated for some time now.

"The reason given for

lockdowns was always the fear of our hospitals being overrun because vulnerable people could develop severe symptoms and were at risk of death. This danger is now thankfully past us and the remaining unvaccinated people who are younger, fitter and healthier will be vaccinated soon.

"It is outrageous that we are being forced to



Siena Murphy listens to the speeches as President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina visit Carrig Eden in Greystones See more on page 6. Pic: Michael Kelly

continue to restrict our employment, social, educational, religious, travel and sporting lives indefinitely. The Government and most of the opposition have accepted NPHET's highly dubious modelling of different scenarios, one of which, predicts thousands of deaths during the summer despite the huge numbers of the general population being vaccinated. There was absolutely no peer review of this modelling undertaken by the Government before they decided to accept it. It has also now been confirmed that changes in the age cohorts which can receive the various vaccine types was not taken into account when the extension of the lockdown was agreed.

"The latest argument for continuing restrictions centres on the arrival of Covid variants. Yet, the vaccines have been shown to be effective in

preventing serious illness from variants, including the latest Delta variant. There is increasing evidence that the link between cases of Covid and hospitalisations and death is being broken and despite this, the Government refuses to factor this in when deciding to extend restrictions. It is clear now that group-think stalks the corridors of power.

"We have no leadership. We have follower-ship. Governments should always seek expert advice. But they have a duty to scrutinise the advice. They should question every aspect of the advice. When I hear the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and the Greens Leader talking about acting on the 'best advice', I am reminded of the last major crisis in this country in 2008. The bank bailout decision then was made on the 'best advice'. If this Government doesn't

wake up soon and start leading from the front, I fear we will have rolling

restrictions into this Autumn and Winter despite almost everyone

in the country being vaccinated. What happens then?"



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Sara Doyle, Mags Roche, and Sophie Byrne enjoy the sunshine during a break at the Little Acorn Café in Baltinglass.

Open Door's 500 Mile Challenge

Members and staff at Open Door have decided to take on the challenge of covering 500 miles, during the month of July, using some of the Physiotherapy equipment available at the Centre. Members have various physical disabilities as a result of Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, accidents and other causes and they benefit from the many activities provided by Open Door. This challenge is a team effort, using the treadmill, exercise bikes and x-trainer, to highlight some of the equipment available and also to help raise funds for the Centre. All participants have sponsorship cards and there is also an iDonate.ie page (www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/11408087_open-door-s-500-mile-challenge.html) for on-line donations. Please give generously to support adults with physical disabilities.

Open Door will be updating progress regularly during July through social media and on their website - www.opendoor.ie

Newtown Women's Shed

The Newtownmountkennedy Women's Shed was established for women of all ages to reconnect with themselves and the wider community, to learn and share skills, work on different projects and make new friends.

If you would like to join, you can find out more by joining the Newtownmountkennedy Women's Shed Facebook page or by emailing newtownmountkennedy@newtownmountkennedy.ie

kennedywomensshed@gmail.com and fill in a short survey on what activities interest you.

Glendalough Car Boot

The second, outdoor only, Glendalough Car Boot of 2021 is back on Sunday 11th of July. It is open to the public from 10am to 3pm with free entry (limited parking). The barrier will be locked from 6pm Saturday evening 10th July until 9am Sunday morning. You can contact the organisers by phone 0404 45600 (Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm) or email brockagharboot@gmail.com. Social distancing and masks must be worn in accordance with government guidelines.

Dunlavin Teen Scene

Teen Scene in Dunlavin is looking forward to opening its doors again in September. They are currently looking to recruit new leaders. If this is something you might be interested in, check out their facebook page for information and updates on registration.

Greystones Municipal District surface dressing

Wicklow County Council last week began the process of surface dressing on a number of roads in the Greystones Municipal District. The works will take place over the next several weeks and drivers are urged to drive with caution and adhere to signage in place.

Roads affected include the L5550 (Sea Road, Newcastle); L5065 (Blackditch Road, Newcastle); L5041 (Old Downs Road); L5049 (Kilmullin Lane); L1028 (Templecarrig Upper Road); L1030 (Bellevue Hill).

Glendalough Heritage Forum

Glendalough Community Excavations will return 4th-13th August 2021. If you have an interest in archaeology and Glendalough it is a fantastic experience. Organisers said "We regret we cannot offer places to those under 18 this year but we hope to welcome younger participants again next year. Adult places (subject to availability) are available from fixed blocks of one or two days to facilitate Covid protocols. No prior knowledge of excavation is required and for information and details of application please email glendaloughheritageforum@gmail.com."

€3,000 and counting raised for Night Nurses

We recently shared the "hair-raising" plans of Bray resident, Tony Whelan, to "shave it all off" to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society's Night Nursing Service. The "Daffodil Nurses" who provide this service give the families of terminally ill cancer patients a lifeline of respite while they care for their loved ones at home. The Irish Cancer Society provides this invaluable service free of charge for up to 10 nights, and it means a lot to Tony.

Tony set up a JustGiving page, which anyone who wants to support this cause can find at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/beardy2baldy. As of 30th June, having started with a target of €1,5000, Tony and his supporters have raised an incredible €3,430 and counting! He's also spreading the word of his fund-raising drive via Social Media, so keep an eye out for the #BeardyToBaldy hashtag, and check out www.facebook.com/anthony.whelan.982 for photos and video from The Big Shave Day on 26th June – Tony Whelan got it all shaved off, in Squires Barbers, Main Street, Bray.

Tony explained "The Wicklow Palliative Care Team, and the Irish Cancer Society's Night Nursing Service's Daffodil Nurse helped me to take care of my partner Anne Marie when she was terminally ill, and ensure she was in no pain and was as comfortable as possible through the night. When the end came, the ICS Daffodil Nurse came back to our house that evening, and helped me prepare Anne Marie for her final journey. I can never thank the Daffodil Nurses and the Irish Cancer Society enough".

To raise funds for this vital service, Tony spent the last 9 months growing ... his hair! Not content with



Tony before

the mandatory abstinence from haircuts during the pandemic, Tony didn't shave from early October year, until Saturday 26th June this year. As the accompanying photos show, 9 months is a lot of hair!

On Saturday afternoon, 26th June, the day before his 56th birthday, Tony got his entire head – face and crown – shaved by willing expert barber Niall Quinn in Squires Barbers, Main Street, Bray. Tony never had a beard before this marathon growth period, and was a little nervous about being bald for the first time in his life.

"Growing a beard was a little weird for me, as I've never had any facial hair before, other than a few days' stubble growth from time to time", Tony told us. "But it was a gradual thing, and I guess I got used to it as it slowly grew thicker. But being bald was a little more worrying – again, I've never done that before either, having my head completely shaved. And it obviously wasn't going to be a gradual transition like growing a beard – this was an immediate, and thankfully not overly traumatic, transformation in a single sitting in Squires. Not only am I

having to get used to having a bald head, but I'm guessing I'll be slathering on the sunscreen for a while!"



Tony after



Teacher Ms Kiernan, with Lily Murphy, Emma Surmova, Lexie Stephenson and teacher AnnMarie Elliott, breaking up for the summer holidays at St. Joseph's National School, Newtownmountkennedy.

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

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Five Loaves lose lease on charity shop

Operating arrangements with charity shops operating from all other Recycling Centres are currently also under review

Sinn Féin public representatives last week called for a full explanation from Wicklow County Council why the lease WH Five Loaves had for the charity shop at the Bray Recycling Centre is not being renewed.

The Wicklow Homeless Five Loaves charity has been using the Bray Recycling Centre premises off the Boghall Road since 2008 and operating a charity shop there. The organisation also operates a day centre on Bray Main Street for homeless people.

Wicklow County Council recently advertised for expressions of interest for the charity shop. WH Five Loaves and one other applicant applied, and the other applicant was offered the premises.

The move has come as a shock to the WH Five Loaves organisation, who will suffer a significant loss of income as a result. A sale took place in the shop last week to clear out stock.

In a statement, Wicklow County Council said "In order to regularise lease and operation of the Charity Shop in the Bray Recycling Centre, an advertisement was placed in the Bray People on Wednesday 2nd June 2021. This information document on the Expressions of Interest was also forwarded to both companies operating within the Recycling Centre.

"Two submissions were received by the closing date of 18th June and both submissions were assessed on Tuesday 22nd June. Both interested parties were advised of the outcome of the assessment. Operating arrangements with charity shops operating from all other Recycling Centres are currently also under review."

The advertisement stated: 'Proposals are invited for the lease and running of the Charity Shop at Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The following will be decisive in the assessment of any proposals submitted: Experience in Running a Charity Shop; Ability to offer a Range of Services and Items; Ability to work in conjunction with WCC for Re-use Projects'.

Deputy John Brady said "For many years the homeless organisation Five Loaves have operated a charity shop which was located in the Bray recycling centre on the Boghall Road. I'm really disappointed to hear that they have been informed by Wicklow County Council that the lease will not be renewed.

"WH Five Loaves do excellent work for the homeless and those at risk. The charity shop WH Five Loaves operated in the recycling centre served as a vital source of funding for the organisation. I fear this will have negative financial implications for the organisation, particularly at a time when Covid has impacted the fundraising for all charities."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien added, "A decision like this is really baffling. Wicklow County Council gains a material benefit from the work that WH Five Loaves does for the most vulnerable in our community. What appears to have happened now is

that a corporate, financial decision has essentially forced a charity to operate with one hand tied behind its back!

"In April I submitted a Motion to Bray MD asking for a list of all premises that we own or are custodians of with a view to discussing strategic plans for their usage post Covid and I still haven't received a reply. Decisions made by Wicklow County Council are not including local public representatives and unfortunately it appears that some Councillors also have to operate with one hand tied behind their back."

Cllr Grace McManus went on to say "It is very frustrating that a decision like this with such long reaching consequences was made without public representatives at the table. What about the impact of this decision on this local charity and the vital services they provide? What about the people who run the shop or the people who were regular visitors? These things matter and would've been raised had a discussion taken place. The question is what are we going to do now as a council to support the invaluable work that WH Five Loaves does?"

Deputy Brady concluded "Wicklow County Council need to give a full explanation why they are not renewing the lease. They also need to review their decision with a view to having the lease renewed so the organisation can continue to do the fantastic work they do."

Date confirmed for final fire test on Greystones Community National School

The final fire test on Greystones Community National School is set to be carried out in the middle of July. Since taking control of the school on June 10th the Department of Education has been examining the steel columns in the school.

They have been noting the exact as-built features of the four different types of columns used in the school.

A series of four fire tests, one for each type of column, was commissioned with a Test Laboratory in the UK -BRE.

The first test, carried out on June 22nd, passed the 60-minute requirement achieving 64 minutes before the test was concluded.

The second test, scheduled for June 24th, had to be prematurely shut down due to a technical fault in the furnace. This test has been rescheduled for July 10th.

The third and fourth tests were carried out on Monday, June 28th and Wednesday, June 30th. Last Wednesday, it was discovered that the test laboratory had made an error in conducting these last two tests.

The problem was both tests were subjected to previously determined loadings for such columns rather than the actual as-built loadings.

As a result, these two tests will have to be rerun by the Laboratory.

The dates for the rescheduled tests are 8th and 14th July respectively.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "It is frustrating there have been so many set backs in getting the fire tests completed but at least we do now have a completion date."

"The teachers, pupils, and parents are extremely eager to get the green light to move into the school and have it ready to go for September."

"It's been an incredibly stressful year for everybody involved so the sooner we can get clarity on this issue the better. I will continue to work with the Department to make sure the opening happens as quickly and smoothly as possible."

