

LOCAL Wicklow Times

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TERRACYCLE
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Tuesday 13th July 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

MORE WICKLOW WINDMILLS

New project plans to commence operation between 2028 and 2030

Renewable energy company DP Energy will unveil plans for an offshore wind farm off the coast of Arklow to members of the Arklow Municipal District Council this week on Wednesday 14th July.

Headquartered in Cork but with a global footprint, DP Energy develops, constructs and operates renewable projects worldwide.

DP Energy delivered its first wind farm project, a 10-turbine 5MW project in Co.Tyrone in 1993 and, since then, has delivered numerous projects

across Ireland, Scotland, Canada and Australia. DP's most recent project, a 320MW Hybrid Wind and Solar project in South Australia (coincidentally now owned by Iberdrola Australia) will be in operation by Q1 2022.

DP Energy's proposed development off the east

coast, entitled the 'Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm', will have the potential to generate up to 1,000 megawatts - enough green energy to power the equivalent of nearly one million Irish homes. The scheme will directly contribute to Ireland's climate plan target of 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and



Presentation College Bray is gearing up for its centenary celebrations. See page 17 for more.

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achieve Net-Zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

The area currently under exploration for the Shelmalere Wind Farm lies offshore broadly from Arklow to Rosslare Harbour.

The project plans to use wind turbines mounted on fixed-bottom foundations due to the shallow water depths across the planned site, which will be between 8.5km and 12km from shore.

In order to deliver the Shelmalere project, DP Energy has partnered with Iberdrola, one of the world's largest renewable energy producers.

Yvonne Cronin, Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager with DP Energy, says: "We're delighted to be given the opportunity to engage with local representatives at the upcoming Arklow Municipal District meeting to pre-

sent an exciting development for renewable energy off the east coast of Ireland. These dialogues with local communities are crucial as we build towards a more renewable and sustainable society across Ireland.

"The Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm is one of our most ambitious projects yet and we look forward to hearing the feedback from the local community in the process."

DP Energy is led by co-founders Maureen and Simon De Pietro - a mother and son partnership.

Simon is currently co-president of Ocean Energy Europe and also a Board member of Marine Renewables Canada. DP Energy is a member of Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) and Maureen was a member of the Council from 1993 until 2021 when Simon

became a member.

Meanwhile, SSE Renewables is progress-

ing with plans for its Arklow Bank Wind Park, which will be

located 6-13km off the coast of Arklow.

Continued on page 3

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Drew, Frankie, Alex and Harry Merrigan at the Rathnew AFC's Respect Me Respect the Community' soccer tournament.

Ava steps up recycling initiative to include confectionery waste

Bray teenager Ava Hagan has set up a collection box in the entrance to Tesco Bray, where you can drop off your plastic confectionery waste to be recycled.

The 16-year-old Loreto Bray student has expanded her project, "TerraCycle Bray", by signing up to the Confectionery Recycling Programme, offered by TerraCycle.

This has enabled her to set up a public drop-off location in Tesco Bray, where you can drop off your plastic confectionery waste. The waste will be posted to a TerraCycle recycling facility for free, where it will be broken down into plastic pellets. These pellets can be used to make rigid plastic products, such as benches, or used as film for products such as rubbish bags.

Plastic confectionery packaging, such as chocolate bar wrappers

and packets for sweets and jellies, is an example of single-use plastic waste. This means it normally has to go in the general waste bin and will either end up in landfill or be incinerated. However, TerraCycle gets sponsorship from big brands such as Nestlé in order to provide various free recycling programmes. This allows TerraCycle to recycle a wide range of waste that local council recycling centres cannot accept.

In March, Ava set up her first collection box for TerraCycle's Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme, also in the entrance to Tesco Bray. "TerraCycle Bray is an ongoing project of mine," says Ava. "I am

very glad to have been able to set up a confectionery drop-off location after the crisp packet scheme was so successful."

Accepted waste for the Confectionery Programme includes: plastic chocolate bar wrappers (individual, sharing bar and multipacks) and plastic pouches/bags for sweets, jellies and chocolate. Accepted waste for the Crisp Packet Scheme is any brand of crisp packets.

As well as diverting waste from landfill, Ava's project helps to raise funds for her school, Loreto Bray. For each unit of waste collected, Ava receives TerraCycle points which can be redeemed into a

monetary donation for the school. The Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme has already earned her €23 for Loreto Bray.

"It's a win-win situation," says Ava. "TerraCycle's recycling programmes help the environment and my school, and now that I have two programmes running we can have an even greater positive impact. So I encourage everyone to continue dropping off their crisp packets and now start dropping off your confectionery waste also."

For more information, follow Ava's Instagram account @terracycleybray. Any questions or queries please contact brayterracycle@gmail.com.



Loreto student Ava Hagan with her TerraCycle collection boxes

Wicklow Dementia Support need volunteer musical director

Wicklow Dementia Support is in need of a Volunteer Musical Director for their Musical Memories group - once weekly music/singing sessions with people with dementia and their care partner.

The group is based in Greystones, and sessions take place on Friday mornings from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

The role of the Musical Director will be to: Develop and deliver a music programme for participants in Musical Memories; Build relationships with clients based on mutual respect, dignity and support.

The person will lead and support the group to engage in the music for an hour once a week.

Some knowledge or experience of music therapy is required or of directing/leading music session; some understanding of dementia and an interest in helping people is also needed, and the successful applicant must also have access to life-affirming music!

To volunteer or request further information: Email Claire (secretary@wicklowdementiasupport.org), or call 087 6346399

Age Friendly Schemes

During recent works on Casual Vacancies/Relets, the Council fenced large sections of existing social housing gardens. This resulted in three infill sites to develop Age Friendly schemes in Greystones. It is proposed to build small A rated units, specifically designed

for the older tenant, which will be offered to eligible tenants in the local area, who wish to downsize. The larger property will return to the council for reletting to a family, and the tenant will benefit from being able to remain in their community, in an age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs.

Liam Kelly Memorial Run

The Liam 'Tiny' Kelly Memorial Run and Show in aid of Rathdrum Cancer Support will take place on 1st August.

Registration will be from 11:30am to 12 noon. Departure time for the run is 12:30pm sharp. Meet at Ballinacor Community Park, Kirkee. All are welcome - vintage, classic, modified cars, tractors and lorries, motorbikes, etc.

Refreshments will be served at the end of the run. New rules with IVETA roll bar needed on tractors with no cab.

North Wicklow country market in Newcastle

The North Wicklow Country Market continues every Saturday at Newcastle Community Centre from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Car parking

Many of the tourist attractions, beaches and scenic walks throughout the County have provision of parking nearby. There are carpark facilities available at Brittas Bay, Magheramore, Glendalough, Luggala and Laragh together with many carparks throughout the towns and surrounding areas. All users of amenities are asked to be conscious of parking facilities available and requested not to park on roads that may cause an obstruction or safety issue to other pedestrians, local residents and road users. Please be mindful of access requirements for Emergency Services in all locations.

Clothes bank

Give your unwanted clothes to the Brockagh Resource Centre clothes bank, located at the back of the building. All proceeds are in aid of the centre's maintenance. You can also empty your glass and drink cans in the other recycle banks too.

If you wish to make a booking call (0404) 45600 or email brockaghoffice@gmail.com. Check out up to date information on the Brockagh website at www.brockaghresource-centre.ie

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Fatal road accident in Rathnew

Arklow man and Wicklow County Council employee Tom Larkin died tragically last week following a serious road traffic collision in Rathnew.

Gardaí from Wicklow attended the scene of the accident on the R752, Milltown South, Rathnew, on Monday morning 5th July.

At approximately 8:05am Mr Larkin, in his mid 60s, was seriously injured while carrying out works on the R752. He was removed from the scene and taken to St. Vincent's Hospital in a critical condition. He passed away the following day, on Tuesday 6th July. The driver of the vehicle was uninjured.

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) were notified and attended the scene due to the incident being a workplace accident.

The scene was pre-

served and Garda Forensic Collision Investigators carried out their examination.

Gardaí are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed this collision to come forward. Any road users who were travelling on the R752 at Milltown South between 7.45am and 8.15am on the morning of Monday 5th July, 2021 and who may have camera footage (including dash cam) is asked to make it available to Gardaí.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Wicklow Garda Station on 0404 60140, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda station.

In a statement, Wicklow County

Council said "It is with great sadness that Wicklow County Council advises of the death of the employee who was injured in a workplace accident on the Glenealy Road on Monday morning. Wicklow County Council wishes to extend sincere condolences to the family and friends of our colleague at this very sad and difficult time. The Council wishes to support An Garda Síochána's request for any witnesses to the accident to come forward."

In a statement, Arklow United FC, who Tom had much involvement with, said "Everyone at Arklow United was devastated to

learn of the death of our dear friend, Tom Larkin. Tom was a great supporter of Arklow United over the years, and his son, James, represented the club with great distinction and has helped coach some of our younger squads.

"Tom was regularly up around Arklow Credit Union Park doing jobs for the Gaelscoil, for whom he was caretaker, and the club, and nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

"We send our deepest condolences to his wife Gillian, his children, and the extended Larkin and Farrell families. RIP Tom, you will be sadly missed around our club. Ar dheis de go raibh a ainm."

Matthews slams Sinn Féin housing policy

Green Party TD Steven Matthews criticised Sinn Féin's housing policy in a Dail debate last Thursday, saying that he doesn't think the Party "wants to deliver housing at all".

His comments came after Bray Sinn Féin councillors Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien and Grace McManus voted against a social housing development in Bray at last week's meeting of Bray Municipal District Council.

The Sinn Féin councillors voted against the development of 18 apartments at Kilbride Lodge, leading the Party's spokesperson for Housing Eoin O Broin to criticise their decision. The development was voted through at the Bray Municipal meeting.

Responding to comments from Deputy O Broin criticising public private partnerships, Deputy Matthews said "This week in Bray, Wicklow Sinn Féin members voted against a local authority-led affordable housing scheme. It consists of 18 units which are badly needed in the town. I constantly get phone calls and emails from people asking me when these houses are going to be delivered. I worked on this initiative from the start, because I was a county councillor at the time. This project came before the council as a Part 8 development and Sinn Féin voted against it.

"Members of the party are also voting against other local authority housing and affordable housing schemes across the country.



Steven Matthews TD

It has happened in the Minister's constituency. Therefore, I do not think that Sinn Féin wants to deliver housing at all. I think the party wants to delay the delivery of housing, because the more delay there is, the better it will be for it. Sinn Féin should be more honest with people and in this Chamber."

Deputy O Broin responded, "I strongly agree with Deputy Matthews on one issue. The decision by two Sinn Féin councillors to vote against a much-needed social housing project in Bray

this week was wrong. That is not just my personal view; it is the strong view of our party. I have spoken to both of the councillors directly to give them that view.

"While Sinn Féin strongly defends its position of opposing the transfer of land at low or no cost to private developers for joint ventures [...] it does not support opposing social housing. In fact, our party has a strong track record, as does Deputy Matthews' party, in supporting Part 8 housing planning applications."

Over 30 public submissions were lodged regarding the Kilbride Lodge housing development. Cllr Dermot O'Brien said he and Cllr McManus are not against social housing on the site but wished to delay the development to allow for amendments and for more engagement between residents and the Council.

The Kilbride Lodge site is located on State land at the junction of Killarney Road and Ballywaltrim Road. The development would consist of a four-storey building containing four one-bed apartments and 14 two-bed apartments. Many of the submissions from the public expressed concerns over the scale of the development.



Denise Hogg with Ruby and Claire Kane at the launch of Aughrim artist Eoin O'Connor's new collection 'Mutz', at his studio in Gorey.

MORE WICKLOW WINDMILLS

Continued from page 1

It will be Ireland's first offshore wind farm of scale and SSE is hoping to deliver it by 2025, and expects to invest between €1 billion and €2 billion to deliver the project.

SSE also recently unveiled plans for a state-of-the-art development at Arklow Harbour, in the Old Shipyards proposed as part of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

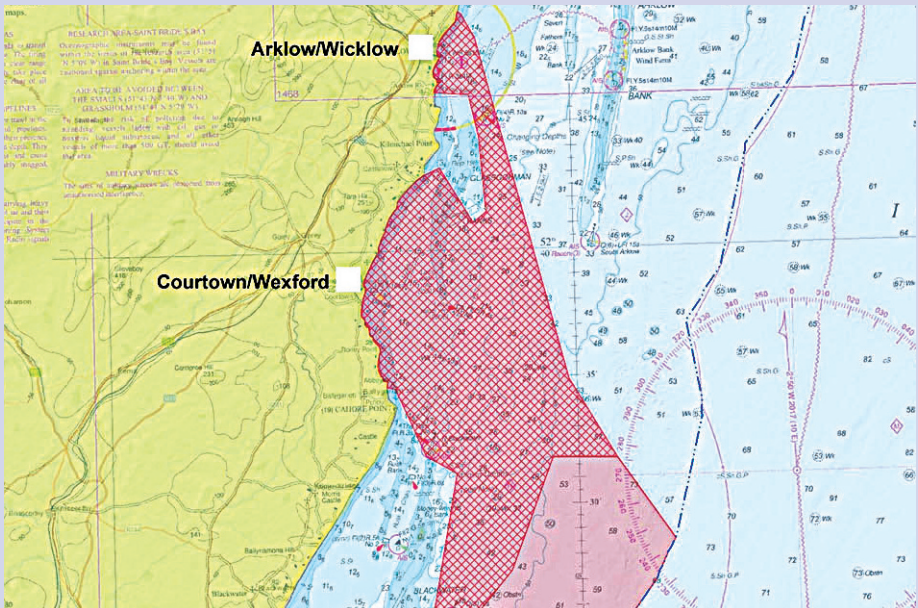
Arklow was recently selected to be Co. Wicklow's first 'Decarbonisation Zone', partly because of the offshore wind energy projects. Wicklow County

Council stated "Arklow has a large and diverse industrial and enterprise activity and it is hoped there will be good opportunities to work with this sector. Wicklow County Council will explore opportunities to work with high energy users. As the home of the first offshore wind farm, Arklow is located at heart of significant generation of renewable energy and well-placed to lead on renewables."

