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DELIVERED TO HOMES & BUSINESSES IN: SHANKILL, ENNISKERRY, BRAY, GREYSTONES, DELGANY, KILCOOLE, NEWCASTLE, KILQUADE, ASHFORD, KILPEDDER, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, KILMACANOGUE, LARAGH, MONEYSTOWN, ROUNDWOOD, RATHNEW, WICKLOW, GLENEALY, BRITTAS BAY, AVOCA, WOODENBRIDGE, ARKLOW, SHILLELAGH, TINAHELY, REDCROSS, BALLINACLAGH, AUGHIRM, RATHDRUM, DONARD, DUNLAVIN, CARNEW, COOLATTIN, BALTINGLASS, BLESSINGTON.

Tuesday 14th September 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

TRAFFIC CHAOS PREDICTED

Fears of impending 'traffic chaos' have been aired by councillors after learning of proposals to close a number of exits and junctions along the N11, including at Delgany and Kilquade.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the consultation process over the new N11 proposals as part of the N11/M11 improvement scheme and the announcement by ARUP of the go ahead of the preferred 'red corridor route'.

The upgrade scheme will see the closure of some of the N11's junctions combined with an investment in bus services with the aim of reducing car demand.

Minister Simon Harris TD has

expressed his trenchant opposition to the proposal that Junction 10 Delgany on the N11/M11 be closed.

Minister Harris said: "The idea of closing Junction 10 flies in the face of logic. Delgany has already seen significant residential development in the past number of years with more new housing granted permission. As it stands the closure of Junction 10 is only a proposal as part of the N11/M11 route selection process. I have out-

lined my trenchant opposition to this proposal to the project team designing the N11/M11 upgrade and I urge all Delgany residents to make their views known as part of the public consultation running from now until September 20th."

Minister Harris continued "This issue does not just affect Delgany residents. The proposal to close Junction 10 would impact on all Greystones, Kilcoole and Kilpedder residents that use Junction 11 as



Player of the Match Clodagh Fox with Jackson and Willow Sherry celebrate Wicklow winning the Ladies All-Ireland football final in Croke Park. See more pages 10-15

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this will add to congestion at this exit. The N11/M11 project team need to outline their alternatives to closure. Given that they cite safety and design of the existing junction 10 as their rationale for their proposal, they need to outline what safety improvements can be made to Junction 10 to bring it up to modern motorway junction standards. Other junctions along the N11/M11 route are to be significantly upgraded and realigned to modern safety standards and the Delgany Junction should be afforded the same priority for safety improvements".

Minister Harris concluded: "I have asked Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the N11/M11 project team to extend the period for submissions from the public to allow more time for local residents

and communities to study the preferred route and the proposed new local roads and additional public transport along the N11/M11 route."

Jennifer Whitmore TD is calling on Wicklow County Council and ARUP to arrange an online public meeting to address residents' concerns.

Deputy Whitmore said "this proposal is obviously raising many concerns for constituents in the area especially the potential road closures that will really affect people on a local level. People feel side-lined and have many questions as to why this was the decision made by Arup and how this will impact on road congestion in the local area.

"I've been getting a lot of feedback from the public on this saying they are having difficulties accessing the

online portal, they find it hard to arrange for a one-to-one consulta-

tion, that it's not very clear what's being proposed, and the very

short time frame given the fact that this is such

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Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

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- Employment Law (HR) - Thursday 30th September.
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- Effective Marketing for SMEs - Wednesday 6th October
- Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop Tuesday 12th October.

For further details or to book GO TO:
www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
Phone: 0404 30800
Email: enterprise@eo.wicklowcoco.ie

European Union
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Members of Web Women's Group in Bray recently planted a tree in memory of their late chairperson Elly Fairbairn at the HSE Primary Care Centre on Killarney Road, Bray. Elly was involved in local voluntary groups in Bray for over 20 years and will be very sadly missed by her many friends in the area. A plaque with her name was placed at the tree. The ceremony was attended by her daughter Amy and her son, Ollie and members of the Web Group.

County Wicklow Volunteer Awards

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a national emergency like no other, the people of Wicklow went that extra mile by volunteering. Do you know a local volunteer hero or team? Would you like to see them recognised? Why not nominate your hero for a County Wicklow Volunteer Award?