In September 2015, 20 Junior Infants started their primary school education in a newly appointed KWETB community school. They were first accommodated in a spare classroom in Temple Cragg Secondary School, and in October 2015 were moved to prefabs on the grounds of Greystones Rugby Club. WBS



Minister Stephen Donnelly

was awarded the tender for the school's construction in the summer of 2018 and construction started that August. On 7th September 2018, the Department of Education issued multiple

High Court proceedings against WBS regarding fire safety issues with 42 schools which had been completed by WBS.

Almost €1 million has been spent by the Department in rent to

the rugby club since CNS first occupied prefabs on the club's grounds (approximately €11,000 per month).

In addition to this, locally the Department of Education has spent approximately €10K per month in rent to Greystones Lawn Tennis Club for the use of its clubhouse for Greystones Community College, a new secondary school, since September 2020..

Explaining the fire safety issue, the Planning and Building Unit of the Department of Education issued a letter about the on May 7th stating "During the construction period, significant on-site quality assurance measures were put in place by the Department and its technical team and all issues which arose were dealt with in accordance with the terms of the PWC. Ultimately this led to the test, on 22nd July 2020, of a vertical loaded steel beam, which was carried out in an accredited UK Test Laboratory (BRE). The test failed to reach the 60 minute requirements of the Fire Cert."



Kate Merrigan at the Rathnew AFC 'Respect Me Respect the Community' soccer tournament. Pic: Michael Kelly

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Cllr Avril Cronin, new Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District

West Wicklow elects its first ever female Cathaoirleach

History was made last week, as Fine Gael Councillor Avril Cronin was elected as the first ever female Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District.

Speaking on her election, Cllr Cronin said, "I am thrilled to take up the role as Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District today. I will use this year to ensure that we have a strong voice at County level and ensure that strong voice is heard."

"I firmly believe that you only become involved in politics if you have a passion for it. My passion is politics and I take great pride in my community. I am very proud of West Wicklow and the communities within the district that I represent," said Cllr Cronin.

Cllr Cronin continued, "I look forward to the year ahead and will carry out my duties as Cathaoirleach with great pride and dignity and will ensure that I represent the people of West Wicklow to the best of my ability."

Speaking on being the first female elected to the role, Cronin said, "I hope that I can encourage younger people to get involved in politics and more importantly encourage more female participation in politics". I feel very proud to be the first ever female councillor to be elected to the district and today, becoming the first female Cathaoirleach."

'South Wicklow residents need travel options to access Wexford vaccination centre'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to provide transport for Wicklow residents who need it to get to the vaccination centre in Wexford, their nearest hub.

Wexford Bus stepped in to provide public transport for people in South Wicklow travelling to Shoreline Vaccination Centre at Greystones, but Deputy Whitmore has been calling for transport to also be provided to the new vaccination centre in the Kilarerin Community Centre in Wexford.

She said, "there seems to be no consideration as to how people will travel to this rural location to get their vaccinations."

Deputy Whitmore said, "While I welcome the opening up of another vaccination centre, I did have reservations as to

its location which is not easily accessible for people travelling from South Wicklow. The Kilarerin Community Centre is about 15 minutes drive from Arklow but is not located along any public bus route.

"When the news broke about the cancellation of the Arklow Bay Hotel, I spoke with Wexford Bus to ascertain whether their existing service from Wicklow Town to Dublin took in the Greystones Shoreline venue. Whilst they didn't provide this 2km detour, they were open to doing so and they were in contact with the

NTA about doing so. Wexford Bus was happy to expand as they already operate on this route and it was a relatively simple expansion of the existing service."

However, this is not currently possible for the Wexford vaccination centre due to its remote location.

"Many people have contacted me asking for help as they can't find a way to get to the vaccination centre across the border into Wexford. Some don't have cars, live in rural areas and can't afford a taxi. Others are in situations that prevent them

from leaving home without any access to public transport options.

"There simply aren't any options for these people. I have been in touch with the HSE to find out plans to expand the National Ambulance Service not only for those over the age of 70 but also for younger people who can't travel to the Kilarerin Vaccination centre in Wexford.

"In these circumstances the Minister needs to step in here to find a solution that works for people in this situation," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Community Finance Ireland to lend their support for organisations in Wicklow

Fund reflects confidence in community sector to lead recovery

Community Finance Ireland has announced a €10 million All-Island Recovery Loan fund, its first all-island loan scheme. The fund will offer flexible loans of €10,000-€500,000 to community sector organisations including faith-based groups, sports clubs and social enterprises in Wicklow.

Between 2016 and 2020, Community Finance Ireland financed loans to the value of €11.3 million for organisations in Leinster, including Irish Red Cross Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue in Wicklow.

Commenting on the launch, Barry Symes, Client Executive Manager, at Community Finance Ireland said: "Throughout the pandemic we witnessed the incredible resilience of the community sector, with many pivoting their offerings and exploring new opportunities for development. The All-Island Recovery Loan fund is open to organisations who want to build on these new opportunities to recover, rebuild or reimagine what they can bring to their local community."

"Despite the challenges of Covid-19 and public health restrictions, our client portfolios performed well over the past year and at Community Finance Ireland, we have nothing but confidence in the sector and its ability to play a pivotal role in bringing our local communities back together and to create something new in response to the changes our communities have undergone during the past year."

"The new recovery fund supports the strategic priorities outlined in 'Our Rural Future', launched by the government earlier this year, which aims to transform the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas. The flexible nature of the fund with the added value of a one-to-one relationship with a dedicated client manager who knows the sector and the local area, makes it a great option for communities exploring how they can become more attractive locations for people to live and work."

"The All-Island Recovery Loan fund supports longer term loans plus short term bridging loans. There are no time restrictions around funding and we will respond to applications within 48 hours of receipt."

In early 2020, the Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team planned to develop their Mountain Rescue Base in Laragh with

grant aid from the County Wicklow Partnership. The project included the provision of additional car parking, and the development of equipment storage facilities and environmental systems. Community Finance Ireland provided additional financial support through a bridging loan for the project until grant aid was made available, as well as project development advice.

Commenting on the support received from Community Finance Ireland, Diarmaid Scully, Treasurer Glen of Imaal

Mountain Rescue said: "When the Project experienced difficulties in securing the necessary project bridging finance from their bank, the team approached Community Finance Ireland which has a strong relationship with the community and voluntary sector in Ireland."

"Community Finance Ireland were extremely helpful with project advice and very supportive of the mountain rescue base development project. They quickly came on board the project making over €100,000 in bridging finance available until arrival of the grant aid from the County Partnership fund. The development project was successfully completed in Nov 2020 despite the impact of the COVID-19 safety limitations."



Pictured on Fatham Hill near the Irish border, Community Finance Ireland Associate Directors for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Phelim Sharvin and Emmett O'Hara, meet to toast the launch of the its first all-island loan scheme. The fund will offer flexible loans of €10,000-€500,000, and a fast response to applications in just 48 hours, to community sector organisations including faith-based groups, sports clubs and social enterprises.

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Holyhead men paddle kayak to Greystones

On Thursday 1st July Holyhead men Andy Smith and Steve Miles paddled their kayaks all the way to Greystones, starting at 4am and arriving at Greystones Harbour Marina at 9pm.

The Irish Sea Charity Paddle was in aid of a Cancer Unit and a mental health charity in North Wales.

Andy and Steve were welcomed by former councillor Kathleen Kelleher, Cllr. Derek Mitchell, and a very welcome pint of Guinness. These had to be takeaway as with Covid restrictions they could tie up but not land.

They were accompanied by a sailing boat from Holyhead Sailing Club which loaded up the kayaks and sailed back that night.

Greystones and Holyhead are twinning partners with many areas of common interest.

The kayakers followed official

instructions from the Irish Coast Guard and did not disembark.

They took on water and loaded their kayaks and then they returned to Holyhead.

Andy and Steve were assisted in their efforts by the support boat, Late Starter, captained by Mick Thorne and crewed by Sue James.

Sue is Commodore of Holyhead Sailing Club and both are directors of the club. Andy is doing the trip for two charities, Mencap Mon, for people with disabilities, and Alaw Ward Cancer Unit in Bangor Hospital.

Andy's sister is ill with brain issues which is why he chose these

charities. Andy was following in the footsteps of his father, who rowed across the Irish Sea in 1972, so the trip was also in memory of him.

Steve has made the kayaking journey to Ireland several times before.

Their fundraising target is £10,000, and approximately £7,000 has been raised so far. Monies will be split between the two charities.

Greystones Sailing Club members were sailing in the water at the time of their arrival and many offered their congratulations for such a wonderful achievement.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell said "I was delighted that the Holyhead kayakers had a smooth trip over. They were remarkably successful despite several previous postponements. Well done to them! I look forward to renewing our twinning contacts in the future. Especially as both Holyhead and Greystones are seaside towns. This was a great achievement and it was sad that they were not able to land and we were not able to have a proper welcome. They had hoped to do this in 2020 but health restrictions delayed it."

Any donation would be gratefully accepted.

See www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/andy-williams-485 for details on how to donate.



Andy Williams, Steve Miles, Mick Thorne and Sue James after their arrival in Greystones Harbour.

Bray Dart Station upgrade confirmed by Irish Rail

Irish Rail has confirmed that an upgrade to the front of Bray Dart Station will take place, with works due to commence in the third quarter of this year.

Welcoming the news, Jennifer Whitmore TD said "Irish Rail and the Minister for Transport has confirmed that works will commence shortly this year on the set-down and forecourt area of Bray Dart Station. As any resident or commuter knows, this area is in need of an upgrade to fix the pathways and for safer and easier drop offs and collections at busy times.

"As more and more people move to Bray and across Wicklow there will be more and more people using train stations and so it's important that they are maintained to facilitate this traffic. It's important that these places are well serviced with public toilets, bike facilities and functioning drop off areas and I'm delighted that Bray Dart Station will see an improvement shortly.

"Due to the future of

DART+ services and with the current 10 minute DART timetable in operations to and from Bray, the Station is only set to get busier. In addition to an increase of passenger numbers there's an additional number of train drivers in Bray. I'm delighted that in response to this Irish Rail have confirmed Irish Rail that due to demand for more staff space there are plans to include new staff rooms, training facilities and meeting rooms in the station as well.

"While this is welcome, there is the larger discussion of expanding our rail and bus services across Wicklow to and I will continue to liaise with the NTA, Irish Rail and the Department for Transport on expanding our transport network across Wicklow," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Delgany to Blacklion CPO published

The Compulsory Purchase Order for the Delgany to Blacklion Road and Cycleway was published last Wednesday.

Cllr Derek Mitchell welcomed the publication and described the plans to join five schools with a cyclepath and footpath as "probably unique in Ireland".

On the publication of the report, Cllr Mitchell said "I have been pressing for this for years. This is a major step forward and if there are no Court cases construction should start about May 2022.

"This has been planned since 1989 and houses are being built all around the area. I hope that children will use it to cycle and walk to school cutting down car traffic.

"It covers about 40 small plots of land. Generally these are ends of driveways and garden walls."

Some progress was made on the road in October of last year with the allocation of €280,000 in Government funding for a safer road at Delgany Wood Avenue and Blacklion Manor with the addition of a signalled pedestrian crossing and better junctions. Since then however Cllr Mitchell has complained that progress has been too slow.

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President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina chat with Jackie Carroll, Helena Fallon, Joe Lane, Theresa O'Brien, and Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen during a visit to Carrig Eden last week. Photos: Michael Kelly

President Higgins visits Carrig Eden

President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina were welcomed to the Carrig Eden Centre in Greystones last Tuesday, where they were given a tour of the newly refurbished building.