Further north up Wicklow's Coastline, surveying is currently taking place off the coast of Greystones for the Codling Windfarm. The information

being gathered will form the basis of the licence application. The Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm located approximately 13-22km off the Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

"We need to urgently save carbon and a windfarm 14km out to sea is a good way of doing that," Cllr Derek Mitchell said. "The turbines will be visible from Greystones and we need to get trade and jobs from it. I am also asking for an Interpretive Centre and other items to provide a sense of connection to this large windfarm."



The possible offshore site of the 'Shelmalere' Wind Farm



Rian Abell-Ward keeps his team in the game as he scores a penalty at the Rathnew AFC Respect Me Respect the Community soccer tournament

Councillors split on potential 12-month delay of Development Plan

Wicklow County Council will meet on 27th July to consider the delay of the County Development Plan (CDP) by up to a year. The move to delay the CDP is due to the knock-on effects from delays caused by Covid-19. However Cllr Derek Mitchell has said that the delay to the CDP could push back the Greystones /Kilcoole Local Area Plan to 2024 and that the pace of development in the area is such that it can't wait this long.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill is currently working its way through the Dail. It would allow Local Authorities to extend the time period for CDPs by 12 months.

The Bill also would allow for a two-year extension on planning permissions for developments where works have already commenced but have been delayed due to Covid.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Chief Executive Frank Curran said that realistically it will be July of 2022 that the CDP is finally adopted, which would be eight months after the end of the permitted 99-week time limit. However, he added that the Council may need the full 12-month extension to safeguard against further difficulties as a result of Covid.

Cllr Derek Mitchell is against the delay of the CDP, because of the knock-on effect it would have on the Greystones-Kilcoole LAP.

Speaking after last week's

meeting, Cllr Mitchell said "The Greystones/Kilcoole Plan can't be started until the County one is completed, and will take two years to prepare. The Greystones Plan was due to be redone in 2019 but this has had to wait for the County one to be completed to know the population numbers. Thus it could be 2024 before a new Greystones/Kilcoole Plan is prepared.

"The pace of house development is very fast with over a thousand houses being constructed in the area at the moment. A Plan is urgently needed to specify the social/sporting /education/ transport facilities needed to cope with this growth and there should be no delays" said Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG)."

Sharing Cllr Mitchell's concerns, Green Party councillor Lourda Scott said "I'm concerned about the knock-on effects to the local area plans and the knock-on effect to the Greystones district. At the moment, there's huge growth in the area and we have an issue with over-development

and a lack of corresponding infrastructure going on with that. My concern is that as permissions are granted to allow to continue developments to completion until 2023, at the same time there is nothing being improved with infrastructure."

Cllr Gail Dunne is in support of a delay and said that the situation is different regarding Wicklow Town's LAP: "Our Local Area Plan process will start straightaway after the County Development Plan, but if we don't care to get it right in the County Development Plan, then the local area plans will suffer. There is nobody banging down my door saying we have to start the local area plan in my area. They are more worried about housing."

Also advocating a 12-month extension, Cllr John Mullen said the delay "would allow the public to really see the plan in detail, how it affects their rural areas and their towns. I welcome the fact that the Council Executive are proposing and

agreeing that we delay the plan. I think we should go for the 12 month extension."

He added, "This is the most important document we are working on in the lifetime of our council. In the middle of a housing crisis, it has significant changes that we are making. Covid in my view has changed the landscape how we should think about housing."

Senior Planner Sorcha Walsh said "The adoption of the County Development Plan, whether it's the middle of next year or the end of next year, will start the process of doing the LAPs. They could each take, depending on the schedule of their delivery, about a year. In the meantime development will be happening on the foot of the current plans, and some people feel those plans are out of date. So, the sooner we have new local area plans, the better, because we have a new more up-to-date framework. We will move as quickly as we can to do new local area plans."

Councillors seek 'local newspaper fund'

Councillors last week agreed that the Council write to the Irish offices of Facebook, Google, and Twitter to ask that they create a fund to sponsor local newspapers.

The notice of motion was put forward by Cllr Rory O'Connor at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, and was agreed to by councillors.

Cllr O'Connor said that newspapers' have been hit hard during the pandemic, and that a similar fund was created in America. "It isn't revolutionary, I don't see why we can't do the same thing here," he explained.

Cllr Joe Behan supported the proposal, however the Council Executive is against it.

The Council Executive's response is that there are many supports available for local businesses and 'it is not the role of the council to write to private companies to ask them to support one sector'.

In America, the COVID-19 Local News Relief Grant Program was designed to provide support for US local news organizations, and over \$10m was divided among 144 local news organisations across America.

Codling Wind Park agrees new corporate partnership with Wicklow Hospice

Initial donation of €10,000 to support enhancements to the inner courtyard

Codling Wind Park has announced a new partnership with Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Wicklow, which will see a range of practical and financial supports provided to the new hospice, which opened its doors in December 2020.

Based in Magheramore, Wicklow Hospice is the first specialist palliative care in-patient unit for patients and their families in the county, and its opening marked the culmination of over ten years of fundraising by the local community. It provides in-patient care for those with life-limiting conditions and a new base for the Community Palliative Care team, who provide specialist care in patients' homes.

The partnership started with a contribution of €10,000 by the Codling Wind Park project specifically to support the development of the Hospice's inner courtyard. In addition, the project has committed to supporting the Hospice through volunteering and fundraising initiatives throughout the year.

Arno Verbeek, Project Director of the Codling Wind Park project, said: "Wicklow Hospice and the people who work there are beyond inspirational, providing loving care and the highest quality specialist services and support to families, at a time when they need it the most. We are honoured to be able to play a small part in supporting them, and the whole Codling team looks forward to putting our energy, enthusiasm and commitment into building a successful partnership."

Eleanor Flew, Director of Fundraising & Communications, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services said: "We are very grateful to Codling Wind Park for their support. This donation for enhancements to the courtyard will help transform the experience of patients and families. It will connect them to nature

and biodiversity and make this a welcoming sheltered space to enjoy the outdoors.

"As an organisation heavily reliant on fundraising, support from businesses in the community and the public is vital to us. Covid-19 really impacted our ability to raise money resulting in a decrease of 32% in fundraised income last year. We warmly

thank Codling Wind Park for this commitment to working with us and we look forward to working with them as sponsors and through volunteering activities."

To find out more about Wicklow Hospice and how you can donate to support their amazing work, please visit www.olh.ie

To find out more about Codling Wind Park and how it will create a safer and healthier environment, alongside the vital role it has in helping the Government achieve its renewable energy targets, please visit www.codlingwindpark.ie.



Arno Verbeek, Project Director of Codling Wind Park, makes a donation to Eleanor Flew, Director of Fundraising & Communications of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services

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Drugs and anti-social behaviour dominate JPC meeting

Drugs and anti-social behaviour were two of main talking points at Wicklow's recent Joint Policing Committee (JPC) meeting, with several committee members raising concerns.

Chief Superintendent Denis Ferry delivered a presentation at the meeting, held over Zoom, where he provided crime figures for the period of January 1st to May 31st.

Incidents of 'drugs possession for personal use' remain high in Wicklow, with 217 such incidents. This is a slight decrease from the same period last year when there were 252 such incidents. There has been an increase meanwhile in the number of incidents of possession of drugs for supply, from 50 last year to 56 this year.

Superintendent Ferry explained that Operation Tara, Operation Thor, and Operation Uplands are continuing in the Wicklow Division, tackling the drug problem by way of operations, dedicated patrols in the Uplands during the summer months, and co-ordinated high visibility patrols and checkpoint operations which are designed to prevent and detect offenders committing crime throughout the division. Superintendent Perry said that the issue of 'drug driving' also remains a problem.

Operation Tara, an enhanced national anti-drugs strategy, was commenced by An Garda Síochána on July 1st.

The goal of Operation Tara is to protect communities from the scourge of illegal drugs in line with An Garda Síochána's mission of Keeping People Safe.

The focus of Operation Tara is to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute drug trafficking networks, at all levels - international, national, local - involved in the importation, distribution, cultivation, production, local sale and supply of controlled drugs.

Under Operation Tara, individuals and groups involved in the drug trade will be the target of enforcement activity based on intelligence and the latest crime trends.

During 2020 An Garda Síochána had resourced Divisional Drugs Units in all Garda Divisions in preparation for Operation Tara. As of 31st May 2021, 321 members are assigned full-time to Divisional Drug Units across every Garda Division.

West Wicklow Councillor Gerry O'Neill said that the drug problem is prevalent in Co. Wicklow, and he singled out cocaine in particular. He praised the efforts of Gardai and called for a combined societal and inter-agency effort to tackle the issue: "I want to commend the Gardai on how they're attempting to deal with the drug problem," he said. "In Baltinglass there's been an increase in detections of drug possessions. But no amount of Gardai can fix this issue on their own. Other arms of the state, such as the health service and schools, need to be held to account. We

all have to work together. Cocaine is killing our society. It has to be a combined effort. In our area the Gardai are very active and doing great work. But politicians, TDs, Ministers, all need to work together to stop the curse of cocaine. A united front is the only way to do it."

"The fear of drugs is no longer there among young people," lamented Cllr Avril Cronin. "It has become 'the norm'. There's an acceptance and that's worrying, they don't realise the consequences and effects. Teens don't seem to understand the damage it's doing."

Elizabeth Ferris, the Wicklow Public Participation Network Bray Municipal Area Representative to the JPC, also highlighted the problem of a recently discovered 'drugs den' on Bray Head. "It needs to be patrolled on a regular basis," she said. "It's in the middle of the forest. They're gathering there and lighting fires (in a very dry area), drinking, taking drugs, and engaging in anti-social abusive behaviour towards passers-by."

Cllr Shay Cullen said "Drugs are becoming more prevalent in smaller rural locations as well as urban. I'm concerned that we're not as visible in tackling this."

Cllr Tom Fortune said two of the main concerns among his constituents are drugs and anti-social

behaviour. "People are asking for more Garda visibility," he said. "I wonder if the reports we're getting accurately reflect what's happening on the ground and if there's many more incidents not being reported. I'm hearing a lot of anecdotal stories about drugs and it seems to be a serious problem everywhere."

Cllr Fortune noted the "large number of quite serious anti-social incidents over the last number of months" and asked what could be done.

Superintendent Ferry said that Operation Soteria was set up to enhance public safety within communities by reducing the incidents of assault in public. The operation targets areas where incidents of assaults are prevalent. A recent two-day operation was carried out on the 14th and 15th May in Charlesland, Greystones, and environs, where there was a problem of youths coming from other areas to engage in anti-social behaviour.

"There were high visibility checkpoints, patrols and beats. An operation was also put in place in Bray on the weekend of 29th and 30th May concentrating on public order, anti-social behaviour and begging issues on Bray Main Street and seafront. These operations will continue to run in each District over the summer months.



Bria, Bailee, and Brooke Byrne with Community Garda Niall Kennedy at the Rathnew AFC 'Respect Me, Respect the Community' soccer tournament



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'Child Benefit must be paid over Summer months for 16-18 year olds'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the government to pay Child Benefit in respect of 16-18-year olds over the Summer months, after many families expecting Child Benefit this week did not receive it.

Deputy Brady said: "Last year due to school closures, Child Benefit continued to be paid in respect of 16-18-year olds during the school holidays given the difficulties posed by Covid-19. This was a vital lifeline for many families here in Wicklow and across the state, as it provided much-needed financial support.

"This year, parents were not informed that this would not happen again this summer and that instead, a form signed by the school was required in order for Child

Benefit to continue to be paid.

"Schools are now closed for the summer and parents are unable to get the necessary form signed. This is an appalling situation, which will see the finances of thousands of ordinary families suffer.

"The government must take direct and urgent steps to address this and ensure this crucial money is not withheld from families who need it.

"My colleague Sinn Féin spokesperson on Social Protection Claire Kerrane TD has written to

the Social Protection Minister asking her to ensure that Child Benefit is payable to all parents with children aged 16-18 until school resumes at the end of August/September. At this stage, the forms can be signed and returned to the Department of Social Protection.

"Child Benefit is a critical source of income for families, especially to support older children. It is also relied on heavily by many parents in order to meet back-to-school costs, a costly time for parents.

"Sinn Féin will stand up for families and hold the government to account on this. Families who need this important support must continue to receive it."



Fiona Roche's Pharmacy proved to be a very popular winner of Greystones' annual Top Of The Shops competition, garnering over 50% of the public vote

Roche's Pharmacy is 'Top of the Shops' winner

Given the year that was in it, giving thanks and praise to your local shop has never been more important. And in Greystones, the perfect opportunity comes around every year with the annual Top of The Shops competition.

With the public voting for those behind the counter they feel go far above and beyond the call of duty, this is a way of letting those working to keep us fed and well know that they're truly appreciated.

Fiona Roche's Pharmacy stayed open right through this year of lockdowns, to make sure people were never left without when it came to their medical necessities, and the Blacklion outlet garnered over 50% of the total vote in 2021.