These awards are a recognition of the many individuals and groups of people that work tirelessly in Wicklow to provide services to the old, the young, the lonely, the sporty, and the vulnerable. The awards will recognise the local historians, the tidy towners, and volunteers caring for neglected animals. The awards will give a bow to the information givers, the help-line listeners, and the English language tutors. So please nominate your heroes.

Nomination Categories include:

- Local Hero Award.

- Volunteer Team Award.
- Under 18 Volunteer Award.
- Award for a member of the migrant, refugee, asylum seeker community.
- Innovative Community Volunteering.
- Virtual Volunteering Award - innovative use/adoption of technology to continue services during the pandemic.
- Covid-19 Special Projects Award.
- Corporate Volunteer Award.

Each category requires you to nominate ONE volunteer. If you would like to nominate more than one volunteer, please submit your entry in the Volunteer Team Award category. Nominations close on October 6th at 5pm.

For further information visit the web-site County Wicklow Volunteer Awards 2021 - Wicklow Volunteer Centre (volunteerwicklow.ie), call Leah on 085 862 2051, or email leah@volunteerwicklow.ie

Online Cancer Thriving & Surviving Programme

There are still some places left on Purple House Cancer Support's Online Cancer Thriving & Surviving Programme which starts on Tuesday 14th September (2-4.30pm, Weekly for 7 weeks). This is a self management programme for Cancer survivors (3 months post treatment) with the aim of improving your quality of life to better manage your daily health.

The topics on the course include: Techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain & isolation & poor sleep; Living with uncertainty; Exercises for maintaining and improving

strength, flexibility & endurance; Making decisions about treatment and complimentary therapies; Communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; Nutrition & healthy eating. To register, please see purplehouse.ie

Racing News

The first of the evening at Kilbeggan on Friday 3rd September went the way of the Adam Short-ridden Il Courra. Trained for owner/breeder Mary Griffin by Cormac Farrell, the 15/8 chance was nicely clear over the final hurdle and had four and a half lengths to spare over the Mark Fahey-trained Rebel Rose. Short said, "I'm very happy with him, his form was in the book as he'd won a bumper and been placed in some nice winter maiden hurdles. I thought the good ground would help, I was a little bit worried as it was the best ground that he's run on, but he handled it really well. He jumped super and was probably the best horse in the race."

Laragh/Glendalough Active Retirement

The next meeting will be on Tuesday morning 28th September for tea/coffee, light exercise and a catch up from 10.45am - 12pm at the Brockagh Centre. "We will hopefully be back to normal during the month of October and be able to resume our weekly meetings. We always welcome new members to join our group. If anyone would like to offer their services or share their skills with the group please contact the centre. For more information call Denise on 0404 45600, email brockaghoftice@gmail.com or drop in to the centre."

Over 2,500 Wicklow volunteers joined the National Spring Clean 2021 campaign

National Spring Clean 2021 is now over in Wicklow and it has been the largest campaign to date! Over 2,500 Wicklow volunteers joined the National Spring Clean 2021 campaign in 150 locations with the highest results yet achieved.

The National Spring Clean is Ireland's official anti-litter campaign and over the past 21 years, the initiative has been highlighted the collective responsibility we share in tackling and preventing our national litter problem. National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

This year, due to the campaign's success in previous years, the National Spring Clean ran from April to the end of August meaning that Spring Clean 21 is Ireland's longest running and largest anti-litter campaign to date.

Over 2,500 Wicklow volunteers have participated in organised clean-ups across over 150 different locations in the county. Furthermore, National Spring Clean has been a starting point for a large number of groups to organise recurring clean-up events throughout the rest of the year.

National Spring Clean 2021's initiative has been a great opportunity for volunteers to get out again and do their bit for their local environment, contribute to creating a more sustainable community, meet new like-minded people and make



Pictured are some of the Rathdrum Tidy Towns members and Rathdrum Trout Anglers who took part in the 2021 National Spring Clean

a difference.