Carrig Eden has just undergone a substantial refurbishment and retrofit in partnership with Wicklow County Council.

The centre is home to those who have completed a rehabilitation programme at Tiglin in Ashford. At the end of a two-hour visit, during which they met and talked with residents and staff and planted a cherry blossom sapling, President Higgins gave a speech in which he called the visit "a wonderful experience".

"Would that every local authority in the country had a place like this, I think it would make such a huge difference," he said. "Listening to these people's stories, stories of people who have had their participation in life, for one reason or another, disrupted, and the manner in which they've been able, not just to get out of the immediate space in which they've found themselves, but to discover a new space and go on full of hope and joy, it's been such a positive experience."

"Great credit too must go to those who had the idea originally, people like Chair of Tiglin Aubrey McCarthy, and all the different people in the private sector who assisted."

"In my previous life I was a practicing sociologist, I'm very interested in addiction, I've visited many centres and there are different forms of addiction. It's sinister and it's subtle in the way it manifests itself and not



President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina plant a Cherry Blossom with Aubrey McCarthy of Tiglin during a visit to Carrig Eden last week.

easy. But I do have to say as President, that we have an obligation as a society to look at what is in fact creating the opportunities for addiction. I'm a life-time supporter of sport, and during Covid my heart broke regular times to think that sport is being saturated with gambling advertisements which are so dangerous and have done so much damage to families and individuals.

"Carrig Eden is something that Wicklow, and Tiglin can be proud of. You have this magnificent example available for all of the people who want to use it. I hope when county managers and counsellors meet, that they take this example and say 'could we not be doing something like this in our own areas'."

Carrig Eden is Tiglin's 34-unit aftercare

centre which complements Tiglin's residential rehabilitation services for men in Ashford and women in Brittas Bay.

Many of Carrig Eden's residents, having completed the Tiglin rehabilitation programme, are now either in employment or education.

In Carrig Eden they receive the support and encouragement they need to stay on the right path in life and to eventually move on to healthy and productive lives back in their communities.

"We believe that true value and real change emerges over time, as a result of healthy relationships, good ideas, sound decision making and a lot of hard work. But none of that results in long-term value creation without the most important factors: patience and commitment," Tiglin says.

"We strive to help the 'whole person', not just the substance abuse. The Tiglin Challenge approach is to teach a whole new way of living by addressing family relationships, work attitudes, self image, peer pressure, temptation, community relationships and a variety of other life skills."



Sabina Higgins talks fashion with Ann Thompson

Dr Kennedy presented with Langton Medal

The Lambeth Palace Awards in 2020 included Greystones resident Dr Margaret Kennedy. Last week she was finally presented with the medal as presentations were not possible in 2020 due to Covid.



Dr Margaret Kennedy

She was awarded the Langton Award for Community Service, for rendering "outstanding service to victims and survivors of church-related sexual abuse through founding MACSAS UK".

A presentation celebration of Margaret's lifetime campaigning and activities in the field of child and adult abuse in Christian Communities both in the UK and Ireland took place in St Patrick's Church, Greystones, on 30th June at, hosted by Canon David Mungavin, with officiating presenter on behalf of Archbishop

Welby of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Michael Jackson.

Dr Kennedy is now quite ill/disabled from a rare neuro-muscular degenerative disease both she and her twin have, both are now wheelchair users.

The presentation marks life long service to both disabled children, again focusing on abuse (her paid employment) and her voluntary work in setting up 'Christian Survivors of sexual abuse' (cssa) in 1989 and MACSAS - 'Minister & Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors' in 1992.

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Wicklow house prices rise 4.2% in three months

The price of the average second-hand three-bed semi in County Wicklow has risen 4.2% to €316,000 in the last three months, according to a national survey by Real Estate Alliance. According to a separate report by MyHome.ie, property prices in Wicklow have risen by €15,000 during the quarter.

Across the county, time taken to sell fell to four weeks from an average of five this quarter, the REA Average House Price Index shows.

Average prices in Bray rose 2.8% to €370,000 this period, with time to sell currently at three weeks. North East Wicklow prices rose 3.1% to €330,000.

During this period, prices in Wicklow town rose 2.5% to €330,000, with time to sell remaining at four weeks.

"A mixture of lack of supply in both new and second-hand houses, along with increased demand from Dublin-based buyers and a high level of mortgage liquidity is driving prices upwards," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin, Wicklow.

"As more stock is introduced to the market, especially from the new homes market, we expect prices to level off.

Average prices in Blessington rose 3.2% this quarter to €325,000, with time to sell remaining at four weeks. Baltinglass prices rose 12.5% to €225,000 and time to sell in the area fell by a fortnight to six weeks.

"Demand remains strong, and a quantity of properties are being sold prior to coming to the market at prices above expectations. Stronger estates in Blessington are heading towards €350,000," said Simon Murphy of REA Murphy, Blessington and Baltinglass.

"Limited supply is a contributing factor, plus the factor of remote working is increasing enquiries."

Average house prices have risen by almost €1,000 per week nationwide since the end of March, the REA Average House Price Survey has found.

The survey concentrates on the actual sale price of Ireland's typical stock home, the three-bed semi, giving an accurate picture of the second-hand property market in towns and cities countrywide.

Fuelled by pent-up demand and the return of physical viewing, the marketplace is also seeing the lowest supply and the shortest time taken to sell in recent history.

And as multiple buyers bid for scarce supplies, the average three bed semi is

now reaching sale agreed after just four weeks on the market across the country - less than half the ten-week average this time last year.

The price of a three-bedroomed semi-detached house across the country rose by €10,000 over the past three months to €253,685 - representing an annual increase of 8%.

The biggest rises in Q2 came in commuter counties and the country's large towns as buyers continue to move out further from the city in preparation for long-term hybrid working situations.

In Dublin city, house prices rose by €1,500 per week in Q2, increasing from €438,500 in March to a present rate of €456,667.

Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford cities shared a combined increase of 3.5% in the past 12 weeks with prices rising by €10,000 to an average of €275,000. Three bed semis in commuter counties rose 4.33% by over €11,000 in the past three months to an average of €270,111 - with the average home selling in just three weeks, down from a high of 11

weeks a year ago.

As the flight to rural locations continues, prices in the rest of the country's towns rose by over 4.6% in Q2 to €176,690.

The MyHome.ie report for Q2 2021 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county is now €350,000. Prices have risen by the same amount compared to this time last year.

Continuing with this trend, asking prices for a 3-bed semi-detached house rose by €4,500 over the quarter to €347,000. This means that prices in the segment have risen by €31,000 compared to this time last year.

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow rose by €35,000 over the quarter to €465,000. This represents an increase of €37,000 compared to Q2 2020. The number of properties for sale in Wicklow on MyHome.ie fell by 11% in the last quarter.

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



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Wicklow the most expensive county for childcare outside Dublin

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has warned that the government is continuing to fail families through its ongoing failure to address skyrocketing childcare fees despite being in power for a year.

Deputy Brady said: "Childcare costs are far too high and are simply unaffordable for families on ordinary incomes. The government needs to properly fund the sector, so that childcare fees will go down and families' finances will get a much-needed break.

"This time last year in their Programme for Government, the coalition announced a series of promises to reform the childcare sector.

"However, we are now a year on and not only have childcare fees not fallen, but they have actually risen even further.

"This failure is letting down families here in Wicklow who are faced with weekly fees of €203.58 per child. This makes Wicklow the most expensive

County outside Dublin for childcare. Families with more than one child in full time childcare must meet an even more significant financial burden on a monthly basis. Families urgently need childcare fees to go down.

"Parents in Wicklow are struggling to cope with skyrocketing childcare fees and change needs to happen urgently.

"The Government has dismally failed working parents who need affordable childcare in their first year. Families are crying out for this crisis to be addressed, but the Government isn't listening.

"The consequences of this childcare crisis are clear. Many parents want to return to work but cannot afford to and so leave their jobs or reduce their hours to stay

at home with their children instead. This particularly affects women, who often feel forced to drop out of the workforce and this deepens inequality in our society.

"Sinn Féin in government would prioritise tackling the cost of childcare. We would take on the cost of staff wages, so that fees would go down for parents. This would reduce fees by one third within the first year and then by two thirds over five years. This would be a crucial investment in our children's futures.

"Childcare should be affordable, and it should be accessible locally. It's a place where children go to learn, develop and grow - that's why it's vital we get it right.

"As they mark one year of being in government, the coalition marks a year of failing to act on the childcare crisis. There can be no more delays. They must act and reduce childcare fees to give families a much-needed break."



New Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Lourda Scott with outgoing Cathaoirleach Derek Mitchell

'I intend to work on engaging with all members of our community more effectively'

Green Party councillor Lourda Scott was elected Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District last week, and says that she is "looking forward to supporting the community, especially local businesses, as we move slowly back to normality".

First elected to represent Greystones Municipal District in 2019, she is a member of Wicklow County Council Climate & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee. She moved from her native County Laois to Greystones with her family eight years ago.

Addressing members of Greystones Municipal District following her election, Cllr Scott referred to the challenges of the past year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic but also acknowledged the many positive things such as the amazing grass roots community support network that grew so quickly, outdoor dining spaces and increased walking and cycling.

She said she looked forward to supporting the Greystones community, especially businesses, as we move slowly back to normality and also to continuing her work with local groups across the district "to protect our fragile green and blue spaces."

Additionally, Cllr Scott said she plans to work on engaging with all members of the community more effectively, particularly older and younger people, to improve facilities for young people and to continue working on other projects such as Park and Stride and walking bus initiatives, period poverty and working with the Greystones Delgany Sustainable Energy Community.

Cllr Scott takes over from Fine Gael councillor Derek Mitchell. Speaking last week, she said "I am honoured to accept the position of Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District I thank my fellow Councillors for supporting me. We have a good cross party working relationship and I look forward to working together for over the next 12 months."

This past year has been an extremely challenging one and I want to acknowledge the difficulties and losses that so many people have suffered during the pandemic. I am conscious that we are on the point

of change right now as we move out of Covid but at the same time great uncertainty still remains. I will be looking at the positive things that came out of Covid such as the amazing grass roots community support network that grew so quickly, the outdoor dining spaces, increased walking and cycling and how we can keep and improve on these.

We've also seen over the last year, an increased appreciation of the beautiful area that we are lucky enough to live in as people explored every inch of their 5km. I will continue to work with local groups to protect our fragile green and blue spaces, whether that's as simple as getting extra bins or working on policy matters through the Climate and Biodiversity SPC where I will be taking over as Chair later in the year.

I also intend to work on engaging with all members of our community more effectively. We have been cut off from each other for far too long and as restrictions lift it will be great to get back to meeting and talking to people about their needs in person. I am particularly thinking of the older and younger members of our community who were most affected by the pandemic and yet we probably hear their voice the least. The lack of facilities for youth in the area is a particular problem. I am looking forward to getting the results of the social infrastructure audit and working with officials to see how we can address this. It has been very positive to see people logging into our online meetings and I will work with Council officials on how we can keep this interaction as we move back to normal meetings.

I will continue my work on other projects such as Park and Stride and walking bus initiatives, period poverty and working with the Greystones Delgany Sustainable Energy Community.

When I was elected a key focus of my campaign was the need to strengthen our community and allow our environment to flourish. After such turbulent times along with the huge development in our area, these aims have never been more important. I am committed to working with people across the district along with our dedicated team of local staff to make this happen.