"It's an amazing feeling," says Fiona upon receiving her win, "because this is all about the shop, and every single person who works here. I'm enormously proud of my staff, and this award just goes to show that I have every reason to be..."

Sponsored by AIB Greystones, previous winners of the Greystones Top Of The Shops award include Paul Condren at Daly's SuperValu, Katie Bradshaw-Cullen at Insomnia and the David Dodd Pharmacy.

"The whole town has pulled together during these lockdowns," says Fiona, "and it's inspiring to see neighbours looking out for neighbours. Not just here in Greystones but right across Ireland."

With summer now officially upon us, Greystones' latest search is now on - for the town's best ice-cream in their annual Póg mo Cone competition.

Agreement with Dublin City Council to provide social housing in Blessington

Wicklow County Council is to enter into an agreement with Dublin City Council to provide over one hundred housing units at Burgage More in Blessington.

The scheme will be carried out via Public Private Partnership (PPP), and is part of Bundle 3 of the National Housing Programme.

Councillors from West Wicklow have expressed some concerns about the agreement, however they acknowledged that houses in the area are badly needed.

Some councillors have expressed concerns that the Council is effectively handing over control to a housing body, and Council housing tenants will be deprived of the opportunity to purchase their homes.

The Council's Director of Housing Joe Lane allayed some of these concerns at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, and he made assurances that the land will not leave Wicklow County Council's ownership.

A meeting between Councillors and Council officials also took place prior to last week's meeting at which the matter was discussed.

This meeting however failed to fully convince Cllr Edward Timmins who said last week that the agreement "doesn't

take account of the implications".

Speaking at last week's Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Timmins said "Firstly, I welcome the housing in Blessington, it is badly needed. I believe this will be 106 units. The council owns the land and yet they are going to hand over control and management of the houses to a housing body. The Council paid €11 million for it 13 years ago, it's 32 acres. I am concerned that the council is basically giving up control of the site. It means that the tenants will have no rights to purchase. Additionally, there are no affordable houses as a part of the scheme. I appreciate what the Council executive is doing, it is a difficult task, but we are operating in a bubble that just focuses purely on delivering the houses and not taking into account the implications."

Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr Avril Cronin, said "I have my concerns about how this is being handled, but it's great to see houses being

built, there is a huge demand for them in Blessington. I have concerns about the ownership of the houses going forward. With this model tenants may not have the opportunity to buy."

Cllr Gerry O'Neill said "I'm satisfied after speaking to Council officials that the land will remain with us". He explained, "This [PPP] probably is not the best way forward, however it's not at our level this issue will be solved, it's at the higher Governmental level." He also suggested that "All public elected representatives from the area should be involved in the plan for these houses. We know what's needed in terms of the numbers of units for the elderly and people with disabilities."

Cllr John Mullen said, "I share the concerns of Cllr Timmins, however I feel that all of our concerns were answered at the meeting. We need units and we need them quickly, as cllrs we have to play our part in the delivery of homes."

Cllr Vincent Blake said, "We have provided a huge number of houses

from Bray to Carnew. But at the end of the day, we do need housing in Blessington. This may not be everything that we agreed with but nevertheless we should proceed and I very much support it as well."

Chair of the Council's Housing SPC, Cllr John Snell, was also in support of the PPP agreement. "Unfortunately we as public representatives at the local level have to play the hand we're dealt. We have to use every available tool to address the housing crisis. In the last 14 months around Wicklow, houses have been provided in many areas, but in Blessington they're crying out for houses. This is a golden opportunity for people who've been waiting for so long. People don't have to wait 8-10 years anymore for a house in some parts of the county, but that's not true in Blessington. Bundle 1 was very successful, 51 families in East Wicklow got houses, I would welcome the same for people in Blessington. This is an opportunity that we should avail of and grab it with both hands."

SIPTU calls for a stop to the privatisation of local employment services

Eight jobs at risk in Wicklow

SIPTU representatives have called for an end to tenders for state contracts to run programmes to assist people getting back into the workforce which include financial rewards for companies, as they are the beginning of a process of wholesale privatisation of local employment services.

SIPTU Public Administration and Community Divisional Organiser, Adrian Kane, said: "If these tendering processes proceed as planned it will lead to the wholesale privatisation of local employment services. This will see the forcing out of the effective community-based non-profit providers of local employment services."

"The Minister of Justice, Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands, Heather Humphreys, claimed in the Dáil Éireann on Thursday 1st July that this tendering process will not lead to the privatisation of the services.

"We absolutely reject that analy-

sis. Let no one be in any doubt that the tendering process is designed to force community based programmes out and bring in the profiteers."

"SIPTU representatives believe the tendering process needs to be paused to allow for a structured stakeholder forum which would include existing community providers, service users and trade unions."

"I wrote to Ms Humphreys on 16th March calling for an emergency meeting on this issue but she is yet to respond directly to us. However, we do note that the Minister has now said in the Dáil that she will meet with all stake-

holders. We would call for this vital engagement to happen without any unnecessary delay."

He added: "In the meantime, more than 400 SIPTU members working in local employment services will be stepping up our campaign to prevent the privatisation of the sector. We will be writing to all political parties next week seeking meetings with their parliamentary groupings to discuss this issue."

"SIPTU and Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) representatives had a very positive meeting with Labour Party TDs last week to discuss this issue. Labour Party Spokesperson on

Social Protection, Sean Sherlock, pledged his full support to the union's ongoing campaign. We expect all political parties to show the same commitment to our campaign to stop the sale of these essential community services."

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Site purchased for Coláiste Chraobh Abhann

The Department of Education has confirmed that it has purchased a four-acre site adjacent to Colaiste Chraobh Abhann.

The site is to be used initially as access for the new extension being built at the school.

It is also expected to be used as a replacement for playing pitches which will be lost when the extension is built.

Speaking with the *Wicklow Times* Cllr Tom Fortune said "we received great news last evening confirming the acquisition of 4 acres of land by the department of education which will enable us to grow CCA with the relevant infrastructure. CCA is to grow to a 1000 pupil school which is great for our community."

"The board of CCA are delighted, our principal Mr Stack and his staff are delighted and his tenacity has been a great asset. This will enable him to plan properly for the future, we look forward to working with him and his staff on this. The parents in our community are delighted."

"We sincerely thank the KWETB, our TDs, and Department of education for their input and assistance, we appreciate it. This has been a long road, it started 9 years ago, it really took off two years ago. It involved meetings, emails, letters, arm twisting. It is a great day for our community."

"The immediate challenge we have now is to make sure we have the

promised temporary accommodation in place for school reopening in September. This is vital and we need all hands on the wheel to ensure this happens."

Colaiste Chraobh Abhann principal Oliver Stack stated "I am delighted to announce that the DES / KWETB have informed me of the purchase of the 4.19 acre site adjacent to Coláiste Chraobh Abhann. The acquisition of this site was a priority for myself and the Board of Management since my appointment in February 2019."

"The acquisition of the site will now assist the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) who are delivering our extension project which is well under way, following the recent announcement of WS Atkins Ireland Limited as the consortium lead on the Project Management Design Team. On completion of the project, it will allow us to accommodate 1,000 students from the wider community."

"I would like to thank KWETB and the school's Board of Management for their assistance and ongoing support in acquiring this site which will allow Coláiste Chraobh Abhann to accommodate the increasing numbers and demand for places as we

continue to be the school of choice in the area. The acquisition of this site will ensure we continue to serve the wider community with the highest standards of educational excellence in a community where mutual respect prevails."

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely delighted to hear the Department has purchased the site next to the school because CCA is in desperate need of additional space."

"The school had been told they will be getting four temporary classrooms and a metal work room, as well as a seating area for 120 students and toilets."

"The school was also asked by the Department if they can take an additional class for next year but have not been told what size of class to expect."

"However, CCA have now been told there may be a delay on their temporary accommodation for August."

"The accommodation is to be used primarily for the fourth year students but if it doesn't arrive as expected on August 6th it will cause massive disruption."

"I'll continue to work with the school to try and get this issue resolved with the Department as soon as possible."

"It's really important the school know what facilities they will have to accom-

modate the students at the start of the new school year."

Speaking after the news John Brady TD said "It's really positive news that the 4.19-acre site adjacent to Coláiste Chraobh Abhann has been purchased by the Department of education for the further development of the school. A lack of school places in the area has caused much concern for parents and students over the last few years. Many children from Kilcoole had been turned down for school places in Coláiste Chraobh Abhann due to a shortage of space, and it became one of the big issues in the last General election."

"Well done to the Principal Mr Stack, the school's Board of Management and all the parents and students involved in the A place for All campaign that ensured that the political focus was kept on the issue, their collective efforts have ultimately led to this positive announcement."

Deputy Brady concluded "Work on designing a school extension is underway and when complete the school will be able to accommodate 1000 students. Its critically important that this work progresses as quickly as possible so the educational needs of the local community can be met."



Aughrim Artist Eoin O'Connor with Jamie, Charlie, Zoe, and Louise O'Connor showing off his latest collection of paintings entitled 'Mutz', at his Gorey studio.

Over 2,000 people in Wicklow receiving HAP

There are over 2,000 people in Co. Wicklow currently in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

According to Wicklow County Council's Monthly Chief Executive Report for May 2021, there were 2,264 people availing of HAP in April of 2021. This compares to 1,850 people in April of 2020.

According to the Chief Executive's Report, "to date, 329 households (250 families & 79 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th April 2021. (149 homeless cases, 176 prevention cases to date and 4 direct provision). 108 properties were sourced by WCC."

In a Parliamentary Question this June, Sinn Féin TD John Brady asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the figures from each Municipal District in Co. Wicklow. The Minister supplied the figures for the fourth quarter of 2020: 229 people in receipt of HAP in Bray; 157 in Greystones, 380 in Wicklow, and 644 in Arklow. There were also a further 78 people receiving HAP who are living outside of the county but who remain registered with Wicklow.

Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien stated "The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme plays a vital role in housing eligible families and individuals. At the end of 2020, over 86,900 HAP tenancies had been set-up since the scheme commenced, of which there were nearly 60,000 households actively in receipt of HAP support, including 1,668 households in Wicklow. The figures relate to the fourth quarter of 2020."

"Local authorities have discretion, because of local rental market conditions, to exceed the maximum rent limit by up to 20%, or up to 50% in the Dublin region for those households either in, or at immediate risk of homelessness. It is a matter for each local authority to determine whether the application of a discretionary increase is warranted, and the level of such an increase, on a case-by-case basis."

Councillors want Strategic Housing legislation abolished

'Local democracy is being bypassed'

A motion has been put forward by Independent councillors asking that the Council write to the Government to request that the Strategic Housing Development legislation be abolished.

The motion was proposed at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council by Independent councillors Mags Crean, Peir Leonard, Joe Behan, Tom Fortune, Mary Kavanagh and Rory O'Connor.

It asks that the Council write to both the Minister and Minister of State for Planning and Local Government.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Crean said "We're seeing the negative impact of this legislation at a local level. It's contravening our local plans. It's to be abolished anyway, or not extended, but that's

not the point of the motion. It is important to send a message from the local council to national Government about legislation such as this is part of wider suite of legislations coming out more and more. These pieces of legislation are bypassing local democracy, we don't know what will replace it. We really need to send a strong message, and the strongest message is to ask that it be abolished."

Cllr Fortune added, "I think that the SHD process brought has not delivered. In fact, it is causing problems within the communities, it is destroying communities, potentially. The local authority has

limited input. The sooner that this thing is taken out of the system the better, and we can then revert back to the planning procedure that works for the local authority."

Agreeing with the proposal, Fine Fail councillor Gerry Walsh said "The strategic Housing Development is a process that has not been working. It diminished the role of the local representative. It has not achieved the target of fast delivery of housing, partly due to the number of judicial reviews that have taken place. Over 80 have been upheld, delaying the much-needed delivery of housing."

'Energy price hikes having a crippling effect'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that the announcement that Electric Ireland are to increase their residential electricity prices by 9% and residential gas prices by 7.8% from August 1st "couldn't come at a worse time" for people.

Deputy Brady said "These electricity and gas price hikes could not come at a worse time for people. Hundreds of thousands of people are still unemployed due to the pandemic and many households are barely making ends meet as it is."

"These price increases could add €100 a year to the average annual electricity bill and €60 to the average annual gas bill."

"Electricity prices in Ireland are already 23% above the EU average and the fourth most expensive in the 27-nation EU, recent figures from Eurostat show."

"Last year I called for a freeze on energy price

hikes during the ongoing pandemic, but nothing was done on this front."

"Instead the current government actually piled on the pressure with further carbon tax and PSO increases."

"Households are being hammered with energy prices here. On top of the cost of rent, childcare and insurance, many people find themselves under severe financial pressure."

"My colleague Senator Lynn Boylan published the results of a survey earlier this year which shows people are already put to the pin of their collar when it comes to energy costs."

"Almost half of respondents said they go without heat because of the cost, while two thirds found it difficult to afford fuel."

"Unfortunately, these new energy price increases will push even more households into energy poverty."



Wicklow Lions Club members Joe Kirwan, Ethna Neiland, and President Sean Olohan present a donation to May Kavanagh and Bill Porter for the refurbishment of the Residential Care Centre in Rathdrum

Lions donate €5,000 to St Colman's

Every member of Wicklow & District Lions Club took to the highways and byways of Wicklow over recent weeks.

The less energetic took to their back gardens and houses to clock up the miles for St Colman's Residential Care Facility in Rathdrum. Santiago Balbontin the usually very active Lion walked 67 Kms in 10 days on 2 crutches could this be a new world record!