The National Spring Clean is also an opportunity to act local to tackle a global issue. As a matter of fact, over the last couple of years, the National Spring Clean has also been trying to raise awareness about another crucial issue: the link between litter and climate change - the biggest environmental challenge of our time - and highlight how combined local actions can have a global effect. Our

consumption patterns and how we dispose and treat our waste has a substantial impact on the levels of emissions of several greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

National Spring Clean Manager, Emlyn Cullen said: "This year we had the longest and biggest National Spring Clean campaign ever and we want to thank all the groups and individuals around Ireland who joined us. While waiting

for Spring Clean 2022, there are several ways in which communities and individuals around Ireland can keep getting involved and do their bit for our environment. For example, we encourage people to do a #2minutestreetclean every time they are out and about. Moreover, we are joining An Taisce's Clean Coasts Programme for the Big Beach Clean and we are inviting volunteers to register and tackle marine litter at its source."



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A 'major blow' as landfill oral hearing is refused

TDs and Ministers have expressed their disappointment following An Bord Pleanála decision to refuse a request for an oral hearing for the proposed large-scale inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry at Ballinclare in South Wicklow.

Minister Simon Harris said: "I am disappointed An Bord Pleanála have refused to hold an Oral hearing. This only compounds the original lack of engagement with the community and local representatives when this landfill proposal was drawn up.

"Since the Landfill proposal was published I have had many serious observations from members of the public, environmental and tourism groups outlining the serious implications of the Landfill proposal and the detrimental impact this will have on the local environment.

"I had called on An Bord Pleanála to hold an oral hearing to give the community another forum to make their views known and make submission to highlight the serious impact this Landfill will have if it goes ahead."

"This is disappointing news", said Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, "and is a major blow to the local communities who will be potentially impacted. The scale of this project is so large it should be considered as a strategic development project. And it's exactly because of this scale that an oral hearing should be facilitated

because of the size of the potential impact.

"Residents have expressed to me their huge disappointment and are concerned now whether their concerns will be taken on board. If you consider that this project could include a 20-year permission including the construction of an inter-lined landfill, a separate construction and demolition waste recovery facility, and a soil washing plant at Ballinclare Quarry, possibly forming the State's largest ever landfill. There are obvious concerns which locals want addressed. This includes construction traffic, road safety, environmental concerns, the negative impact on tourism as well as the exclusion of communities from the process.

"This latest decision does not instill public confidence in our public institutions to be democratic, transparent and community sensitive. As we enter into a new phase of climate action, these projects will require more input from local communities and more transparency on how the local environment will be managed.

"Fundamentally, it's really important that local communities

have an opportunity to engage in this process which the oral hearing would have facilitated," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

The decision to request an oral hearing was made by councillors at a Special meeting of Wicklow County Council in June. Councillors unanimously supported a proposal which objects to the quarry plans as they believe the planning application contains flaws and inaccuracies.

The proposal by Kilsaran Concrete Unlimited would see over 6 million tonnes of inert waste brought to the quarry (700,000 tonnes per year), with 300 movements of Heavy Goods Vehicles per day (150 in and 150 out), which equates to a truck passing every two minutes.

A resolution from Arklow and Wicklow Municipal District councillors objected to the development on the grounds of: "Lack of consultation with Arklow and Wicklow Municipal District representatives; Lack of consultations with WCC Climate and Biodiversity SPC; Lack of consultation with local land and property owners; The excessive nature of the scale of the proposed develop-

ment in a rural area; Negative impact on the environment; Negative impact on watercourse (in particular Potters River and Brittas Bay); Impact on local residents and wildlife from noise pollution; Negative impact on surrounding residents' quality of life; Negative impact on mental and physical health of the local community; Health and safety concerns in particular road safety; Negative impact on biodiversity; Concerns in relation to future environmental and traffic management monitoring and enforcement; Concerns in relation to the potential negative impact and devaluation of local properties; Concerns in relation to the absence of any consideration towards provision of a local Community Fund such as the one that's in place at a nearby landfill site; Concerns in relation to the inadequacy of the surrounding road network and width of the local road to facilitate the amount of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) proposed; Negative impact on surrounding tourism attractions; Concerns in relation to the close proximity of a local school to the proposed landfill access routes."



River, Ember, and Willow Kavanagh out for a walk in the sun recently at the Glen of Imaal.

High speed broadband connectivity on the way in Blessington

National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company rolling out the new high-speed fibre broadband network under the Government's National Broadband Plan (NBP) has announced that fibre build works in Co. Wicklow are well underway.