Plans for large commercial facility at former Schering Plough site in Bray

The Council is due to make a decision later this month on a planning application for a large commercial facility, primarily selling goods aimed at the trade sector, at the old Schering Plough site on the Boghall Road Bray.

Barnaby Investments Limited is seeking permission for: a two-storey commercial building (2221sqm) comprising six separate warehousing/light industrial units each ranging from 325-512 sqm and being served by ancillary counters principally serving trade customers; provision of an external car park comprising 29 vehicular spaces and 10 cycle parking spaces.

The plans also include two new vehicular entrances, along the

northern site boundary off the Boghall Road and in the south eastern corner of the site.

It is envisaged that the new facility will be accommodated by businesses selling building related products principally to trade, steel fabrication, furniture making and solar panel manufacturing.

The site is currently zoned 'E1'-Employment Uses in the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024, with the objective to 'provide for the development of

enterprise and employment'.

Planning permission was granted by Wicklow County Council in 2018 for the construction of a builder merchants building on the site to the immediate south of the Schering Plough site. Barnaby Investments Ltd also has permission for an enterprise centre on parts of the site.

The Schering Plough buildings were demolished in 2014 and a layer of topsoil was placed over the site.

'Clarity urgently needed on Barndarrig water supply'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has said that urgent clarity is needed from Irish Water to explain the slow progress to date on lifting the Do Not Consume water notice in Barndarrig.

Irish Water confirmed last week that water monitoring will be in place with the view to lifting the ban in a number of weeks after levels have been checked within that time.

However, Deputy Whitmore says "We should be at a much further point in this situation than currently is the case. After nearly 5 months of living under a Do Not Consumer Notice during a pandemic, residents are fed up and urgently need clarity as to the future lifting of the ban."

"After raising it with the Minister in the Dáil a number of weeks ago, the Minister indicated to me that treatment, not just monitoring would be in place at

this stage, yet Irish Water's latest update contradicts this. Why has it taken five months before monitoring was put in place and what has been going on all this time?

"Monitoring is not the same as treatment, as the aim is to define the level of nitrates which takes time. Treatment cleans the water to make it consumable again, something urgently needed now at this time so far on."

"I am also disappointed that Irish Water have refused my suggestion to provide a tanker to provide drinking water to residents instead of bottled water, however they have been delivering to those most vulnerable."

"It will take more than water monitoring to bring certainty to residents at Barndarrig and reassurance that this will not happen in future. We need treatment of the water as well as an upgrade to the facility to ensure the source and treatment of nitrites is tackled once and for all," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

'Better management of on-street furniture needed'

Several initiatives announced by the Government in recent months have promoted an outdoor summer. This has included funding to improve public spaces, litter management and grant funding for restaurants and cafes to buy outdoor furniture.

Some concerns have been raised about the management of this furniture, the blocking of paths and the knock-on impact for accessibility in our towns and villages.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has asked that local authorities take a more proactive approach to managing and enforcing the conditions for licencing of outdoor furniture to ensure that disability access and safe footpaths are maintained.

Discussing these concerns, Deputy Steven Matthews said: "Better management of street and outdoor dining furniture is required to maintain accessibility for all. It's great to see our streets alive again with outdoor dining and lots of seating but in some cases, it is causing



Steven Matthews TD

have always presented a problem for pedestrians. Even poorly placed planters and bins can be problematic, and we highlight this issue every year on Make Way Day.

"The re-allocation of car spaces, pedestrianisation and provision of lots of street furniture this year are welcome additions to our towns and cities and has provided a huge boost for eligible businesses when they were able to recommence trading. While I completely support all these measures, these businesses and the

local authorities must ensure they leave space for pedestrians. Tables and chairs can creep during a day's use as diners arrive or leave or move to catch the sunshine and in the first instance, it is the responsibility of the business owner to manage this as they would any part of their premises."

"Where a problem persists, the Local Authority must step up and inspect and act at problem locations. I have asked the Minister for Planning and Local Government - Peter Burke to ensure that Local Authorities are reminded of their responsibilities and that they should engage with business to offer guidance on how much space must be maintained for safe pedestrian use. I'm happy to see that Dublin City Council have acted on this and have provided guidance and I'm calling on all Local Authorities to follow this example."

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Gillian, Siun, Senan, and Erin Byrne pictured with Aine Byrne (right), who's been named the Woodenbridge Golf Club Girls Junior Captain for 2021.

Call for trial rollout of 'quiet carriages' for autistic people

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has called for the rollout of 'quiet carriages' on trains following engagement with Iarnród Éireann and autism charity - As I Am.

This scheme, which is common practice in other jurisdictions, offers autistic people and their carers a space to use to calm themselves down during what can be hugely stressful periods, especially if they are taking a lengthy journey.

Irish Rail operated quiet carriages between 2010 and 2018 on the Dublin to Cork line but then phased it out for various operational reasons. Discussing the campaign, Deputy Matthews said "This is an issue that was brought to my attention by As I Am in recent weeks and I fully support their efforts. Quiet carriages do exactly what they say on the tin and offers passengers one carriage or more on a train where you can't play music, talk on the phone, or engage in loud conversations. This is particularly pertinent for those with autism and their carers but may be of benefit to any train passenger who wish to have a peaceful and quiet journey."

"I'm fully supportive of As I Am's campaign and welcomed the very positive engagement in the first instance with the Minister for Transport who referred me to deal with Irish Rail directly who subsequently outlined their plans in this regard. As it stands, Irish Rail have confirmed that they are investigating the reintroduction of quiet carriages, on a trial basis in the first instance on the Dublin-Cork line. This assessment will be carried out in the coming months."

"Many families and carers have been lobbying for the return of quiet carriages ever since their phasing out in 2018 and I absolutely understand their concerns. Given the unprecedented investment we are seeing in public transport infrastructure, we need to consider more vulnerable passengers and our focus at a national level should be about making public transport accessible and welcoming to all passengers."

"This is a very positive start but in the long term, I think they should go further and trial quiet carriages on all commuter services, possibly at certain times to allow people who require them the option day to day. I look forward to continuing to work with Irish Rail and As I Am in the coming months to support the start of this pilot scheme and I hope that, if it is to be successful then it could be rolled out further," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Harris promises further rounds of funding under Safe Routes to School Programme

Minister Simon Harris TD has congratulated three Wicklow Schools that are to receive funding under the Safe Routes to School Programme.

Minister Harris said: "The Safe Routes to School programme aims to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school by providing walking and cycling facilities".

The three Wicklow schools awarded funding under the present round of the scheme are: St. Michael and Peter Junior School, Hickey's Hill, Arklow; St Kevin's National School, Rathdown Road, Greystones; St. John's S.N.S. Coolgreaney Road, Arklow

Minister Harris continued "A number of other local schools have applied to the safe routes to school scheme and have not been included in the first round of funding. I have supported a number of these local schools proposals and I am happy to report that



Minister Simon Harris

they need not reapply to the scheme as there will be further rounds of funding announced in the future".

The Safe Routes to School Programme is funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority (NTA) and is supported by the Department of Education. An Taisce's

Green-Schools is co-ordinating the programme, while funding will be made available to local authorities which will play a key part in delivering the infrastructure along access routes and at the school gate.

"This is a really positive initiative. The improvements to the school commute range from an upgraded footpath or new cycle lane to a complete reworking of the road outside a school's entrance. Cycle and scooter parking will be provided to most schools that are part of the programme. Walking, scooting and cycling to school fosters independence, and is a healthy way for our young people to get around as well as helping us all to cut emissions and air pollution. The government has now made the scheme a multi-annual programme which means other schools which applied for funding will, over time, receive investment", Minister Harris concluded.

Wicklow RNLI in multi-agency rescue of young girls on inflatable



Wicklow RNLI coming to the aid of the girls. Photo by Wicklow RNLI

Both Wicklow RNLI lifeboats were launched shortly before 5:30pm on Sunday 27th June following reports of two young girls in difficulties on an inflatable toy off the Silver Strand beach south of Wicklow head.

The Inshore lifeboat arrived on scene at 5:38pm and located four people on rocks near the beach. Two men who were on the beach with their families were concerned about the two young swimmers' safety and entered the water to help them. They managed to get them up onto rocks near the beach.

Conditions at the scene were wind north easterly force four with moderate sea. The inshore lifeboat crew took the four people from the rocks and transferred them to the all-weather lifeboat which was standing by offshore. 'Rescue 116' stood by overhead as the casualties were transferred to the lifeboat.

The winchman was lowered onto the lifeboat to carry out a medical assessment on the four casualties. The two young girls were then transferred to the Coast Guard helicopter and flown to Dublin Airport, where they were met by an Ambulance crew and brought for further medical attention.

The two men, who had rescued the two girls did not require any further medical assistance and were brought back to Wicklow harbour for a well-deserved hot drink at the lifeboat station after their quick intervention to help the young girls.

Speaking after the callout, Wicklow RNLI Press Officer, Tommy Dover said, "The quick actions of the two swimmers who went to the aid of the young girls resulted in a positive outcome this afternoon and we would urge people not to use inflatable toys on the beach."



COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 4 OF 2021 – CONFIRMATION ORDER NO. 5 ASHWOOD, ROUNDWOOD, ARKLOW, CO WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 28th day of June 2021, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

An application for judicial review of the decision of the Board under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

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Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/59/100 5 Ashwood, Roundwood, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 247m ²	Claire Keeley and Niall Cleary of 5 Ashwood, Roundwood, Co.Wicklow	Not Known	Not Known

Dated this 28th day of June 2021.
Joe Lane, Director Services.

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Declan Doyle, Vice President for Development and Research, IT Carlow (5th from right) and Donal McAlister, International Manager, IT Carlow (4th from right) are pictured with associates in China. Also pictured are: Giles O'Neill, Head of Education in Ireland (4th from left); President Lui of HUAHE University (5th from left); former Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD (8th from left) and former Irish Ambassador to China Eoin O'Leary (9th from left).

IT Carlow is first Irish institute of technology to establish in China

Carlow International College of Technology approved by Chinese Ministry

Institute of Technology Carlow has become the first Irish institute of technology to receive approval from the Chinese Ministry of Education to establish a joint institute in China.

Carlow International College of Technology, located in the city of Zhengzhou in Henan province, has been approved for an annual intake of 280 students and a total learner population of 1,120 from September 2022. The new college will initially deliver three degree programmes: a BSc (Honours) in Brewing and Distilling; a BSc (Honours) in Sustainable Farm Management and Agribusiness and a BSc (Honours) in Software Development.

Carlow International College of Technology will run in partnership with Henan University of Animal Husbandry and Economy (HUAHE). Its establishment, with the backing of the Chinese Ministry of Education, is the first ever endorsement given by the Chinese government to an Irish institute of technology; currently, only UCD and NUI Maynooth have a similar approval.

Ambassador of Ireland to the People's Republic of China, Dr. Ann Derwin congratulated Institute of Technology Carlow on its achievement. Ambassador Derwin commented, "On behalf of Team Ireland in China, and as the ambassador of Ireland to China, sincere congratulations to IT Carlow for being the first Irish Institute of Technology to receive approval from the Ministry of Education for a joint institute in China. It is a great achievement and many congratulations."

"Carlow International College of Technology, in partnership with Henan University of Animal Husbandry and Economy, will further contribute to the educational and research exchanges between Ireland and China in the areas of food, farming and computing."

"I look forward to the launch of this partnership and be assured of the continuous support of Team Ireland in China", continued Ambassador Derwin.

Henan province, home to Carlow International College of Technology, is China's most populous province with over 112 million residents, where IT Carlow has been working with university partners for almost 20 years.