This is one of the most exciting projects ever undertaken by the club as it involved every single member, the first of it's kind not only in Wicklow but throughout Ireland.

The Lions walked to show their commitment to St Colman's and the club itself donated €5,000 euro on behalf of its members.

On Thursday last President Sean Olohan with members Ethna Neiland and Joe Kirwan presented the cheque to the Director of Nursing May Kavanagh and to organiser Bill Porter in the grounds of the Care Centre in Rathdrum.

The money will go towards the installation of shower units in each of the 12 Residential Houses adjoining the present hospital.

Most of the funds will be raised in Rathdrum itself by way of sponsorship cards for the many walkers who took part in the Rathdrum to Vancouver walk. Separate donations are always very welcome for this extremely worthy cause.

'Active apologies are needed for Mother and Baby Home survivors'

Social Democrats councillor Jodie Neary has put forward a Notice of Motion asking that the Council proactively reaches out to Mother and Baby Home survivors and survivor groups to understand how the Council can best support their needs, 'and acknowledge this dark period in our nation's and county's history, in a sensitive and appropriate manner'.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Neary said "I want to acknowledge the great work the council has been doing behind the scenes. Mother and baby home survivors are still looking for truth and justice for what happened to them. While we acknowledge the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes, we must also acknowledge survivors' responses to it. I didn't want to have in the motion itself that we just say sorry. I believe in active apologies, and I think our apology to all those that suffered will take time, and it will take a lot of work behind the scenes to reach out to survivors, and to offer them support.

"I'm asking that the council continue to do that, and, where they can, to proactively engage with councillors as well, because I know we were contacted by many survivors. I'm contacted by family members quite a lot, who may have had parents who had passed away who were survivors, or who have grandparents, or some history in their family of it. They're



Cllr Jodie Neary

really looking for somewhere to be able to tell their story, to find out more information, and further down the line, when survivors get more clarity from the government about what they're going to do, as a council we should look to memorialisation in the most sensitive manner. We should work with other councillors and constituents and proactively engage with survivors and their families to see what would be the best way to

memorialise and commemorate those who unfortunately suffered such tragedy."

The Council stated, "At the meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 21 March 2021, the Cathaoirleach of the council made a statement to the meeting acknowledging the application of the report of the Commission of Investigation into mother and baby homes of the state. The apology issued by An Taoiseach at that time was echoed by Wicklow County Council. The council will support local measures furthering the development of the government's action plan as related to local government, and under the specific teams set down; the survivor-centred approach, apology, access to personal information, archiving and databases, education and research, memorialisation, and dignified burial.

"Wicklow County Archivist Catherine Wright is dealing with inquiries in relation to the county home and Wicklow County Council will engage sensitively with survivors living in our area who can benefit from the council's services. Arrangements will be made to make a copy of the commission's final report available in all our libraries. In addition, the county archive services propose to reprint the book 'Time Did Not Stand Still' for anyone interested in the County Home."

Council to request defibrillators in all housing estates

Wicklow County Council last week agreed to write to the Minister for Local Government to ask that the installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) be included on all planning applications for new housing estates.

The motion was put forward by councillors Paul O'Brien (Lab), Anne Ferris (Lab), and Gail Dunne (FF).

The motion also requests that the Minister instigate a review in order to install AEDs in all existing residential developments across Ireland.

The motion states that '70% of cardiac arrests happen at home. Every minute there is a delay in acting reduces the person's chance of survival by 10%. Having the AED close at hand provides a vital link in the chain of survival and offers the person, adult, baby, or child, the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest'.

Putting forward the motion, Cllr O'Brien said "This is about sending out a strong signal that this council is in support of AEDs. We believe planning is the appropriate place for this because that's where you start, not end. A number of councillors got together, cross-party and non-party, to listen to stories from people affected

by this, and it was harrowing. It should not take an incident like what happened to [Danish footballer] Christian Eriksen to highlight this.

"There no harm in looking for this, no harm to be looking into it, for it to be instigated. If we don't start looking into these things, and asking for these things, we're never going to get them. We're talking about life and death, not a footpath or a road."

Cllr Ferris added, "generally, our AEDs are situated

in main streets and in shopping areas, so it doesn't really help if you're at home."

Cllr Avril Cronin lent her support to the proposal, saying, "A defibrillator can really make a difference to save a life. My own family had a tragic incident in 1997 when my 13-year-old cousin dropped dead on a football pitch, and unfortunately there was no defibrillator back then on hand. I believe we should have them on hand at every opportunity that we can."

Mountain Rescue Teams appeal to walkers to exercise caution after four callouts in two days

The two Wicklow-based mountain rescue teams, Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team (DWMRT) and Glen of Imaal Mountain rescue team (GOMRT) responded to four callouts in the Wicklow Mountains over two days in early July.

Three callouts involved injuries and the fourth involved lost walkers.

The summer months are traditionally a busy time for the mountain rescue teams who responded to a record 117 calls in 2020. This trend looks to continue in 2021 with 54 callouts so far this year.

DWMRT Team Leader Maurice Brady says that while the teams are on call 24/7, 365 days a year and respond as quickly as possible, it is important to remember that it may take time for help to arrive to an injured person. With that in mind, he had this advice for walkers heading into the hills.

"An injured person can get very cold, very quickly while waiting for us to arrive. It's vital walkers carry a rain jacket, waterproof trousers, some extra warm layers and some food and water. Try to avoid cotton clothing as it retains no warmth when it's damp. Wear footwear with good ankle support and grip - most runners or trainers aren't suitable for hilly terrain."

Mr Brady also stressed the importance of checking the forecast before heading for the hills but pointed out that it will usually be colder and more windy on



the mountain with the potential for rain when none is forecast.

Gerry Condon, DWMRT Public Relations Officer, reminded walkers to park considerately.

"Please don't block gateways, barriers or narrow lanes when parking. It may take mountain rescue personnel longer to reach a casualty if we can't access these."



Crean demands urgency on access arrangements for Greystones fishermen

At the recent Greystones Municipal council meeting, Cllr Mags Crean (Ind) called on Greystones Municipal Council to contact SISPAR for a final update on access arrangements for the Greystones fishermen.

Cllr Crean stated "It is a month since we met with SISPAR to address this issue and there is still no agreement reached. We need to treat this issue with urgency now. The fishermen need to get on with their daily job and residents in the area need to see that a resolution can be reached that works in everyone's interest".

She stated that "Greystones community, new and old, will be better served by an integrated harbour, utilised by fishermen, yachtsmen, and so many others who use the marina for leisure activities. No one should be excluded."

Supported by the other councillors, it was agreed that SISPAR would be contacted for clarity on arrangements for the fishermen.

The dispute between the fishermen and the marina's operators, BJ Marine, escalated recently when one fisherman lay beneath his boat, which was in a hoist over him, to prevent it from being seized.

The dispute between the fishermen and the harbour's operators has been ongoing for a decade, since the redevelopment of the harbour saw the fishermen excluded.



Cllr Mags Crean

An agreement was reached last July that the fishermen would be allowed to land at the South end of the North Pier, bring their lorry to the end of the Pier to unload their boats, and tie up their boats at the North end of the North Pier.

However the dispute has now resurfaced. One of the fishermen received a letter from the harbour master early this year informing him that he was berthing his vessel

without permission.

There have been safety issues with some commercial fishermen refusing to follow instructions from the harbour master and obey the by-laws.

Issues raised by the harbour master include illegal mooring in the fairway, bringing fuel trucks onto north breakwater, speeding, failure to pay berthing fees, and storing lobster pots on the north breakwater.

Local residents also have concerns about who will be accountable for maintaining the cleanliness of the marina, and who will enforce the rules, if the fishermen are allowed to fish there. Residents have also been concerned about the presence of trucks driving around the marina at speed and the safety risk this poses for children and elderly in particular. Following a recent meeting between stakeholders, Cllr Tom Fortune stated that the issue has been allowed to develop into 'an arm wrestle' between the fishermen and BJ Marine and that this is "totally wrong". He said it was up to Wicklow County Council and Sispar to resolve the issue.



Ashford bungalow listed in online auction

A four-bed bungalow set in the rolling hills of Ashford is among the properties listed for Youbid.ie's next online auction.

Gorse Ridge Cottage, Killiskey, Ashford benefits from an ideal mix of countryside living and easy access to the M11 motorway, which is only 4kms away.

The 120 sq mts residence will go to auction on July 22 next with an Advised Minimum Value (AMV) of €320,000. The property benefits from an elevated garden out the back with picturesque views.

The accommodation briefly comprises four bedrooms, two en suites, a living room, fitted kitchen and a family room/office.

The house is located circa 10 minutes' drive from Ashford village which offers a wide range of amenities such as schools, shops and award winning restaurants.

Wicklow Town is only 18kms away while Bray is 22kms, and Dublin city centre is less than an hour's drive. The auction will also feature a number of commercial and residential properties and sites from 13 counties listed with AMVs as low as €14,000. Youbid.ie's previous live-streamed events have seen 83% of properties listed sold at an average of 14% over reserve prices.

The properties for the July 22 auction are listed on the platform. Documentation and brochures are available by registering on Youbid.ie or by calling 01-5676979. Email: info@youbid.ie for more details.

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FREE PARKING

Violist Beth McNinch awarded South East Venue Network Bursary

Violist Beth McNinch, who is Wexford-based, has been awarded the South East Venue Network (SEVN)'s new Arts Council-funded Artist Bursary.

Beth, who is Artistic Director of Musici Ireland, will use the bursary to research and discover repertoire for solo viola. This will include both long forgotten and contemporary works, with a particular focus on Irish and female composers.

SEVN, which is comprised of Wexford Arts Centre, Theatre Royal Waterford, Courthouse, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow, Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, Wicklow, Garter Lane, Waterford, National Opera House, Wexford, Visual, Carlow and Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny, created the bursary to provide much-needed financial and network support to an artist based in the South East region whose art practice has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The award was open to artists of all disciplines living in the region who have presented or exhibited work in a professional context within the last 5 years. Beth will receive a €9,000 financial bursary and in-kind support, including access to venue facilities, technical, management and communication support as well as mentoring and promotion support from SEVN network venues.

Elizabeth Whyte,

SEVN co-ordinator, said "This new bursary award has provided a vital opportunity for the venues to collaboratively support an artist such as Beth, whose practice has been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. The bursary opportunity also allowed venues to learn more about artists in the region through the application process. We hope that we may continue to find additional ways to support further these artists in the future through the SEVN network."

Beth's bursary win will enable her to research solo viola repertoire, utilising Trinity College Dublin's archives for historical music and the Contemporary Music Centre for Irish composers. She is particularly interested in researching historical Irish work and music by female composers. Through this research, Beth will learn new repertoire, which she will bring to venues within the SEVN in order to explore the spaces acoustically with the assistance of producer Gavin Glass.

Julie Kelleher, Director of Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre, said: "Beth's proposal was exceptional in a field of very strong applications. The process of assessing these bur-



Violinist Beth McNinch

sary applications gave me great insight into the enormous talent that the South East Region is home to. It is a common goal of all the network venues to support artists in the region to live here and carve out a sustainable career here. I look forward to working with my other South East colleagues to shine a light on Beth's artistry, and to support other exciting artists who have come to our attention through this process."

"It can be difficult to carve out time for personal artistic growth", Beth commented.

"Beyond preparing and planning for the next concert there is often little time to discover and research new ideas. Bursaries such as this are an important addition to supports that are starting to be made available due to the terrible impact Covid has had on our sector and I am absolutely blown away to be the recipient, it is a huge honour and privilege. I can only imagine the amazing proposals and artists who would have applied and am so grateful for this opportunity. I can't wait to get started on my project."



Pictured is Mary Marmion signing copies of 'Beyond Hazel Bridge', at Bridge Street Books in Wicklow Town where it is now back in stock. Mary wrote the introduction for this book, which is a recovered novel from her grand-aunt Elizabeth Boyle.

Elizabeth Boyle was born in Leitrim in 1905. She lived through the War of Independence and the Civil War often telling how she danced with the charismatic Michael Collins. As a young woman she wrote a semi-autobiographical novel and later she added a preamble as a mature woman returning to reflect on the place of her youth. She tried to have her writing published but it never happened.

Now, one hundred years later, Elizabeth's grandniece and former Wicklow Times journalist, Mary Marmion (OSullivan) has brought the dream to reality by self-publishing the manuscript. Mary has painstakingly reconstructed the novel titled Beyond Hazel Bridge and it is a feast for the senses. It is a first-hand account of the life of a young girl and her community in rural Ireland in the nineteen twenties which pulls the reader into the subterfuge and drama of the times while seeking comfort in the nature around her.

Young singers bring Irish songs to life in new children's book

A new children's push-button audiobook featuring six Irish songs performed by young singers was launched recently by My Irish Books. Old favourites, such as 'Beidh Aonach Amárach', 'Pota Mór Fataí' and 'Trasna na dTonnta' feature in the book, which aims to bring the Irish language to life for children. The audiobook is now available in Halfway Up the Stairs in Greystones.

'Mo Chuid Amhráin Ghaeilge 2 / My Irish Songs 2' is the second book in the series by My Irish Books, and features six traditional Irish songs, which can be heard at the push of a button.

My Irish Books launched its first book of the series in 2020, and sold out overnight following its appearance on The Late Late Toy Show in November. Commenting on the launch of the second book today, Director and Series Editor of My Irish Books, Risteard Mac Liam, said: "We originally came up with the idea for My Irish Books as we wanted to bring the Irish language to life for children. What better way to immerse yourself in a language than through music?"