Carlow International College of Technology is the culmination of a three-year due diligence process that saw a series of site visits by senior academics between HUAHE and IT Carlow. The

application process including meetings with a validation panel nominated by the Chinese ministry prior to application approval.

IT Carlow Vice-President for Development at Research Declan Doyle and Donal McAlister, International Affairs Manager, led the application process. Mr Doyle commented, "This is a hugely important development in international relations for Institute of Technology Carlow. We have been working in China since 1995, during which time more than 1,000 Chinese students have graduated from the institute across all of our faculties. The cooperation and advice received from the Embassy of Ireland in China and from Education in Ireland was critical to the success of this application."

President of HUAHE Shixi Luo commented, "The establishment of Carlow International College of Technology will bring closer cooperation between IT Carlow and HUAHE in the field of talent training, thus leading to further exchanges in science, technology and culture. Through the integration of educational philosophy and resources, the internationalisation level of the two institutions will be promoted and the domestic and international influence of the two institutions will be enhanced."

"This cooperation will bring a new level of cooperation in higher education between China and Ireland and inject new momentum for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries".

Former Irish ambassador to China, Mr Eoin O'Leary, travelled to Zhengzhou on two occasions to accompany the IT Carlow team to high-level meetings with the provincial ministry.

Policy implementation was overseen by David Denieffe Vice President for Academic Affairs, while Assistant Registrar, Dr. Yvonne Kavanagh and Dr. David Ryan led a number of site visits and chaired the validation meetings.

In a separate initiative, IT Carlow is currently collaborating with another Chinese education partner regarding the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Visual Communications and Design taught at its Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (WCSAD). Some 200 students are enrolled at this course in North East China, while approval is also pending from the National Accreditation Board in Ghana of a collaboration with the institute's Department of Computing.

By the academic year 2025/26, Institute of Technology Carlow will have 2,000 learners based overseas making it the largest Irish provider of transnational education programmes.

Wicklow's top business women crowned at Network Ireland Awards

Network Ireland Wicklow Branch has announced the winners of the Wicklow Businesswoman of the Year Awards.

Four individual awards were presented to outstanding female business leaders in their respective categories on the 26th of June at a garden party in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy.

The Solo Businesswoman category was awarded to Deirdre Doyle of The Cool Food School, which was created to teach children the joy of healthy eating.

The Emerging New Business category was awarded to Gemma O'Halloran of GOH Consulting. Gemma is a business strategist and business development mentor for online coaching and consulting businesses.

The Established Business category was awarded to Deborah Brock of Nua Fertility a pioneering Irish fertility health company that has developed scientifically sound, fertility supporting supplements with a microbiome focus.

Network Ireland Wicklow also crowned Joyce Fegan of The

Skye's the Limit as their Power Within champion for 2021. Joyce is a photographer and designer who turned her creativity into a business, producing prints and pattern clothing from the sea while on maternity leave from her job as a journalist.

Network Ireland Wicklow President Jean Evans said, "We were so delighted to celebrate these amazing women and their achievements, safely at our garden party in the Parkview Hotel on Saturday night. They have all built fantastic businesses and shown their determination, grit and creativity during what has been a challenging 18 months for business. We're in awe of them all and congratulate our winners and all of the businesswomen who entered this year's awards."

Judging the awards were; Ciara O'Connor from East Coast FM, Conor O'Leary from Purple House (NI Wicklow Charity Partner), Alice McGarry from AIB, Rachael Dagg from AIB and Ciara McCarthy from

EPS Global.

The Network Ireland Businesswoman of the Year Awards celebrates the excellence, professionalism, vision and Power within all of the women across Ireland. The Wicklow winners will now go forward to compete in the Network Ireland National Awards taking place in September, in Waterford.

Become a member of Network Ireland.

Established in 1983, Network Ireland now has over 1,200 members across fifteen branches around Ireland. Members come from all areas of the business community, those running their businesses, both large and small and those working for corporate and small businesses. Each year they organise over 200 events for members. They also run several flagship national events, including an International Women's Day Celebration and the Annual Conference and Business Awards. In Wicklow, they

welcome all to join them at their two monthly events, an evening event with a guest speaker and an informal networking breakfast meeting, all of which are currently taking place on Zoom. More information available on www.networkireland.ie

If you would like to join, you can contact Jean Evans, Network Ireland Wicklow President at wicklow@networkireland.ie or NI Wicklow Membership Officer Dawn Leane at the same email for more information.

Benefits of membership include: Access to the monthly newsletter; Profile on social media; Access to a highly supportive WhatsApp group; Monthly coffee mornings; Pitch in Person opportunity; Monthly speaker events; National mentoring programme; Self-development with lunch and learn sessions; Community and tribe to support you and your business succeed; Access to national Network Ireland events.



The Wicklow winners of the Wicklow Businesswoman of the Year Awards: Deborah Brock of Nua Fertility, Gemma O'Halloran of GOH Consulting, and Deirdre Doyle of the Cool Food School, with Network Ireland Wicklow President Jean Evans. Unfortunately, the Power Within winner Joyce Fegan from The Skye's the Limit could not be there on the night. Photo by Meabh Fitzpatrick.

'Stay cautious on your staycation'

'Stay cautious on your staycation' is the core message behind a new campaign launched last week by the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and An Garda Síochána.

As holidaymakers across Ireland look forward to a summer break at home, both the RSA and the Gardai are urging road users to ensure that they stay safe on the road by planning their route ahead of time, staying alert when driving on roads in unfamiliar areas, taking a break if tired behind the wheel and looking out for other road users.

Ms. Liz O'Donnell, Chairperson of the Road Safety Authority had this advice for staycationers: "If you are planning a staycation, it's only natural for your driving style to reflect the holiday mood. But when combined with driving on unfamiliar roads, it can be a dangerous mix. While it's great to relax by the beach or in our wonderful green spaces, you need to stay alert when using the road. As our campaign message says, 'stay cautious on your staycation'."

Assistant Commissioner, Paula Hilman, Roads Policing and Community Engagement, An Garda Síochána said: "An Garda Síochána want people to enjoy their summer. If you are planning a staycation, please ensure you plan your journey in advance, take frequent breaks and do not allow any distractions while driving. I appeal to all road users to be vigilant on our roads - be aware of changed road layouts and mindful of vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists and motor cyclists. Park safely and legally when visiting

beaches, beauty spots as well as other public amenities. Parking illegally can lead to unnecessary risk and dangers such as forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads. It is important to ensure our emergency services can gain access to all these areas at all times, so please be mindful during these summer months."

Assistant Commissioner Hilman continued: "It is also important to reduce and eliminate opportunities for crime, so I am appealing to everyone to ensure property or valuables are not left visible in cars or other vehicles."

The RSA is reminding anyone planning on hiring a vehicle, driving a recreational vehicle (RV), or towing a caravan to familiarise themselves with these vehicles and to know the specific rules of the road that apply to them.

Mr Sam Waide, Chief Executive, Road Safety Authority said: "Taking a caravan or an RV on the road offers a sense of adventure within a reasonable budget. Some, who don't own a car and may not drive frequently, may also choose to rent a car solely for the duration of their staycation. If you are renting a car or an RV or you have not towed a caravan before, you need to familiarise yourself with these vehicles and the rules of the road for them before you take to the road. If towing a caravan be aware of the size and type of caravan you are permitted to tow. And remember, the maximum speed limit for towing a caravan is 80km/h."

Be SunSmart and protect children's skin, HSE advises

As summer holidays start for school children, the HSE National Cancer Control Programme in collaboration with Healthy Ireland and cross-sectoral partners are reminding parents and carers to be SunSmart and protect children's skin during the summer holidays.

Playing and spending time outdoors is great for children. Protecting children's skin from the sun when outside reduces their risk of skin cancer in later life. According to Dr Triona McCarthy, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, HSE National Cancer Control Programme, "Children's skin is very sensitive to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun which causes sunburn. Sunburn during childhood increases the risk of getting skin cancer as an adult. If your child is badly sunburned more than 3 times before the age of 20, they more than double their risk of skin cancer as an adult. Yet, a recent report from the Institute of Public Health in

Ireland found that nearly 90% of 10 to 17 year olds said they have experienced sunburn in their lifetime."

In Ireland, UV from the sun is strongest from April to September between 11am-3pm, even when it is cloudy:

- Slip clothing on children that covers skin such as long sleeves, collared t-shirts;
- Slop on sunscreen on exposed areas, using factor 50+ for children;
- Slap on a wide-brimmed hat;
- Seek shade - Sit in cover of trees to avoid direct sunlight and use a sunshade on your buggy or pram. Keep babies and children out of direct sunlight.
- Slide on sunglasses to protect their eyes.



Public urged to conserve water during staycation season to avoid water shortages

As the Irish staycation season is set to enter its busiest period over July and August, Irish Water in partnership with Wicklow County Council is urging the public to conserve water to ensure a consistent supply for all during this busy time.

Irish Water is predicting an increase in domestic and commercial demand for water over the coming months and customers are asked to take some simple measures to conserve water in their homes, their businesses and on their farms.

Small changes can have lasting results, for example: Take a shorter shower and save up to 10 litres of water per minute; Fix dripping taps or leaking toilets in your home; When brushing your teeth or shaving, turn off the tap and save up to 6 litres of water per minute; Save and reuse water collected from baths, showers, and hand basins in the garden; Avoid using paddling pools; In the garden use a rose head watering can instead of a hose and aim for the roots; If you need to wash your car, use a bucket and sponge instead of a hose; Report any leaks to Irish Water at 1800 278 278.

Peter Thornton, Irish Water, said: "As rivers, lakes and groundwater levels reduce through the summer and autumn period, there is less water available for supply,

while at the same time the warmer weather gives rise to increased water demands for domestic, agricultural and leisure uses.

"There are lots of helpful tips for conserving water on water.ie but the key things are to leave the hose and the pressure washer in the shed; don't use paddling pools; reuse household water for the garden; and take shorter showers. Safeguarding the supply of water is essential at this time when handwashing and hygiene is of critical importance. We are calling on everyone to play their part."

Irish Water has been carefully monitoring all of its raw water sources, that is the water from lakes, rivers, springs and ground sources that feed our water treatment plants. Night-time restrictions have been used in a small number of locations across the country to ensure a consistent day time supply for all. While the public are being asked to conserve, there are currently no plans to implement a Water Conservation Order.

Peter continued: "In Irish Water, we are

continually working with our local authority partners to look at what we call the supply/demand balance. This means that we need to ensure that we can supply more treated drinking water than is required for use. We can manage this by conserving water; losing less by repairing leaks; and supplying smarter by ensuring that all of our plants are working optimally. We can all work together to protect our supplies and safeguard our water for essential usage."

With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public are reminded to adhere to public health and HSE advice, and hand-washing and hygiene remain critically important.

Further water conservation information is available on water.ie/conservation

Irish Water continues to work at this time with our Local Authority partners, contractors and others to safeguard the health and well-being of staff and the public and to ensure the continuity of drinking water and wastewater services.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 5 OF 2021 – CONFIRMATION ORDER 10 LIAM MELLOWS AVENUE, ARKLOW, CO WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 28th day of June 2021, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow or at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Arklow.

An application for judicial review of the decision of the Board under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/58/100 10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 221m ²	Michael Murray and Siobhán Murray of "Heatherbank", Vale Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Not Known	Not Known

Dated this 28th day of June 2021.
Joe Lane, Director Services.