"We brought traditional Irish singing to a modern technological concept, books with an internal speaker. By doing so, we could make the songs more accessible for children, and more enjoyable, and thereby fostering a grá for the language."

"The response to our first book was over-

whelmingly positive. It's been fantastic to see children, and adults singing along to the songs. We are delighted to add to the My Irish Books series today, with 'Mo Chuid Amhráin Ghaeilge 2 / My Irish Songs 2', and we hope that people enjoy this book as much as the first."

Young Singers

The songs on the book are performed by six young Irish children aged 8 - 15 and were recorded in Dublin. The young performers include Caoilfhionn Ní Scolaí (15), Sórcha Ní Scolaí (14), Naoise Ó Scolaí (8), Setanta Ó Scolaí (10), Caoimhe Ní Shiúrtáin Ní Loingsigh (13) and Róna Ní Chonaill (14).

Risteard originally approached the well-known Ó Scolaí family after seeing the sisters performing as part of Sult - a group of young traditional Irish musicians. Brothers Naoise and Setanta subsequently came on board for the recording. Between them, the

Scolaí siblings have won 15 all-Ireland Fleadh Ceoil medals.

A fellow student of the Scolaí family at Scoil Mobhí, Róna Ní Chonaill also joined the group in 2020. Róna, whose mother hails from the Connemara Gaeltacht, has been involved in music from a young age, having experience in sean-nós singing and dancing. She has been a student at the Glasnevin Academy of Music for three years and competed at Oireachtas na Gaeilge.

Caoimhe Ní Shiúrtáin Ní Loingsigh who was also involved in the book's recordings, has previously recorded original songs and voiceover for Eric Carle's award-winning Hungry Caterpillar playschool app. She is the daughter of producers Anna Jordan and Keith Lindsay.

'Mo Chuid Amhráin Ghaeilge 2 / My Irish Songs 2' includes an original illustration for each song, illustrated by award-winning artist Tatyana Feeney. The drawings are also available to purchase as prints, on the My Irish Books website.

The book is suitable for children aged 1-6 years old and went on sale on myirishbooks.com and in selected bookstores across Ireland on Tuesday, 29th June. The book retails at €12.



Pictured to mark the launch of a new children's push-button audiobook, 'Mo Chuid Amhráin Ghaeilge 2 / My Irish Songs 2', were Sórcha Ní Scolaí, Setanta and Naoise Ó Scolaí. Setanta, Sórcha and Naoise are part of the group of singers that can be heard in the book. Pic: Marc O'Sullivan

Bray's Aza does it again!

Three-time IFTA nominee and Wicklow's answer to John Williams wins big with Best Score!

Bray native Aza Hand made history at last week's IFTA's, becoming the first person ever to be nominated in both the Best Sound and Best Score categories, an accolade rarely heard of in the industry. Nominated twice in Sound for *Son* and *Here Are The Young Men*, he lost out in the category to Lenny Abrahamson's *Normal People*, but went on to win big scooping up the award for Best Score for *Son*.

A peek at Aza's credits on his IMBD page gives you an idea of just how prolific the sound designer/composer is in the Irish Film industry. Working on everything from *Game of Thrones* and *The Tudors* to films such as *The Canal*, *Never Grow Old* and most recently *Son*, a chilling horror directed by Irish Director Ivan Kavanagh. No stranger to the IFTA's, Aza has been nominated a total of 7 times with 2 wins. He was also awarded a prestigious Golden Reel Award from the Motion Picture Sound Editors Guild in 2012. This particular award holds a special place however.

"This is my first nomination and award for score" he comments beaming from ear to ear. "It's actually only my second time writing the music for a film so as you can imagine it makes the win even sweeter!"

Aza explains that he



Aza Hand with his IFTA Award

worked on both the sound design and music for *Son* while under lockdown from his new daughter's bedroom.

"It was a crazy time. We'd just had our first child and the subject matter of the film was pretty intense. Working on both

the sound and music meant really getting into that headspace. I really enjoyed the work but I couldn't have done it without the support of my partner Kate."

The Irish Film and Television Awards saw its second year conducting

the show virtually with award announcements and speeches pre recorded on Friday. The show then was aired and hosted by Grainne Seoige on Sunday night on Virgin Media.

"All my friends and neighbours were outside my house waiting with champagne as we got the calls from IFTA. So luckily we had something to celebrate!" he laughs.

Aza Hand is currently the staff mixer at EGG Post Productions and continues to work on a variety of productions from all over the world. He is excited to build on his success in composing and we are sure he is one to watch in the years to come! Next stop the Oscars?

Son was released on July 8th exclusively to streaming site Shudder and won the George Byrne Maverick Award for Best Film at the Dublin International Film Festival 2021.

Debut solo exhibiton for Dunlavin artist

In 2019, Dunlavin artist Nigel Cullen contributed a piece of artwork to Sheltered Charity Through The Arts, for their 'Sheltered Arts Exhibition' in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust. Nigle was only too delighted to support such a worthy cause as the organisation Peter McVerry Trust is close to his heart for personal reasons.

Nigel was one of 30 artists from around Ireland to feature in the exhibition and it was also his first time having his work displayed anywhere. Fast forward two years, and Nigel is now about to get his very own solo exhibition, entitled 'From Behind the Mask'.

It was in the Sheltered Art's Exhibition that Nigel's talent was spotted by Tony Strickland, renowned Independent Irish Art

Curator.

Tony was blown away immediately by Nigel's talent for painting, and is organising and curating Nigel's first solo art exhibition which will be taking place at **The Ireland Institute on the 22nd of July till the 28th of July.**

John Kerin-Brooks, Founder of Sheltered Arts Ireland, said "I am delighted for Nigel and wish him every success into the future."



Nigel Cullen

Cullen is a versatile artist, using multiple media including water-colour, oil and acrylic. This versatility is echoed in his subject matter, drawing on the countryside around him, as well as historical and maritime themes amongst others. His works are full of dramatic strength, drawing the viewer to the canvas and revealing the narrative within.

A Wicklow native, Nigel has been painting since early childhood with the encouragement of his Father. He is predominantly influenced by nature and all his works depict an aspect of the natural environment. Nigle is also a member of Cruthu West Wicklow Art Group.



'Stranded', by Nigel Cullen

Coming up at Mermaid...



World in My Eyes - Mr. Sands Youth Theatre

Fri 16th - Sun 18th July | 5.30pm & 7.30pm | €10 | 5

"Rinse and repeat. Our alarm wakes us up, we get dressed, we go to work or school, we come home a few hours later taking the same commute in and out, and we'll do the same thing the next day. And the day after that. We're all so predictable."

World in My Eyes will make us rethink and relive the neverending Groundhog Day of life in Bray - and this year.

Written and devised over Zoom in lockdown, this site-specific piece holds a lens up to our town's heroes, histories and hypocrisies. At times hilarious, at times heartbreaking, the members of Mr. Sands have crafted an immersive theatrical experience not to be missed.

Joe Wilson: Glencree Valley

Opening on Friday 13th August - Saturday 18 September | Admission Free

Joe Wilson's exhibition entitled 'Glencree Valley' opens in Mermaid's gallery on 13th August.

Speaking about the exhibition Joe said: "The 'Glencree circuit' is a popular route for walkers. As a local resident I have walked this circuit and valley numerous times. I have produced works from other 'valley/circuit' projects, eg - Connemarra Twelve Bens; Beara Peninsular. The Glencree circuit came into focus for me for work as a consequence of the 'Shaking Bog Festival' organised by Catherine Nunes in conjunction with Mermaid Arts Centre.

"The work produced for this exhibition is a result of walking around the Glencree valley and surrounding hills looking across the valley and walking up along the river. When I'm walking in the landscape, I don't feel that I am simply observing appearances. The experience is too immersive and arresting of other senses as well as the purely visual, for example - being aware of the terrain and continual flux of light and weather. The exhibition is a collection of glimpses of the landscape and attempts to repossess the physical experience of regularly walking the area".



Of a Mind - A story of Humankind-ness

Wed 4th-Sun 15th August | 7.30pm (weekend matinées at 3pm) | €15/12

Meet at Bray bandstand to experience this live show through your smartphone and headphones.



Photo by Paul Tierney

Part flash mob, part silent disco, part meditation, OF A MIND is a modern ritual to reconnect with nature and find your place in the crowd again.

Born out of a nostalgia for seeing and being seen by everyone at Mass on Sunday, yoga class on Wednesday, or the GAA on Saturday, OF A MIND draws on the latest mind-body research and the wisdom of ancient tradition to heal our social distance.

Gather as one of 50 at the Victorian bandstand on Bray's iconic promenade for a guided audio experience using your own smartphone and headphones.

Accompanied by a live narrator and underscored by a binaural soundscape, step into rhythm with your breath and take a trip through our collective consciousness.

Created by award-winning artists Listen and Breathe, and commissioned by Mermaid Arts Centre for Bray seafront this August, OF A MIND reflects on the transformation of our lives during lockdown.



Adrian O'Loughlan, Regional Operations Manager East

Arklow rises to the challenge to 'Fill a Bus' for Meals on Wheels

There was a huge local response when Bus Éireann, Ireland's national bus company, joined with Meals on Wheels Arklow appealing for contributions for people in need in the area. More than 2,000 items were donated to fill the Bus Éireann bus on Thursday, 8th July.

"We are absolutely blown away by the response and the generosity of the people of Arklow", said Bus Éireann Sales Executive Michael Colleran, "People were out in force from 9:00 am in the morning bringing bags of donations all day and we managed to fill the bus by 3:30 pm!".

Since the Covid19 pandemic there has been a huge demand from the most vulnerable in our society for the Meals on Wheels service in Arklow which launched in 2003 and supports over 120 households in the locality every day.

Covid-19 has made it immensely challenging for Meals on Wheels Arklow with demand for their services more than doubling since the beginning of the crisis. This generous donations of non-perishable goods and household items will be used over the coming months.

"We are extremely grateful to all at Bus Éireann for initiating this innovative appeal on behalf of Meals on Wheels Arklow said Hilary Sharpe of Meals on Wheels Arklow. We have seen a huge

increase in demand for our services since the start of Covid19 and all the volunteers of Meals on Wheels, Arklow and Friends of the Community have worked so hard to make sure that we help the most vulnerable in our society. The success of this initiative will allow Meals on Wheels Arklow to extend our capacity to provide food parcels to those in most need in the coming weeks and months.

"I want to sincerely thank all at Bus Éireann for helping us achieve this and to the local community of Arklow for supporting the most vulnerable in our society. The extra help is needed, and we are so grateful for it. Meals on Wheels offers nutrition and companionship to the most vulnerable people living in our community and we are sincerely grateful", continued Hilary Sharpe.

"Bus Éireann operates daily services through Arklow including the Expressway Route 2 (Wexford - Dublin City - Dublin Airport) service and our Routes 133 and 133X (Wicklow - Dublin City - Dublin Airport) service, which we have operated for many years in the locality. We would like to thank Bridgewater Shopping Centre and East Coast FM for working with us and for Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, Miriam Murphy and for all our Bus Éireann colleagues who came out to give their time and support to this very worthy cause", stated Michael Colleran.

Wicklow swift project hits high summer

Wicklow is playing its part in a national campaign to assist and encourage the swift population which faces decline.

High Summer marks the peak of swift season in Ireland and the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council is pleased to give an update on the Wicklow Swift Project which is actively seeking to improve the long-term prospects for this iconic but vulnerable summer visitor.

Deirdre Burns, Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer, said: "The future of swifts in Ireland is seriously threatened by loss of nesting sites and feeding habitats, climate change and associated unpredictable weather patterns. Wicklow County Council is one of a number of counties working to halt the decline in this species through raising awareness, improving habitat, providing new nesting sites (boxes) and recording sightings."

An essential part of the Wicklow Swift Project, she said, involved working in partnership with interested individuals, Tidy Towns and resident groups, schools, clubs and businesses in County Wicklow.

This year's nesting season benefitted from good warm and dry conditions throughout June. Reports from Baltinglass, where new nesting boxes have been installed, are very encouraging. New boxes have also been



Swift Boxes at St Patrick's Abbey Grounds in Wicklow Town

installed recently in Wicklow town, Bray, Delgany, Arklow, Blessington and Dunlavin.

The swift lays up to three eggs and currently, last year's fledglings are busy checking out potential nest sites for next summer. The Wicklow Swift Project has been able to supply nesting boxes at appropriate locations which is as a key action to sustain the population which is otherwise excluded from nearly all new and refurbished developments.

In roughly four weeks' time our swift visitors will depart for Africa on a journey that will see these remarkable birds cross the African continent, in search of food

through our winter months. The highly specialised aerial feeding habits of the swift means that their tiny insect prey is not always available in poor weather conditions. This in turn affects breeding performance.

Oran O'Sullivan, Project Officer, stated: "Following on from early season work with swifts in the north and east of the county we are now seeking to contact interested parties in the south and west. The support and active engagement of local communities is critical to building greater awareness of this unique bird species and in undertaking conservation action, locally where it is needed. Most villages in County Wicklow are

suitable for Swift nest box schemes."

Anyone looking for advice on how to get involved in next seasons project should contact Oran by e mail: oran@irishgardenbirds.ie .To request a copy of 'Saving Swifts Brochure' e mail: wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie or to find out more about swifts and other aspects of Wicklow's heritage, visit our community heritage website: heritage.wicklowheritage.org .

The Wicklow Swift project 2021 is made possible by funding from The Heritage Council and Wicklow County Council and is an action of the County Wicklow Heritage and Biodiversity Plans.

R U OK? wellbeing and mental health initiative launched for apprentices

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD and the CEO of the Apprenticeship Council Pat O'Doherty have launched a new initiative aimed at encouraging apprentices to talk more openly about their mental health.

The Department of Further and Higher Education has ambitious plans to increase the number of apprentices in Ireland over the next ten years and the apprenticeship programme is continuing to develop.

The initiative aims to create platforms for the apprenticeship community to share their mental health stories and experiences

Minister Harris said: "In launching Mental Health Aware - R U OK? we are inviting apprentices from all walks of life, including some of Ireland's most successful CEOs who are themselves former apprentices, to get involved. In the last 15 months, Ireland has witnessed significant disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in response, heroic examples of communities coming together.

"While we navigate our way out of the crisis we need to continue to help and support each other, and to ensure that new generations of talent are

equipped to thrive and grow. Fresh ideas and strategies are essential to maintain mental health awareness and resilience."

Resources to support conversations around the question R U OK? have been developed in partnership with apprentices and former apprentices. Aiming to provide positivity and insight and to build resilience, these resources offer simple advice on good mental health practice with clear signposting for those who want further guidance or support.

R U OK? is supported by employers and bodies including the CIF, Designer Group, ESB Networks, the Union of Students in Ireland, HEA, National College of Ireland, ETBI, Education and Training Boards, THEA, Institutes of Technology and Technological Universities.

Welcoming the initiative, Apprenticeship Council Chairman and CEO of ESB Pat O'Doherty said:

"This is a great opportunity for the learning community of apprentices, former apprentices, employers and educators to bring their shared experiences together, creating a unique environment of solidarity, understanding and mutual support to improve mental health awareness. Today's launch includes a call for more people to share their mental health stories, encouraging apprentices and all in the workplace to talk more openly about their mental health."

Speaking about the initiative, Mary-Liz Trant on behalf of SOLAS said: "R U OK? is about looking forward and creating a future of work that is more open, more supportive, more community-based. The initiative will feature digital, video and audio materials created in partnership with current and past apprentices, stories that resonate with the entire 40,000-strong apprenticeship community. R U OK? includes a free, anonymous 24/7 text service and is supported by CIF and the Lighthouse Club who are making their excellent mental health app available to all."

Further information is available at www.apprenticeship.ie

€100,000 for Barndarrig water treatment

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has confirmed that €100,000 is to be provided for capital works to address nitrite pollution in the Barndarrig water supply.

Deputy Whitmore received the news after raising the issue of the continuing Do Not Consume Notice in Barndarrig with the Minister for State Peter Burke in the Dáil last week.

Speaking afterwards, Deputy Whitmore said "After much frustration from residents in Barndarrig of the continued notice in place, I raised this with the Minister for State and was delighted to hear that €100,000 has been set aside for capital works to treat the water supply. Irish Water will use this funding to put in place treatment equipment, due in a couple of months.

"This commitment from the Minister came alongside the announcement by him in the Dáil to me that the Do Not Consume Notice should be lifted within the next 7-10 days, subject to HSE approval.

"This is all welcome news and I am hopeful the ban will be lifted within the timeframe as stated to me by the Minister.

"I am delighted with this news, as I know the residents will be too after over 5 months of living on bottled water collected at the nearest car park and living with the difficulties of this under a pandemic. Residents have been very frustrated with the slow progress but I am hopeful this funding will ensure the long term sustainability of the water supply for Barndarrig and address future water quality issues.

"This welcome news has come after the culmination of a series of contacts I've had with Irish Water and the Minister on this issue, as well as engagement from residents on a continuous basis. I am now relieved that a timeframe is in place with further commitments in train."

Deputy Whitmore will be meeting with Irish Water this week to get further clarity on plans to monitor, treat and prevent water pollution in future.

"The Minister will ensure that Irish Water continues to communicate with me and residents on this issue," she said.

The Do Not Consume notice has been in place for the 213 customers supplied by the Barndarrig Public Water Supply since 9th February. It was issued to protect the customers following elevated levels of nitrite in the water supply. The water is not safe for consumption or the preparation of foods, but is safe for hygiene, washing of utensils and use in washing machines and dishwashers. It is especially important that mains drinking water is not given to bottle fed infants.

An alternative water supply continues to be in place to support impacted customers and 5L bottles of water are available at the car park opposite Barndarrig church. Customers are reminded to follow the HSE guidance on social distancing, face coverings and hand hygiene when collecting water.



There was a triple retirement at the end of this school year at Newtownmountkenedy Primary School; Pictured is Principal Deirdre Lennon, Chairman Hugh McDaid, and student Caoimhe Healy making presentations to Aine Kavanagh, Orla Keyes, and Catherine Hurley as they retire after their years of service.

Liscolman affected by Carlow Boil Water Notice

The townland of Liscolman in West Wicklow has been impacted by a Boil Water Notice issued last week or the areas supplied by the Carlow North Regional (Rathvilly) and Tullow Public Water Supply due to a pollution incident in the River Slaney.

The drinking water quality entering the Rathvilly and Tullow Water Treatment Plants has been affected and a Boil Water Notice must be put in place until the issue has been rectified. The population affected by the Boil Water Notice is approximately 14,259. The BWN was issued by Irish Water and Carlow County Council following advice from the Health Service Executive.

Experts from Irish Water and Carlow County Council are working to assess the situation and investigate and implement solutions to lift the notice as quickly as possible. In the meantime, all customers of this supply are advised to boil their water before use until further notice.

Jim Fitzgerald, Regional Asset Operations Manager for Irish Water said, "We understand the disruption a Boil Water Notice can cause to communities; however, the protection of public health is our number one priority at all times. We are working closely with our colleagues in Carlow County Council and the HSE to address this issue and lift the notice as quickly as it is safe to do so and safeguard the supply for the future."

Vulnerable customers who have concerns can contact our customer care team on 1800 278 278. Updates will be available on our Water Supply Updates section on water.ie, on Twitter @IWCare. Further information in relation to the boil water notice is available from www.water.ie/water-supply/water-quality/boil-water-notice

Access real-time information about your water supply

Customers can now avail of quick access to relevant information on their water supply, based on where they live, thanks to the rollout of a newly designed Irish Water website. The changes will allow people in Wicklow to immediately see what works and projects are ongoing in their locality by setting their location at www.water.ie.

Designed to work on your mobile phone or any other device, the website lets you set your location with updates and news relevant to your locality served upfront on the homepage.

Irish Water said "It also enables us to deliver important public health messages and reassurance to the public that we are working every day to provide a clean and safe supply of drinking water for our customers while returning wastewater safely to the environment".

Head of Customer Operations with Irish Water, Yvonne Harris explains how this new-look website will better serve customers: "We have upgraded our website so it is more user-friendly. We talked to our customers, we listened to their feedback and made changes to better improve the user experience for all.

"We are now keeping our customers informed, in real time, about any issues that may be impacting their water supply as well as updates on significant projects, leakage works and water quality.

"This new-look version of water.ie takes the effort out of the search for information by giving customers important, relevant, location-based information on the homepage. With one click to set your location or the option to choose a locality, visitors to the site can immediately view key information for their chosen geographical area.

"Now, instead of Donegal residents seeing news for Dublin, or Cork residents seeing information on outages in Offaly, they see local news, supply updates, and information on water quality and projects. And it's one click to turn it off and return to a national view. In addition, a mobile-first design caters to the vast majority of visitors who use mobiles to access water.ie."

Yvonne continued: "From research and data analysis, Irish Water's Communications and Customer teams have a better understanding of what our customers want. The previous site structure meant customers had to undertake separate journeys to check for an outage or find relevant information on water quality or local news stories, making it a laborious process. The team wanted to give our customers the option to get a full picture of what was happening in their locality, all in one place."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 9 OF 2021 5 PRIORY WAY, DELGANY, CO WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to an Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow or Greystones Municipal District Offices, Mill Road, Greystones (note due to COVID-19 appointments are necessary before visiting Council offices).

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

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)
21/06/65/100 Wicklow County Council- Compulsory Purchase Order No 9 of 2021	Dwelling house and land of 240m ²	William Charles and Eleanor Charles of 5 Priory Way, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 2nd day of July 2021
Joe Lane, Director Services



Wicklow RNLI assist sailor on yacht with mechanical problems

Wicklow all-weather lifeboat went to the assistance of a sailor on a 26ft yacht on Wednesday 30th June.

The yacht was located near Bray Head around midday and was found to have some mechanical problems, but it still had propulsion and was able to motor back to port.

The yacht was escorted into nearby Greystones harbour by the lifeboat and arrived at lunchtime. Once the yacht was safely alongside the marina, Wicklow Lifeboat returned to Station.

Speaking after the callout, Lifeboat Press Officer, Tommy Dover said: "The sailor was able to contact the Coast Guard for assistance today, and we strongly encourage you to take a means of calling for help that is most suitable for your activity on the water, such as a Marine VHF radio or mobile phone. We advise that you make sure you know how to use it and keep it within reach at all times."

New action plan to maximise biodiversity benefits on wind farms

New environmental monitoring systems will revolutionise how we measure and monitor biodiversity

An innovative new project will revolutionise how we measure and monitor biodiversity. The innovative Nature+Energy project aims to maximise the benefits of biodiversity on wind farms.

Led by MaREI, the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine teams in Trinity College Dublin and Maynooth University, the project will develop new ways of accounting for the value of nature on wind farms and establish a state-of-the-art environmental monitoring system across the country.

Nature+Energy will develop Natural Capital Accounts and a Biodiversity Action Plan for the wind sector to facilitate the development of biodiversity enhancement measures and help to mitigate the effects of wind farms on key species. This new MaREI project, co-funded by Wind Energy Ireland and eight Irish renewable energy companies, recognises the need to enhance nature's contributions to people through improving understanding of how habitat diversity and connectivity can be enhanced by wind farm land management for conservation.

Dr Ian Donohue, coordinator of the project, Principal Investigator at Nature+, Trinity's Centre for Biodiversity & Sustainable Nature Based Solutions, and Associate Professor in Trinity's School of Natural Sciences said: "The project is founded on the idea that wind farms have the potential to provide so much more than just renewable energy. If managed properly, the biodiversity on onshore wind farms has the potential to not only take even more carbon out of the atmosphere, but also to improve resilience of ecosystems to climate change and enhance the provision of ecosystem services-the 'jobs', such as crop pollination and water filtration, that nature does for us for free. Wind farms could in effect function almost like mini-nature reserves throughout the country.

"Climate change and the erosion of biodiversity-the extinction of plant and animal species-are the twin environmental crises facing all of humanity. By focusing on solutions for overcoming these problems, this project gives us the opportunity to showcase how researchers and industry can work together to develop genuine win-win scenarios for the economy and the environment," said Donohue.

Prof Andrew Parnell of the Hamilton Institute at Maynooth University, said: "This very exciting project

brings together two of the core strengths of Maynooth University; namely data science and climate change. Through this project we believe we can revolutionise the land use around wind farms, and provide real-time validated information on how the local environment interacts with the necessary every day workings of the wind farm."

In 2020, wind energy supplied 36% of the total electricity demand, and overall renewable electricity supply is set to rise to 70% by 2030 as new wind and solar farms are built. This will help Ireland to reduce its reliance on environmentally harmful fossil fuels and meet its climate change targets.

Brian Ó Gallachóir, MaREI Director and Professor of Energy Engineering in University College Cork said: "I'm delighted with and very enthused by this new and important MaREI project. Ireland is world leading in addressing the challenges of integrating wind energy into power systems and we have a tremendous wind resource. Government policy is to more than double current wind power levels by 2030. Nature+Energy will provide the evidence to ensure this growth takes place in a manner that maximises biodiversity".

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) is a tool to integrate nature into decision-making and is a means to reduce and reverse global trends in environmental degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Nature+Energy will develop natural capital accounts for the wind sector, which will form the basis for a decision-support tool for land-use planning for onshore wind energy. Prof Jane Stout, Principal Investigator at Nature+ and Professor in the School of Natural Sciences, describes natural capital as an economic metaphor for nature. "It's a concept that frames natural systems as stocks of assets that provide a flow of benefits to people. Building on previous projects led by Trinity, this project will develop ways to assess natural capital on wind farm sites".

The Nature+Energy project also includes collaborators Prof Yvonne Buckley (Nature+ Centre, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin) and Prof Andrew Parnell (Hamilton Institute, Maynooth University). Dr Aoiheann Gaughran (School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin) has been recruited as Project Manager.

'Flood Relief Scheme must build on potential of Arklow'

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore has made a submission to An Bord Pleanála calling for the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme to "build on the potential of Arklow".

In her submission, Deputy Whitmore says "Arklow deserves the best there is to offer in terms of the development and construction of this important flood relief scheme. It must be done in such a way that recognises and builds on Arklow's potential and recognises what the area has to offer.

"Unfortunately, some aspects of the current flood relief design moves away from this failing to recognise the huge opportunity this scheme can bring to the area and Wicklow in general.

"The Flood relief scheme is to be built along the Avoca River which runs centrally through Arklow town. It is an ideal hub where people can meet, socialise or walk, and where cafes and terraces could be set up to embrace the beautiful scenery. It's also an area that can enhance the local environment and biodiversity bringing with it huge tourism benefits as a result. However, the project as currently designed will replace most of the 980m of the existing flood defence wall with concrete, and only a tiny fraction of the development made up of glass panelling.