Kenneth Rowan (bottom right) from Wicklow joined past and present residents of 'Anvers' in Glenageary, the original rehabilitation home of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, celebrate 21 years since the formation of this national non-profit organisation for brain injury survivors, together with Chief Executive and Co-Founder Barbara O'Connell. Photo: Mark Stedman

21 years of rebuilding lives after brain injuries

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII) last week celebrated 21 years empowering survivors of brain injury to rebuild their lives. The organisation was set up in 2000 to meet a vital need to provide life-changing, specialised neuro-rehabilitation for individuals in Ireland whose lives had been shattered by brain injury.

This includes those acquiring brain injury from falls, road traffic accidents, concussion and stroke. From a single assisted living service providing a home-from-home for three brain injury survivors, ABII has since grown to serve 1,100 individuals nationally every year.

The 21st birthday milestone is particularly significant in the year of publication of the Ombudsman's 'Wasted Lives' report, which recently highlighted the inappropriate placement of young people in nursing homes.

Chief Executive and Co-Founder of ABII Barbara O'Connell drove the organisation's foundation after her brother, Peter Bradley, suffered two brain injuries as a result of two serious road traffic accidents before the age of 42. No longer able to live independently, and without access to any appropriate rehabilitation services, Peter was transferred from acute care and inappropriately placed in a nursing home.

Commenting on the occasion of the 21st birthday, Barbara said: 'Brain injury is a hidden phenomenon in our society and nobody ever thinks it will happen to them. But it happens to 52 people in this country every day, often leaving them with a chronic and ongoing condition that can affect their lives and those of their family for months and years after the initial injury.'

'Too often people who acquire brain injuries are young and left in nursing homes, acute hospitals or at home where families are unable to cope. The findings of the Ombudsman's 'Wasted Lives' report have been at the core of our purpose from the very beginning: to prevent individuals with brain injury going into the nursing home system, to take those misplaced there out, and to give them the specialist response they need to rebuild their lives. We still have a long way to go.'

The reality of the 'Wasted Life' laid out ahead of Peter was devastating for Barbara and her family. And so together, they opened the first ABII house in Dublin - a place where Peter and other brain injury survivors could be supported to live life to their full potential and regain as much independence as possible.

ABII is now Ireland's leading provider of clinically-led community rehabilitation for individuals with brain injury aged 18 to 65. In addition to operating 16 rehabilitation residences, the organisation provides a broad range of in-home community, day and vocational rehabilitation programmes alongside family supports in every province in the country. This past 18 months, and in the wake of the pandemic, ABII has also extended its services and its reach by incorporating 'telerehabilitation' through the use of online and digital technologies.

But with 19,000 new brain injuries acquired in Ireland every year, this is only the tip of the iceberg. 'Wasted Lives' has provided compelling evidence for and strengthened the case long-championed by ABII: that urgent State investment is required in specialised neuro-rehabilitation.

"This will be crucial to end the systemic and inappropriate confinement of young brain injury survivors in nursing homes where they are denied the right to rehabilitation and the opportunity to rebuild their lives."

Philanthropists called on to invest in most innovative non-profit organisations

People in Wicklow are being encouraged to support Ireland's most innovative charities and social enterprises to help achieve a more equal, just and sustainable Ireland. The call comes as Rethink Ireland, the non-profit organisation which provides cash grants and business support to social innovations launched their Five-Year Impact Report last week.

Launching the report last week, the Taoiseach Micheál Martin said, "The pandemic has presented many challenges over the last fifteen months. One of the lessons we have learnt is that we need inclusive and sustainable approaches to the challenges facing our society. Innovation and new ways of problem solving will be required in the post Covid-19 future. And the many projects supported by Rethink Ireland demonstrate this in action."

Supported organisations such as FoodCloud, which works to combat food waste; iScoil, an online learning community offering young people out of school an alternative path to learning, accreditation and progression; and Amal Women's Association, a Muslim-led service, responding to the needs of women with a connection to the Muslim faith and culture in Ireland.

Rethink Ireland also unveiled the evaluation results of their three-year €7.5 million Education Fund, carried out by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway.

The evaluators used a Social Return on Investment framework to measure social value created which is not traditionally reflected in financial statements.

The measurement tool demonstrates that our Education Fund investment into 7 Awardees delivered a return on investment ratio of 1:12 meaning that for every one euro invested in these Education projects, a social return on investment of €12 was achieved.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 6 OF 2021 – CONFIRMATION ORDER
33 CONNOLLY STREET, ARKLOW, CO WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 28th day of June 2021, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow or at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Arklow.

An application for judicial review of the decision of the Board under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/57/100 33 Connolly Street Arklow, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 156m ²	Emer McGrath Kilroy, 33 Connolly Street, Arklow	Not Known	Not Known

Dated this 28th day of June 2021.
Joe Lane, Director Services.

Local Wicklow couple fund dormitory in Kenya

Wicklow couple Aodan and Anne Clarke from Coolboy have had a close relationship with the community of Kongelai in Kenya over ten years. They funded a school dormitory and travelled to Kongelai at the beginning of ActionAid's work there in 2010 and again just before the pandemic hit in early 2020. The work in Kongelai has recently been completed. Here Aodan talks about his experience....

"Having been child sponsors for nearly 10 years at the time, we approached ActionAid in 2009 with a view to supporting a project of their choosing. It was a happy coincidence that the project identified was in Kenya as I have a long-standing family connection there and the project was such a worthwhile cause. My wife Anne has worked as a Special Needs Assistant for many years which made it all the more appropriate that the project was connected to a school although it had more far-reaching goals in terms of the rights of young girls.

"My visit to Kongelai in 2010 was on St Patrick's Day and involved joining Sudi Matara (from ActionAid Kenya, Nairobi) and Oscar Lomunan (local ActionAid Representative in Kongelai) in meeting with the Head Teacher, School Management Committee, local Chief and Elders and local Councillor. We toured the nearly completed dormitories and then met to discuss the community's priorities and plans. I was struck by the ambition of everyone, especially the head teacher Michael and also by the mutual respect between the community and the local ActionAid staff. That respect had been earned by the humility with which the ActionAid staff consult with the community and deliver on the community's priorities in a sustainable way rather than trying to impose any plans on them. There was also a very real sense of gratitude for the solidarity shown to the community by ActionAid supporters from half-way around the world who they probably would never get to meet.

"In early February 2020, myself and my wife Anne visited Kongelai again along with Erich Achola and David Krop from ActionAid. We met with the new Head Teacher and members of the School Management Committee and toured the dormitories and school grounds. The contribution of the dormitories as one element in helping to address early child marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM) has been borne out by the considerable reduction in such incidences and less demand for places in the dormitories. It highlighted the need for the com-

munity to always review and adapt plans as circumstances change.

Three issues were raised in the meeting. The school feeding programme had fallen away, one of the dormitories was vacant and there were problems with the water borehole and manual pump. We took note of the issues before visiting the Refuge and Resource Centre of the Komesi Women's Network which had received substantial assistance from ActionAid.

"It is not just infrastructure that ActionAid invests in but it also invests in people through training and education. This is clearly evident in the success of the formation, organisation and work of the various Women's Networks that have resulted in a reduction of early marriages and FGM from 80% in 2008 to 40% in 2020. Thanks to the support of ActionAid in terms of training and infrastructure, the women's networks now have the resources to match their strong determination to drive down the incidences of FGM. We also visited the Pokot Poultry Farmers Cooperative who have shown great innovation in developing a poultry breeding operation that provides a source of income to many in the surrounding area. This also received support from ActionAid and is another example of the community being the driving force behind innovation with ActionAid working with the group to develop a sustainable plan.

"Having returned home, there were follow up communications with the team in ActionAid Ireland and ActionAid Kenya and, as a result, the School Management Committee had been supported to successfully lobby for the reinstatement of the school feeding programme. The school management Committee are currently lobbying to have the school registered as a low-cost boarding school and 24 boys are now boarding in one of the school dormitories. A solar-powered pump, water tank, pipes and taps have been installed and connected to a new water borehole. One of the benefits of this is to provide a viable option to irrigate vegetable plots for the school and community

and add to providing food security.

"It is inevitable that the community in Kongelai will face ongoing challenges, it always has, but it now has the organisation, training and

infrastructure to ensure that they can quickly react and adapt to changing circumstances as they arise.

"I have used words to describe the people in the community and the

interaction with the ActionAid staff such as, "mutual respect", "solidarity", "humility". These are some of the words in ActionAid's stated values, vision and goals. They are not just words in a document, they are living actions being borne out by ActionAid's work in facilitating solidarity between communities around the world. Myself and Anne are grateful to be part of a community of ActionAid supporters showing solidarity with other communities who are fighting for the same objectives."



Aodan and Anne meeting with David Krop, Erich Achola and school children at a school in Kongelai. Photo: ActionAid Kenya

Wicklow County Council has reopened its 13 libraries to the public for "Browse and Borrow". Our mobile library is also back on the road.

If you haven't returned to your local library yet, we'd love to see you again. Please remember to wear a face covering.

What can you expect?

- A welcome from staff on your return!
- Lots of new books
- Possibility to request items from 330 libraries nationwide
- Remote printing
- Physical distancing
- Limits on numbers in libraries at any given time
- Hand sanitizing, on entering the building
- Directional signage
- We will continue to quarantine stock for 72 hours+ to ensure your safety

At this stage we are unable to provide

- Study facilities
- PC facilities
- Newspapers / magazines
- Public seating

However, we will return to full services when government guidelines allow, so we will keep you up to date on our web page, social media and print media

Lots of online activities throughout the summer, including our highly popular "Summer Stars" programme!

Opening hours are up to date on www.wicklow.ie
Saturday openings will resume after June bank holiday

Arklow library
Phone: (0402) 39977
Email: arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie

Aughrim library
Phone: (0402) 36036
Email: cagnew@wicklowcoco.ie

Ballywaltrim library, Boghall Road, Bray
Phone: (01) 272 3205
Email: ballywaltrimlib@wicklowcoco.ie

Baltinglass library
Phone: (059) 648 2300
Email: baltinglasslib@wicklowcoco.ie

Blessington library
Phone: (045) 891 740
Email: blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie

Bray library, Eglinton Road
Phone: (01) 286 2600
Email: braylib@wicklowcoco.ie

Carnew library
Phone: (053) 942 6088
Email: MHennessey@wicklowcoco.ie

Dunlavin library
Phone: (045) 401 100
Email: MGreene@wicklowcoco.ie

Enniskerry library
Phone: (01) 286 4339
Email: SMMulligan@wicklowcoco.ie

Greystones library
Phone: (01) 287 3548
Email: greylib@wicklowcoco.ie

Rathdrum library
Phone: (0404) 43232
Email: MgtByrne@wicklowcoco.ie

Tinahely library
Phone: (0404) 38080
Email: MCarty@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow library
Email: wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie
Phone: (0404) 67025





Wicklow RNLI Fundraising Branch members Jill Clancy Harrold and Gregg Fisher at the launch. Photo: RNLI/Wicklow.

Wicklow RNLI Fundraising Branch launches photo competition

The RNLI Wicklow Town Fundraising Committee is excited to announce a photo contest, open to all who love the awe-inspiring beauty and heritage of Wicklow Town

There are two submission themes, Wonderful Winter Wicklow and Wicklow Town - Between Sky and Sea. The submission deadline, is 1st August, and digital colour

images may be sent by email to WicklowPix@aol.com. Full submission instructions, including FAQ's, are available on Facebook page WicklowPix2021; on the Wicklow RNLI Fundraising Branch Facebook page; or by calling 089-220-5880.

Each photographer can submit up to three of their own images. Twelve winners will be selected by a panel of local Wicklow RNLI crew, and winning photographs will be published as the front covers of our 2021 Christmas cards, note cards and post cards. Additionally, winners will receive a lovely framed print of their winning photograph and a gorgeous medal.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize the incredible talent of our local photographic community while supporting our Wicklow Town RNLI station, and 100% of card sales will go directly to local station operations. All production costs have already been donated," said Jill Clancy Harrold, member and past chairperson of the local fundraising committee.

"We are hoping to be able to make a substantial contribution to our station on behalf of the Wicklow community."

Gregg Fisher, also a member of the fundraising committee, is inspired by the project. "Our Christmas cards are sent all over the world, and this is a wonderful showcase for Wicklow Town and the photographers involved. I hope that everyone will check out Facebook #WicklowPix2021 for the submission instructions and FAQ's, or call 089-220-5880 with any questions at all!"

The Way We Art: An exhibition by Bray Artists' Circle

Signal Arts Centre,
Monday 19th July to Sunday 1st August

Bray Artists' Circle has been providing opportunities for local artists to develop their artistic talent since 2003. The members range from artists who have been painting for many years, to others who have taken it up more recently as a hobby.



A cross-section of styles and media preferences from oils to watercolour, acrylics to pastels is displayed within the group.

While there is no formal teaching, more experienced artists are willing to give advice as members work on their own subject preferences in a relaxed atmosphere.

Workshops led by professional artists are organised annually. Trips to art galleries such as the National Gallery have also been organised for members. Some members have also travelled to France, Spain and Italy for painting workshops.

The group meet throughout the year on Monday evenings for two hours in St. Cronan's B.N.S., Bray. At present there are approximately 25 members many of which have successfully sold their work in a variety of exhibitions.

The past twelve months have been particularly challenging as the Covid 19 pandemic has prevented us from meeting, but we look forward to a time when we can once again get together.

This exhibition includes a selection of work in oils, watercolour, acrylic and pastel by our members, all of whom have their very individual styles.

Funding available under Creative Ireland Programme

Applications are now being invited by the Arts Office of Wicklow County Council for two important funding schemes: the annual Strategic Projects fund 2022 and the 2021 Decade of Centenaries fund.

The Arts Office is inviting applications from artists, national resource organisations, individual curators and/or artist collectives who have the potential to propose projects which will nurture practice, create connectivity, generate new perspectives and voices within County Wicklow and support a diversity of approach.

In 2021/22 there will be two streams of application: Stream A: New applicants and proposals; Stream B: Consolidation/development of strategic projects previously awarded under this scheme.

Under Stream A, proposals should be for new initiatives which add significant value to arts practice, experience and participation in Wicklow and support the Arts Office strategic goals.

As the Stream B Scheme has now been in operation for a seven-year period, repeat applications for existing recipients who wish to consolidate or develop an area of practice previously awarded will be considered. This is relevant only where the work previously awarded has supported new practice in the following areas - arts and health, dance and community, early years, arts and disability and visual arts engagement.

The Scheme is open to individuals and organisations from across all arts disciplines. It is envisaged that funding in the region of €80,000 may be available under this

Scheme in the county.

Wicklow Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin said: "We are open to all imaginative projects but appreciate that the context in which artists and organisations can work post-pandemic is going to result in significant changes of approach and audience provision".

Also on offer, Wicklow County Council, in association with the Department of Tourism, Culture Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is developing a programme of commemorative events to mark the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries, from 2021 to 2023. Beginning this year, the overall programme will have a common set of broad themes and ideas but will be nuanced each year to allow for specific centenaries to be remembered.

Funding is now available in Wicklow to support artists and creatives in delivering commemorative initiatives in 2021. Artists and creatives are invited to submit a funding application which will interpret historical events and provide a platform to encourage reflection and consideration of the issues, both past and present in the context of County Wicklow.

A core theme of the commemorative project is reconciliation, and an element of reconciliation is acknowledgement of the legitimacy of all of the traditions on the island that draw

their identity and collective memory from our shared history.

Applications will be considered which enable:

- Community-led commemoration and reflection
- Consideration of Ireland and the Wider World at the time
- Ireland as a changing society during this period
- Exploration of the Irish language.
- Thoughtful reflection of the humanitarian response
- Exploration of creative thinking and the arts
- Innovation and developments in the fields of agriculture, industry, science, commerce, health, medicine, and education

While not prescriptive, examples of project approaches might include online and digital initiatives, new artistic commissions, artist-in-residence programmes, contemporary art initiatives/installations and creative initiatives designed to support engagement with older people, women, new communities and young people. It is envisaged that up to three awards of €5,000 each will be made available under this Scheme. Themes and projects proposed must have a link to County Wicklow.

Applications must be submitted online. Closing date for submissions 30th July 2021. See wicklow.ie for more information.

Mark Reilly's 'Amidst' - Landscape: Seasons, Change and process

Courthouse Arts Centre, Sunday, 4th July until Sunday 25th July

The Courthouse Arts Centre has re-opened its doors with the launch of 'Amidst', an art exhibition by Marc Reilly. It opened on Sunday, July 4th.

This is a collection of the drawings; some in water-colour, some in coloured pencil and some in coloured oil stick, made outdoors in a familiar place over different seasons and weathers by artist Marc Reilly.

They are completed in place and depend on change: light, movement, on birdsong, on wind, rain, snow, on a passing horse, on conversation and on chance.

The drawings are an excuse to stand on the edge of a river or sit under a tree or in a field and be in the midst of something.

Marc Reilly was born in Dublin in 1956. He studied at the National College of Art and Design and graduated in 1979 with a Diploma in Painting. He was previously a member of the Visual Arts Centre, Dublin as well as the Temple Bar Galleries and Studios and recently held a one-year studio residency at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. He is currently a member of the Graphic Studio

Dublin, and of the Independent Studio Artists Studio, Dublin. In 2005 Marc completed a M.A. in Glass Design at the National College of Art & Design.

Marc's work practice varies from loose water-

colours to large expansive colour field work on canvas, but they all originate from the same source which is Marc's relationship with and observations of nature. He makes almost daily pilgrimages the year round to the Clara Laragh region of Wicklow, often driving there and back for the sake of one good hours

painting. All the water-colours are done in situ, which can be seen in the different results achieved from painting the same scene and can occasionally be seen in a more physical way when, during particularly cold weather the watercolour freezes before it is absorbed by the paper, giving a craquelure effect.



New short film examines issue of knife crime

At a time when anti-social behaviour and knife crime is on the rise, a new short film is taking an unflinching and realistic look at the issue and how it affects the lives of everyone involved, from the victims and the attackers to their loved ones.

'Vultures' features Bray actress Louise McCann, who plays the girlfriend of a knife-attack victim. The film takes a look at the events leading up to the incident and the aftermath and consequences from the perspectives of both the attackers and the victims.

Vultures is directed by Ciaran Casey, and was written by him and rap artist Craig Cooney, and the narrative of the film is told through through Craig's music. Craig also stars in the film along with other Irish rap artists. It was shot in Dublin.

The on-screen text at the film's conclusion states its message clearly: "Sadly, we all know someone who is in some-way connected to a victim of knife crime. We have made this movie to show people the reality of it. I have seen way too many young lives ended over knife crime in the past few years and unfortunately numbers keep rising, some victims closer than others."

"It's a pandemic in itself, we need to educate our children and show them that carrying blades is never the answer. We want to use this piece to show the different perspectives of how it affects everybody involved from the victim, their family and friends, right down to the antagonist and their family and friends, and show that these problems



are carried with each individual for the rest of their lives."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Louise, a graduate of the Bow Street film academy, has been acting for a couple of years now, and has already acted in a number of short films and has more in the works. She recently completed a small role in an episode of TV series Redemption, an upcoming series directed by John Hayes, commissioned for ITV.

Louise, 30, says that acting is something she has wanted to do since early adulthood but she

but didn't push herself to actually start doing it until the last couple of years. Now she's rehashing the opportunity to involve herself in various projects, especially those which also mean a lot to her personally.

"I'm grateful to be involved in projects which also have a message," she says, and "and which can highlight important social issues."

Vultures is an example of a project that Louise was also able to bring first-hand experience to, having experienced knife crime in her youth when

she witnessed someone being stabbed right in front of her.

The anti-knife-crime message of the film is one that she feels strongly about.

Covid has unfortunately prevented any large premiere from taking place but Louise hopes the film can be screened in prisons for educational purposes.

Vultures takes place over a single day/night in Dublin, depicting the events leading up to the attack and the aftermath, from different narrative perspectives.

Throughout the film, Craig Cooney's lyrics narrate and contextualise the images on the screen, adding layers of meaning and emotion, and making the film's message more accessible.

Louise is full of praise for what he brings to the film and for the genre of Irish rap as a whole. "It's an underground scene in Ireland but it's very popular and filled with so much talent. I've met so many talented people who are working in it."

Many of the young men in Vultures are coming from a music and rap background as opposed to an acting background and so there is a non-performative style which adds to the sense of realism in the film.

Vultures was released on June 24th and is available to view now on YouTube.



Actor/playwright Eva-Jane Gaffney and playwrights Signe Lury and Niall Murphy whose *Tiny Plays* of just 600 words were produced, staged and filmed by Fishamble.

Playwrights imagining a brighter future

Belvedere House, O'Reilly Theatre, Dublin, 29th June 2021: Three 'Tiny Plays', consisting of just 600 words, have been produced by Fishamble: The New Play Company, as part of their 'Tiny Plays For a Brighter Future' challenge, in partnership with ESB.

The challenge invited writers to imagine what a brighter energy future means to them and to capture that in a 600-word play. Over 350 submissions were received, with an initial 10 plays shortlisted by an independent panel of judges and published on the Fishamble website in May.

Three of the ten shortlisted playwrights, Signe Lury, Eva-Jane Gaffney, and Niall Murphy, have had their work produced, staged, and filmed by Fishamble at the O'Reilly Theatre on Great Denmark Street, Dublin.

Selfish, by Lury, a final year student of English and Drama in Trinity College Dublin, features two women, Theo, and Connie, who struggle to move forward in their lives because of their fears of what the future holds.

Murphy, a regular short story writer, takes an inter-generational look at a family on a journey towards a future that is both uncertain and inevitable, in his play Our Turn.

The final play, Journey, was written and performed by writer and actor, Eva-Jane Gaffney.

All three plays are now available to view online at www.esb.ie/tinyplays.

Jim Culleton, Artistic Director of Fishamble, who directed all three plays, said: "We were hugely impressed by the standard of submissions for this Tiny Plays chal-

lenge. We believe that the arts have a huge role to play in driving the change that is needed to create a more sustainable world for us all. We were delighted to partner with ESB on this initiative, and to give a platform to playwrights to address one of the biggest challenges we all face. We are now very excited to bring these plays to life on the stage."

Pat O'Doherty, Chief Executive of ESB, said: "We believe that the arts play a significant role in both documenting and harnessing social change. Partnering with Fishamble on this project has provided a fascinating insight into how different writers respond to both the opportunities and challenges of the journey we are all on in combatting climate change as we collectively work together to transition to a low carbon energy future."

'Tiny Plays for A Brighter Future' was conceived as an opportunity to give creative expression to all points of view in the transition to a low carbon energy future: to look at the choices we all must make to meet our future climate goals, examine how those choices will impact communities across Ireland, and imagine what we want the Ireland of our future to be, through 600-word Tiny Plays.

All three plays were staged and filmed sustainably to ensure a zero-waste approach

to the production.

To find out more, and to view the filmed plays, visit www.esb.ie/tinyplays.