"Not only will it be unsightly, but it will dissolve the locals' deep connection to the Avoca River. Currently, the design caters to just 5% of the scheme made up of glass panelling, a total of 47m at 6 various locations. Whereas in Enniscorthy, Wexford, they have used up to 21% of the construction with glass panelling, totalling 500m.

"The reasons given as to why more glass panelling is not being considered in Arklow, is that it will be too costly and frequently vandalised, however I don't believe this to be the case. The cost will be paid back in tourism and local use of the river walkways generating business in the area. Underinvestment in Arklow will continue the trend of underinvestment - this trend needs to stop here." If glass panelling is used elsewhere to this extent, why not incorporate that in Arklow where it will be hugely beneficial for many reasons? I have sent a submission to this effect in support of the Save Maritime Arklow group to An Bord Pleanála, who I hope will listen to the needs of local residents. "The maritime heritage and cultural aspects of the town are very important to residents' identity with Arklow. It also has potential to help develop tourism and income for the local economy. Therefore, it is important that access to the river is maintained, including future possibility of a footbridge, to allow for future marine leisure opportunities,

when the Avoca River water quality is improved.

"I believe there is potential in incorporating specific biodiversity improvements into the design for the flood-relief works, such as floating planted islands. While flood relief schemes such as this provide the necessary protection, the downside is that the waterfront becomes increasingly hard-edged, resulting in a loss of amenity value and biodiversity. Planted islands such as this would soften that hard engineering approach, whilst enhancing the current high biodiversity value of the river.

"Flood relief programmes in many countries, such as the UK, have moved from using engineered flood-relief solutions to more environmentally suitable measures, such as upstream river works, river and floodplain restoration, tree plantings etc.

"I believe that the Arklow scheme presents a perfect opportunity to incorporate similar nature-based solutions to address flooding. This could be done as an Irish pilot project, and to provide a proof-positive example of how upstream measures can alleviate the need for more costly engineering measures.

"My belief that incorporating the two solutions in parallel ie the engineering solution and the upstream solutions, would represent an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the positives of upstream measures.



Jennifer Whitmore TD at Arklow Harbour

'Government must stand up for fishermen and end unfair treatment'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has urged the government to stand up for Irish fishermen and end the long-running injustices in the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

His comments come following a successful protest by fishing families that took place outside the Convention Centre in Dublin.

Speaking following the protest Deputy Brady said: "I am calling on the government to stand up for Irish fishermen and end the injustice of the current Common Fisheries Policy. This terrible policy has devastated Ireland's fishing communities.

"This government has failed to act and stand up for our fishing communities.

"They have sat idly by again

while an injustice has continued whereby Ireland has 12% of the waters in the EU but our fishermen are only allowed to catch 4% of the fish.

"This costs our State thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions worth of seafood every year. It is shameful and the government has shown it is totally unwilling to act and stand up for our fishing communities

"We now need a statement of intent from our government that they will fight tooth and nail for Ireland's fair share of the fish in

our waters when the Common Fisheries Policy is revisited.

"We also urgently need an equal burden sharing of the loss of fish quota arising from the EU/ UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement amongst the fishing fleets of all EU Member States. This quota less amounts to tens of millions of euro each year to our fleet.

"Today, the fishing community came to the heart of Dublin and sent a strong message to those in power that this disgraceful situation cannot continue any longer. I am calling on the government to listen to their calls.

"Sinn Féin will stand with our fishing communities and stand up for their rights."

Principal of Brittas Bay National School retires after 40 Years

It was a big day in Brittas Bay National School on Wednesday 30th June. Not only was it the last day of what has been a very strange year for teachers, staff and children, but it was also the day the school bid farewell to Principal, Eileen Byrne.



Eileen Byrne planted a magnolia tree in the school's wildflower garden to commemorate her 40 years at the school.

Eileen has been with Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara for forty years. She arrived in 1981 and was collected from the bus by Aggie O'Brien, the then principal, and mother of the school's current Chairperson, Padraig.

Her role in Brittas Bay was her first ever teaching job and 12 years later, when Aggie retired in 1993, Eileen became principal of what was then a

three-teacher school that was made up of two prefab buildings to accommodate 66 pupils.

Teachers recall from the time "There was no phone and in emergencies we had to run to Cullen's shop (now Daybreak) or to McDaniels pub to make a phone call!"

As numbers grew in the 1990s, Eileen was determined to build a new school. With a fundraising

committee formed by the parents and Eileen, there was a huge drive to raise money for the new school. Eileen's energy and commitment drove the project on and they moved to Magheramore while the new school was being built.

Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara moved into the new building in November 1998. As numbers grew, more classrooms had to

be added. Eileen often said her career "involved bricks and mortar almost as much as teaching!"

Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara is now a staff of eight teachers, with SNA Angie and Secretary Ann, cleaning and caretaking staff, who are all proud to be part of Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara.

Eileen's achievements at the school through her forty-year tenure have been marked this week with presentations by the PA, Board of Management, children and staff which included a tree planting ceremony by Eileen on Monday (28th June, 2021).

Speaking about her retirement, Padraig O'Brien, Chairperson of the Board of Management said, "The parents, teachers, staff, and the Board of Management congratulate Eileen on all she has achieved for the school - she brought it a long way from that small two-teacher school back in 1981. We wish Eileen the very best and a long healthy and happy retirement".

Scoil Realt Na Mara, Brittas Bay (Brittas Bay National School) was established on the present site in 1857. Today there are 135 pupils enrolled at Scoil Realt na Mara. It is an eight-teacher school consisting of six mainstream teachers, and two full-time and one part-time Special Education Needs teacher.



Eileen Byrne pictured with Padraig O'Brien, Chair of the Board of Management. On her last day as guard of honour was formed to celebrate her retirement.



Pictured at Waterford Aero Club to announce details of the new Masters of Engineering in Flight Test Engineering at IT Carlow are Gerard Gibbs (right), Programme Director, MEng in Flight Test Engineering, Dept AME, IT Carlow and David Timpson, Chairman, Waterford Aero Club. IT Carlow has collaborated with Waterford Aero Club to develop the flight test module within the programme

New Engineering Masters at IT Carlow take flight

The Faculty of Engineering at Institute of Technology Carlow has announced a new programme commencing in September - the Masters and Postgraduate Diploma of Engineering in Flight Test Engineering

The programme will be the only type in Ireland in the specialist area of flight test engineering and successful graduates will have a unique skillset as engineers in the performance and evaluation of a range of different types of aerial vehicles. The programme was developed by staff at the Department of Aerospace, Mechanical and Electronic Engineering (AME) at Institute Technology Carlow, which is a founding member of the Air Transport and Aeronautics Education and Research Association (ATAERA), an international network of aviation universities. The Masters and Postgraduate Diploma of Engineering in Flight Test Engineering complements IT Carlow's other niche degree programmes in aerospace engineering and pilot studies.

Potential careers paths open to graduates of the programme include: avionics engineering; mechanical systems engineering; navigation engineering; systems test engineering; flight dynamics engineering and airworthiness engineering.

"The aim of the Masters and Postgraduate Diploma of Engineering in Flight Test Engineering is to develop theoretical and applied skills to allow graduates work in the field of flight testing for both manned and unmanned aerial vehicles. The programme will teach students how to test aerial vehicles safely, measure their performance from raw data and determine their flying qualities", commented Dr Cathal Nolan, Head of Department of Aerospace, Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, IT Carlow.

IT Carlow has collaborated with Waterford Aero Club to develop the flight test module within the programme. Students will acquire flight time as part of their laboratory work to carry out performance and evaluation techniques on aircraft.

Candidates have until August to apply for one of 16 places for the Masters of Engineering in Flight Test Engineering (CWE04). The one-year MEng. taught programme full-time fee is €9,500. Further information is available at www.itcarlow.ie.

Innovative research project to support small rural schools

Minister for Education Norma Foley TD has launched a two-year action research project aimed at supporting small rural schools. The innovative project aims to encourage small schools to cluster together in local groups, enabling them to collaborate and identify common challenges and trial innovative solutions.

This project is being developed by a working group of school management bodies and teachers' unions with the Department of Education, as part of the programme of work of the Primary Education Forum (PEF). The PEF comprises all primary education partners, including parent representatives, working collaboratively with the Department of Education.

Six project clusters of small schools will be formed, two in Galway, and one in each of Donegal, Kerry, Wicklow and Waterford, consisting of between three and five schools per cluster. The clusters will be supported by part-time local coordinators sponsored by the education partners, working with a national coordinator under the guidance of a steering group. As an integral part of the project an evaluation will take place and a final report, including analysis of scalability of actions undertaken, will be compiled.

Minister Foley said: "All across the country, tremendous energy and local support is provided to our small

schools. They are valued hugely in our communities, and play an important role in community life. This research project will harness some of that energy and will support schools to collaborate in clusters and identify possible solutions to some of the challenges they face.

"Small schools' leaders and school communities have themselves identified that there is huge potential for collaboration in finding workable solutions. Small schools themselves are best placed to know what might and might not work for them. It is not expected that all of the activities tried out will be immediately successful; the aim is to provide an opportunity over a two year period to experiment safely.

"The Programme for Government commits to continuing to recognise the importance of small schools to communities across Ireland and this innovation provides tangible support to that commitment.

"I have no doubt that the schools participating across the six clusters

in this project will provide valuable insights and ideas into supports that can be developed and replicated across small schools."

Some examples of innovative approaches that may be taken by school clusters in the action research project include:

* Sharing teaching and learning of aspects of the curriculum, including exploring how ICT can link the cluster schools.

* Closer collaboration between schools for the purposes of pupils sharing and experiencing common activities and or SEN provision.

* Considering how best to support maintenance matters such as IT systems/services and assessing and sharing procurement and costs.

* Exploring aspects of school leadership such as a number of schools under the management of one school principal, existing supports in the system for teaching principals and the empowerment of middle leadership teams across clusters.

Funding will be in place for the project's two-year lifetime and schools will not be asked to make a financial contribution to take part. Participating schools have been communicated with and the project will commence in the new school year.



Notice of a Compulsory Purchase Order under The Water Services Acts, 2007 to 2013 (and, in particular, Section 7 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act, 2013 and Parts 2 and Sections 31 & 32 and Part 7 and Section 93 of the Water Services Act, 2007, as amended), The Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2014 (and, in particular Part XIV and Sections 213 and 217 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000), Section 184(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, Section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 (as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 and as amended by Section 6 and the Second Schedule of the Roads Act, 1993 and by Section 222 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000), The Housing Act, 1966 (and in particular Part V, Sections 76 and 78 and the Third Schedule), The Lands Clauses Acts, The Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, 1919

AS RESPECTS ALL OR PART OF THE LAND TO WHICH THIS COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER RELATES

TO BE PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4(a) OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966, AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000 – 2014.

Compulsory Acquisition of Land

Irish Water Compulsory Purchase (Old Connaught Wastewater Project) Order, 2021

1. WHEREAS IRISH WATER (hereinafter referred to as “the Company”) a Water Services Authority for the purposes of the Water Services Act, 2007, proposes for the purposes of the Water Services Acts, 2007 to 2013 and in exercise of its powers under Sections 32 and 93 of the Water Services Act, 2007 to acquire compulsorily the lands and rights over land hereinafter described and has made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”) for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Company to acquire compulsorily:-
- (a) **Permanently, the wayleaves** described in Sub-Part A of Part 2 of the Schedule hereto, over the lands described in Sub-Part B, of Part 2 of the Schedule hereto - which wayleaves are shown **coloured yellow** on the drawing marked “Irish Water Compulsory Purchase (Old Connaught Wastewater Project) Order, 2021” and numbered IW/10013372/CPO/OC01.
- (b) **Temporarily, the rights** described in Sub-Part A of Part 4 of the Schedule hereto, over the lands described in Sub-Part B, of Part 4 of the Schedule hereto - which said lands are shown **coloured green** on the drawing marked “Irish Water Compulsory Purchase (Old Connaught Wastewater Project) Order, 2021” and numbered IW/10013372/CPO/OC01.
- All of the said lands described in the Schedule hereto are situated in the County of Wicklow.
2. Owners, lessees and occupiers of the lands described in the Schedule hereto will receive individual written notice.
3. The Board cannot confirm a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the lands if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the lands, and not withdrawn, until it has caused to be held an Oral Hearing into the matter and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the Oral Hearing. However, regard should be had to the provisions of Section 218 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended which provides that where as a result of the transfer of functions under Section 214, 215, 215A, 215B or 215C of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Board would otherwise be required to hold a local enquiry, public local enquiry or oral hearing, that requirement shall not apply to the Board but the Board may, at its absolute discretion, hold an Oral Hearing in relation to the matter, the subject of the function transferred.
4. A copy of the Order and the deposited drawings referred to in it may be seen at the following locations:-
- (a) Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26, Talbot Street, Dublin 1 between 9:00-17:00hrs.
- (b) Bray Municipal District, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow between 9:00-17:00hrs.
- All of which drawings are sealed with the seal of the Company.

SCHEDULE:
PART 1 – LAND ACQUISITION
Not Applicable

PART 2 – PERMANENT WAYLEAVE
Sub-Part A – Description of Wayleave

The right for the Company, its successors in title, assigns, tenants, servants or agents, contractors or other licensees:

- (i) to construct, lay, keep, operate, maintain, renew, repair and inspect waste water works as defined in the Water Services Act, 2007 and all associated pipelines and all other associated physical elements used for collection, storage or treatment of waste water and such other works, services, facilities and other things as are necessary or expedient in relation thereto or are ancillary thereto or form part of such waste water works, in, on or under the land specified in Sub-Part B below, together with the right,
- (ii) to enter with all necessary vehicles, plant and machinery upon the said land at all times for any of the said purposes.