Eva-Jane Gaffney is an actor and voiceover artist from Dublin. Previous stage work includes HEROIN (2018), Rapids and Danny & Chantelle (Still Here). Screen credits include Wastewater, Rosie, Sing Street and Éirí amach Amú.

Signe Lury is a writer, director, and actor, graduating this year from Trinity College Dublin where she studied English & Drama. She's a co-founder of Gift Horse Theatre, an environmentally conscious company with a focus on reimagining classic texts. Writing credits include We Are Not a Muse (Edinburgh Fringe) and Tess (Gift Horse).

Niall is a writer of short stories, advertising copy, one (tiny) play, and many, many emails. When not writing, he enjoys a dip in the sea and watching the birds in his garden. He lives in Glenageary with his wife, Ali.

The New Play Company. Fishamble is an Irish theatre company that is passionate about discovering, developing, and producing new plays of national importance with a global reach while championing the role of the playwright. It typically supports over 50% of the writers of all new plays produced on the island of Ireland each year. Fishamble tours its productions to audiences throughout Ireland, and to 19 other countries, and has received many awards in Ireland and internationally, including an Olivier Award.



Louise McCann, third from right, with some of the Vultures cast and crew.



€2 Million Fundraising Milestone reached for Irish Cancer Society

Boots Ireland has now raised €2 million for the Irish Cancer Society, enabling more than 6,300 nights of end-of-life Night Nursing care for people with cancer.

Since the relationship began in 2012, Boots Ireland team members, patients and customers have come together to raise funds for this essential service to ensure cancer patients receive the end-of-life care needed to allow them to remain in their own home.

The aim of the Boots Ireland's partnership with the Irish Cancer Society is to increase awareness, promote cancer prevention and support people living with cancer in Ireland. Along with supporting the Night Nursing service, Boots has also trained their pharmacists to become Boots Irish Cancer Society Information Pharmacists to help support and advise people dealing with cancer. There are now over 170 Cancer Information Pharmacists as well as 70 Boots Cancer Beauty Advisors in stores across Ireland.

Averil Power, Chief Executive Officer at the Irish Cancer Society, said: "The Society's Night Nurses provide such great relief and comfort to patients and their loved ones at an incredibly difficult time. This vital service is provided completely free of charge and is funded almost entirely through donations. On behalf of everyone at the Irish Cancer Society, I would like to thank Boots Ireland's staff and customers for their continued support and generosity, in helping us to provide this vital service to families in need, when they need it most."

The Night Nursing service was established in 1986 and operates in every county in the Republic of Ireland. Night Nurses provide free end-of-life care from 11pm-7am.

€5m in grants to retail sector

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Damien English, has today announced the successful applicants approved for funding through the third call of the Covid-19 Online Retail Scheme, which is administered by Enterprise Ireland.

133 retailers have been approved €5m in funding as part of the scheme, which is targeted at retailers who already have an online presence to strengthen their online offering and enable them to reach a wider customer base.

These include Wicklow companies Avondale Landscapes Ltd, Brightsont Ltd (Discount Supplements), Fishers of Newtownmountkenedy Ltd, FlanaganKerins, Wardrobe Plus, and McGreals.

The scheme received 292 applications. 68% of the successful applicants are located outside Dublin with 90 retailers from these regions approved for funding.

Under this Covid-19 competitive call, the successful applicants will receive funding ranging from €14,080 to €40,000 to strengthen their online offering. The average grant value is €37,500 and covers up to 80% of project costs.

Minister Simon Harris said "Covid has had a

devastating impact on retailers in Wicklow who had to close as restrictions were implemented, but this funding will continue to support businesses in establishing a strong online presence so that they're now better equipped to take advantage of evolving market opportunities.

"Covid has had a devastating impact on retailers in Wicklow who had to close as restrictions were implemented, but this funding will continue to support businesses in establishing a strong online presence so that they're now better equipped to take advantage of evolving market opportunities."

Minister Damien English TD said: "There has been a very positive response from the Irish retail sector to this call for applications under the Covid-19 Online Retail Scheme as Government continues to reach out and assist Irish businesses to transition and evolve as they trade through the impact of the pandemic.

"We know that consumers are keen to support their local retailers when shopping in-store and online, and these grants will help businesses to really maximise the opportunities in the ecommerce market. Of course, this market is not limited by geography and we know that ambitious Irish businesses with strong online resources also have their eyes on selling to customers right across the globe.

"The economic value of operating in the ecommerce space and its convenience for customers has come to the fore since the onset of Covid-19 and the Online Retail Scheme will help companies improve and maximise their digital sales potential.

"The Government continues to focus on helping businesses to get back on track in the coming months and as more of our workplaces and businesses reopen, in line with public health guidelines, we will do everything we can to support

retailers in creating safe shopping spaces, in store and online, for customers and staff." The Online Retail Scheme was open to Irish-based retailers with a physical store and a pre-existing online presence who employ 10 or more people. In addition, the scheme focuses on retailers predominantly selling products to individual consumers as opposed to those selling mainly to business customers. Grants can be used to fund fees for service providers, develop and implement a digital strategy supported by in-house training and enhance the retailer's website. The scheme is complementary to the Trading Online Voucher Scheme by the Local Enterprise Offices that offers funding of €2,500 to businesses of up to 10 employees. The 133 retailers awarded funding, operate across a broad spectrum of sectors including jewellery, fashion, sports, home-ware and furniture, healthcare, electrical goods and equipment.

Building on two previous successful calls of the Covid19 Online Retail Scheme, introduced by the Department arising from the work of the Retail Consultation Forum, applications for the 2021 scheme were open to indigenous retailers to develop a more competitive online offer in response to the Covid-19 crisis and to strengthen business resilience.

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Julieann Dempsey Reid intend to apply for planning permission for the development at 154 Ardmore Park, Bray, County Wicklow.

The development will consist of Alterations to Previously Granted planning permission (Ref No: 17-1226)

(1) Demolition of existing 20m² single storey elements to side of existing dwelling no.154 Ardmore Park.

(2) Demolition of shed to rear garden of no. 154 Ardmore Park.

(3) Proposed 9m² single storey rear extension to no. 154 Ardmore Park.

(4) Sub division of site and the provision of new 101m² two storey detached dwelling to the side garden of no. 154 Ardmore Park.

(5) Provision of new vehicular entrance to serve existing dwelling with existing entrance to serve proposed dwelling.

All the above, together with all associated site works and connections to services at no. 154 Ardmore Par, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Sheena Gogarty seek Planning permission for the conversion of an existing two storey domestic Garage to a one bedroom two storey House consisting of the demolition of existing roof to construction of new higher roof with rooflight, new doors and windows at The Gate Lodge, Struan Hill, Priory Road, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. A63PT99. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Further Information / Revised Plans

We hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information / revised plans to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 20/1297 for Lusra Teo who are applying for permission at Marlton Link Road, Ballynerrin Lower, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for proposed development of a neighbourhood centre which will consist of a three story building with access at two levels and comprise (a) four retail units and service areas at ground floor, (b) crèche, community centre, day area and service unit at first floor (c) enterprise offices and hub at second floor. The development shall include play area for crèche, delivery area, waste compound, car parking, bicycle parking, landscaping and connection of all services to mains. The proposals also include the widening of the Marlton link road to provide drop off car parking and realignment of existing cycle track and footpath in accordance with plans prepared by Turner Phelan Ltd. Significant further information/ revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation. Applicants should refer to Article 35 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2011

Renault Megane Sports Tourer delivers sprightly phev experience

Renault's latest generation Megane comes with a very interesting plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV) derivative which, with a Sports Tourer body, manages to look great while providing more than enough luggage capacity to make up for space lost to all the additional electric hybrid drivetrain and it's batteries.

by Martin McCarthy

It is one of the quietest and nicest cars I have driven in years. The French engineers have put their decade of experience in pioneering electrical powertrains to use in a happy marriage of their powerful 1.6 litre petrol engine with twin electric motors. For the Wicklow motorist willing to charge the car's batteries in the evening at home and doing short journeys, fuel cost would be miniscule. The Battery-only range is 40km.

I am just back from a lovely drive all over wonderful West Wicklow - Dunlavin, Blessington, Brittas - as well as M4 motorway, so I was able to check out the Sport Tourer in all manner of roads. Of course, being a hybrid, it is an automatic, enhancing the silky-smooth driving experience.

The overall Mégane range offers a selection of petrol and diesel engines for buyers to choose from, both of which come with a choice of a six-speed

manual or Efficient Dual Clutch (EDC) seven-speed automatic transmissions, while both Hatch and Sport Tourer models are available with Renault's new E-TECH Plug-in hybrid powertrain I tested.

The New Mégane's excellent economy performance is thanks to the sleek shape and low weight of the car, weighing from 1,353kg (TCe 140 manual Hatch) and a selection of advanced technologies. Renault's Stop&Start system features as standard, while the double-clutch EDC transmission provides competitive economy figures. Meanwhile, an ECO driving mode optimises the engine's performance when cruising, while the Renault Driving eco2 feature helps owners adopt a more economical driving style and features standard brake energy recovery.

The Megane Sport Tourer PHEV prices start at €26,190 but it also qualifies for the €1,000 Renault Green bonus and low cost finance option via Renault Bank.

Renault has a strong association with the sunny South East, ever since the French cars started being assembled at a factory on the quays in Wexford in the 1960s. Cars like the post war Renault 4 and the ultra-popular Renault 12 became best sellers, while the Renault 5 was the coolest car on Irish roads in the 1970s. There is a strong Renault Classic Car following, which hopefully will have exciting Lockdown restoration projects to show at Fairs later this summer.



The Renault Megane Sport Tourer PHEV in Dunlavin

RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future temporary/permanent positions may be filled.

- **PERMANENT ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**
REF: 25/2021 Salary €50,534 - €70,245 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **PERMANENT ASSISTANT CIVIL DEFENCE OFFICER**
REF: 26/2021 Salary €28,753 - €46,465 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 22ND JULY, 2021 SHARP.

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

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

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher,
Director of Services,
Enterprise & Corporate Services,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Wicklow

Phone: 0404 20159 Fax: 0404 20112
Email: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

CLASSIFIEDS

Luke 10: 25-37 GOSPEL

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus 'do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said 'and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.' Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same yourself.'

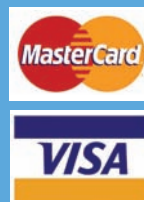
C.J.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

J.D.

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‡Lower VRT (Vehicle Registration Tax) excludes Camry, RAV4 and Highlander. **Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Finance by way of PCP agreement provided by Toyota Financial Services Ireland DAC. Finance example is based on a fixed rate APR and is inclusive of a documentation fee and purchase fee of €63.49 each. A deposit of between 0% and 36% of the finance amount may be required and a maximum term of 49 months applies. Rate quoted is correct as at 19.05.21 and is subject to change. Rate of 2.9% available on Yaris Hybrid Style, 4.9% available on all AYGO, RAV4 and Camry, Highlander, Prius and Yaris petrol Models. 3.9% APR available on Toyota C-HR, Corolla Hatchback, Saloon, and all other Yaris Hybrid and models registered between 17.05.21 and 31.07.2021. *Finance contribution of €500 available on Aygo models, €1,000 available on Corolla Hybrid models, €1,500 available on RAV4 Hybrid models, €1,750 available on C-HR Hybrid models, €2,000 available on Prius Hybrid models, €2,500 available on Highlander Hybrid models and €3,000 available on Camry Hybrid models registered between 17.05.21 and 31.07.2021.