Sub-Part B – Description of Land

Plot Number coloured yellow on the drawing deposited at: Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 And Bray Municipal District, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Drawing No.	Quantity, Situation and Description of the Land			Owners or Reputed Owners	Lessees or Reputed Lessees	Occupiers
		Area in Hectares	Location	Description of Property			
001	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.1188	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space	Pizarro Developments Limited (In Receivership) c/o Ken Fennell (Receiver) Deloitte, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 D02 AY28	N/A	N/A
003	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.1931	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space and Roadway	Pizarro Developments Limited (In Receivership) c/o Ken Fennell (Receiver) Deloitte, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 D02 AY28	N/A	Department of Education c/o David Donnelly, NDFA, Treasury Building, Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2, D02XN96
004	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.0028	Bray Commons	Pathway	Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow	N/A	N/A



Presentation College celebrating centenary

Presentation College, Bray, has announced details of its centenary celebrations planned for the academic year starting in September 2021.

The Wicklow secondary school is planning to stage a series of events throughout the year, beginning with a centenary Mass on Sunday, September 5, 2021, in the Queen of Peace Church.

Other projects planned to mark the 100 years, include the student-centred Spirit of Pres Week in November 2021, where a centenary-themed programme of events will take place.

A special open Gala Day will take place in Springtime 2022, where guests and members of the local community will be invited to the school to join with them in celebrating this milestone event.

A rugby weekend celebrating the school's long history with the sport will also be staged in Greystones Ruby Club, while the Past Pupil's Union will be hosting a special centenary dinner to mark the occasion.

"Since Presentation College Bray was first opened in 1921

the school has played a central role in the educational, cultural and artistic life of the town and its surrounding area," Principal Martin Locke said at the launch.

"It is only fitting that, 100 years on, that contribution should be proudly acknowledged and celebrated. I am delighted to announce these plans and look forward to marking this unique occasion in the school's proud history.

"We are particularly looking forward to the Spirit of Pres Week in November 2021 which will showcase the fantastic achievements of the students; from the classroom to extra-curricular activities that take place in the school."

On September 5, 1921, Presentation College, Bray, first opened its doors to admit 52 new students and there are currently more than 600 students housed in a modern building which was built in 2011, replacing the older building constructed in the 1960s.

It is hoped that both past pupils and staff who attended and worked at Presentation College, Bray, previously will take the opportunity of renewing their ties with their former school, and reuniting with their classmates during the celebrations.

Well-known sporting alumni of the school include rugby internationals Maurice Mortell Snr, Reggie Corrigan and Tony Doyle, Republic of Ireland national football team goalkeeper Darren Randolph, cricketer Ed Joyce, Olympian and leading surgeon Gary O'Toole, Trinity Professor Luke O'Neill, RTÉ's Robert Shortt, poet David Wheatley, businessman Pat Byrne and former Barnado's chief executive Fergus Finlay. As part of the initiative, Presentation College, Bray Past Pupils Union have relaunched their website and will be launching a social media campaign to contact former pupils.



Pres pupils getting ready for the school's upcoming centenary celebrations

Compulsory Acquisition of Land

Irish Water Compulsory Purchase (Old Connaught Wastewater Project) Order, 2021



PART 3 – PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY
Not applicable

PART 4 – TEMPORARY WORKING AREA
Sub-Part A – Description of Rights

The temporary right for the Company, assigns, tenants, licensees, servants or agents, contractors and workmen in common with all others who have the like right to use the land specified in Sub-Part B below to enter with all necessary vehicles, plant and machinery upon the said lands and to use the land to pass and re-pass over same for the purpose of ingress and egress to and from the public road at all times, for all purposes of and by all means in connection with the use and occupation by the Company its successors in title, assigns, tenants, licensees, servants or agents, contractors and workmen in common with all others who have the like right of lands and rights over land acquired by it for the purposes of the OLD CONNAUGHT WASTEWATER PROJECT. Such rights include the right to do anything reasonably necessary for or ancillary or incidental to the construction of the structures and the waste water works as defined in the Water Services Act, 2007 to be laid, erected, or constructed on the lands described in Part 1 of this Schedule and the wayleaves described in Part 2 of this Schedule in, on, under or over the lands specified in Sub-Part B below.

Sub-Part B – Description of Lands

Plot Number coloured green on the drawing deposited at: Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 And Bray Municipal District, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Drawing No.	Quantity, Situation and Description of the Land			Owners or Reputed Owners	Lessees or Reputed Lessees	Occupiers
		Area in Hectares	Location	Description of Property			
002	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.2452	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space and Roadway	Pizarro Developments Limited (In Receivership) c/o Ken Fennell (Receiver) Deloitte, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 D02 AY28	N/A	Department of Education c/o Attention: David Donnelly, NDFA, Treasury Building, Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2, D02XN96
005	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.0028	Bray Commons	Pathway	Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow	N/A	N/A
006	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.4015	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space	Pizarro Developments Limited (In Receivership) c/o Ken Fennell (Receiver) Deloitte, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 D02 AY28	N/A	Municipal District of Bray, Wicklow County Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow
007	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.4574	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space	Pizarro Developments Limited (In Receivership) c/o Ken Fennell (Receiver) Deloitte, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 D02 AY28	N/A	N/A

Dated this 28th day of June, 2021.

Liam O'Riordan, Company Secretary, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.



Angela Keogh of Dlish café in Tinahely with her staff Ellen Balfe and Clodagh Alexander, re-opening the cafe after the easing of lockdown restrictions recently.

Harris addresses National Economic Dialogue on skills shortages in economy

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has addressed the National Economic Dialogue on the skills shortages facing the economy.

Minister Harris said: "The pandemic has accelerated changes to the way we live and work, with a direct impact on the labour market. Our work shows the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy have impacted certain cohorts of workers - female, younger - to a greater extent and specific attention will need to be paid to these cohorts in the post-COVID recovery.

"It is vital as we seek to rebuild post-pandemic that people are retrained and reskilled in areas where there are skills shortages or in areas where there will be economic growth. Work by SOLAS has found over half of science, engineering and technology companies are having difficulty in recruiting software developers, designers, engineers and technical support staff. A third of those involved in construction are facing challenges in recruiting quantity surveyors, civil engineers, site engineers, scaffolders and pipe layers. This is in stark contrast to 4 per cent of companies facing difficulties in recruiting accountants and 9 per cent finding it difficult to recruit those in transport and storage. It is clear there is a skills mismatch which we need to try and fix."

Businesses remain committed to climate change despite lack of confidence in emissions target

SSE Airtricity has published findings from its Green Business Sentiment Index series. The research, carried out by Behaviour & Attitudes on behalf of SSE Airtricity, highlights and measures the progression of attitudes among businesses towards renewable energy and green recovery, over the past 10 months. A significant majority, some 71% say sustainability and climate change have an impact on decision making when it comes to purchasing and partnerships; while the vast majority of businesses (85%) consider themselves to be environmentally friendly.

This is the second national report, following the first instalment in July 2020, commissioned by Ireland's largest provider of 100% green energy[1]. The research has been undertaken to gain a better understanding of, and demonstrate, the sentiment among Irish businesses when it comes to sustainability and green practices. It has been carried out against the background of Covid-19, with a focus on COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference that will be held in Glasgow this coming November.

With positive progress in some areas over the past 10 months, there is still some way to go for businesses to see the benefits of renewable energy as 47% of businesses are still unaware if their energy is renewable or not, unchanged from July 2020. 30% claim to use renewable energy, an 8-percentage point improvement on July 2020; with 47% still seeing cost as the main hurdle in reducing their carbon footprint, unchanged from July 2020. A quarter of businesses (26%) outside of Dublin do not agree that being 'greener' attracts more customers, versus a third (31%) of Dublin businesses. This is a shift on the July 2020 where a third of business (36%) in Dublin were not in agreement, versus a quarter (26%) of businesses

outside of Dublin.

While sentiment towards green energy and climate change is improving, and businesses are largely on board with sustainability practices, findings demonstrate a lack

of confidence when it comes to Ireland's net zero ambitions. Almost seven in ten (67%) businesses are aware of the Government's 2030 target for a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

as Ireland works towards climate neutrality in 2050. However, when asked, just one in four (25%) of those businesses aware of the 2030 target, were confident that the target could be achieved.

CLASSIFIEDS

Mark 4:1-20 GOSPEL

Jesus began to teach by the lakeside, but such a huge crowd gathered round him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there. The people were all along the shore, at the water's edge. He taught them many things in parables, and in the course of his teaching he said to them, 'Listen! Imagine a sower going out to sow. Now it happened that, as he sowed, some of the seed fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground where it found little soil and sprang up straightaway, because there was no depth of earth; and when the sun came up it was scorched and, not having any roots, it withered away. Some seed fell into thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no crop. And some seed fell into rich soil and, growing tall and strong, produced crop: and yielded thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold'. And he said, 'Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!'. When he was alone, the twelve, together with the others who formed his company asked what the parables meant. He told them, 'The secret of the kingdom of God is given to you, but to those who are outside everything comes in parables, so that they may see and see again, but not perceive; may hear and hear again, but not understand; otherwise they might be converted and be forgiven'. He said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables? What the sower is sowing is the word. Those on the edge of the path where the word is sown are people who have no sooner heard it than Satan comes and carries away the word that was sown in them. Similarly, those who receive the seed on patches of rock are people who, when first they hear the word, welcome it at once with joy. But they have no root in them, they do not last; should some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, they fall away at once. Then there are others who receive the seed in thorns. These have heard the word, but the worries of this world, the lure of riches and all the other passions come in to choke the word, and so it produces nothing. And there are those who have received the seed in rich soil: they hear the word and accept it and yield a harvest, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold'.

REFLECTION

The disciples were having difficulty in understanding all Jesus was teaching, particularly at the beginning of his ministry. But Jesus is patient with them, explaining everything to them. Understanding God's presence and plan in our lives takes time and develops through the years. We need to be the good soil, accepting the words of Scripture and allowing them to grow within us, bringing new and deeper understanding and guiding our actions and decisions.

C.J.

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Support for the establishment of a pilot National Pollinator monitoring scheme

Ministers Pippa Hackett and Malcolm Noonan last week announced support for a pilot initiative to establish a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. The scheme will track changes in wild pollinators across Ireland and is part of an initiative across much of Europe.

Announcing the scheme, which will monitor wild pollinators (bumbees, solitary bees, hoverflies and butterflies) across a network of 50 sites incorporating farmland, semi-natural and public land, Minister Hackett said:

'I am delighted to see my department collaborating with the NPWS to support this pilot. It will support the All Ireland Pollinator plan and proposed EU pollinator monitoring requirements by establishing a robust national monitoring framework. This will deliver key metrics on pollinator population status and trends, and complement the long-term citizen science monitoring that is already being done through the All-

Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme.'

Minister Noonan said: 'We committed to a Pollinator Plan in the Programme for Government and this work is a substantial contribution to improving our understanding of, and conservation of, bees and other important pollinators. This National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme will build on the existing programmes of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, bringing added

value to the work of the Centre in Waterford. We have seen great strides in caring for pollinators in towns and villages, parks and gardens and I hope we will see the same in the farming landscapes of Ireland in the years to come.

'I want to acknowledge the Heritage Council in facilitating this collaboration between our two Departments and the Data Centre.'

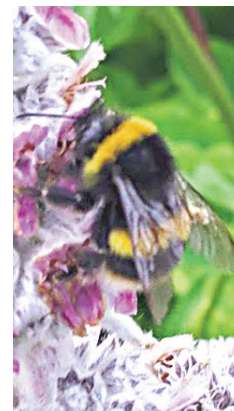
Dr Liam Lysaght, Director of the National Biodiversity Data Centre

noted that, 'Monitoring biodiversity is an essential first step in the protection of pollination and other ecosystem services, for policies or actions to be effective they must have a sound evidence base. The National Biodiversity Data Centre

looks forward to working with NPWS and the Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to deliver this evidence base.'

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 is supported by both the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It identifies a clear need for long-term monitoring mechanisms for wild pollinators, so that the

impact of the Plan can be properly assessed. The EU Pollinators Initiative (2018) calls on Member States to develop national pollinator strategies and to establish monitoring mechanisms, with indicators to enable evaluation of actions taken to tackle the decline of pollinators. In announcing this new initiative, Ireland places itself at the forefront of pollinator conservation in Europe.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
BRAY. Brian & Mary Montaut seek Permission for works at the front of 4 Mount Pleasant Villas, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, County Wicklow, comprising a new free-standing, Double Garage together with associated site works and the removal of the existing free-standing, single car garage. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
We, Orla & Brendan Martin, seek Planning Permission for a Single Storey Flat Roofed Extension with Balcony to North East side of existing dwelling at 'Ailsa', 56 Raheen Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Reji Jpseph intends to apply for Planning Permission for Family Flat to rear of existing house at No. 21, Rossana Close, Ballinalea, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



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KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications to form Clerical Officer Grade III panels:

POST CO/21/02/JULY21

Initial Location:

KWETB Head Office, Naas, Co. Kildare

POST CO/21/03/JULY21

Initial Location:

KWETB Sub Office, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

POST CO/21/04/JULY21

Initial Location:

KWETB Training Services Office, Naas, Co. Kildare

Full details are available on www.kwetb.ie and click on 'vacancies'.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications:
12 noon on Tuesday 27th July 2021.

Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive.



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