In Blessington, over 5,031 premises have been surveyed to date with network designs completed to deliver the new Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network in the area. NBI crews have started initial works for the build in townlands across Blessington including Ballinagee, Brittas, Craddockstown East, Eadestown, Glebe, Hollywood Lower, Johnstown and Kilbride. These 'make ready' works pave the way for the next stage of deploying fibre on poles/ducts, and include the erection of poles, unblocking of ducts, and the insertion of subduct into existing ducts, for the fibre to be installed.

The website is regularly updated to show estimated service activation dates and the Blessington deployment area has anticipated service activation dates from January 2022 - April 2022. Signing up to the NBI email notifications at <https://nbi.ie/eoi/> is the easiest way to get the most up to date status of premises during the rollout and when premises will be ready for order.

In County Wicklow, there are 15,489 premises in the Intervention Area (IA), which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses and schools. This equates to 23% of all premises in the county. Under the National Broadband Plan, Wicklow will see an investment of €59 million in the new high speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and more remote working.

In advance of the Fibre-to-the-Home roll out, the NBP provides for the delivery of Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) nationwide. 214 of these sites

are now 'live' and have both internal and external broadband access. These facilities - which include sports clubs, community centres and tourist sites - will provide free public access to high-speed internet in the rollout area.

These BCP's will pave the way for rural communities to receive the benefits of broadband, from mobile working, e-learning and mobile banking, to digital tourism. You can view BCPs at bcp-map/. An example of some of the locations of Broadband Connection Points in Wicklow that are connected are Ballycooge Community Hall, Ballinacor GAA Club, Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence, Brockagh Resource Centre and Wicklow County Campus. Primary schools in the Intervention Area are also being connected for educational access as part of the NBP.

NBI chief executive Peter Hendrick said the company was satisfied with the progress being made: "Momentum has been steadily building in the progression of the National Broadband Plan rollout, with homes across the country being connected to high-speed broadband. Our teams continue to work on the rollout plan and substantial progress has been made from surveying, design, build to connection works."

He continued: "As an increasing number of homes and businesses are being connected, we are confident that the rollout will continue to gather pace as we look to connect thousands more homes and businesses. We are currently working closely with retail service providers, and other stakeholders, to connect the first homes in Wicklow before the end of 2021. Minimum speeds of 500Mb will be available."

TRAFFIC CHAOS PREDICTED

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a huge proposal, with the potential to impact considerably on a large number of residents along the N11.

"It's really important that locals have an opportunity to look at this in more detail which is why we believe that an online public consultation should be established with engineers and planners there to address residents' specific questions and concerns. We have requested that this happen with Arup so people can be fully informed and questions answered about local traffic concerns, however we have not heard back from them."

"This is a busy junction, providing half the town's direct access to the N11, and closing it will create traffic chaos in Greystones," said Cllr Derek Mitchell.

"Junction 11, Kilpedder, is defective and low capacity with a sharp bend and cannot take the extra traffic. It will also divert traffic on to the R761 and overload the roundabout at the top of Charlesland. A thousand houses are being built close by and better access, not worse, is needed. We need to get traffic off these local roads and onto the N11. The study which has informed the proposals has used the population targets for 2030 from the National Development Plan, but Greystones and Newtown will be well over these with existing permissions.

"The plans include bus routes on the N11 to the Airport, City Centre and Tallaght which should be useful. The Wicklow rail line has the least service of any around Dublin but no extra rail services are mentioned in spite of my 2018

paper on how it should be done.

"The proposed road changes around Bray seem sensible, designed to stop crossing traffic going on the N11 by providing local bridges, and also one at Willow Grove. I will be asking for changes which include keeping Junction 10 open, an improved rail service, and bus lanes through the Glen O' Downes.

"I also think there should be local access from Newtown (Junction 12) to Kilpeddar as a one-way parallel road for buses, local journeys and cyclists. Also, a link road from J12 to the Kilcoole Road to take HGVs out of the village centre."

Addressing last week's meeting, Technical Director and lead road design engineer for the project, Martin Allen, said that many of the N11's junctions are substandard and not conducive to safe travel.

"Our preferred option would comprise improvements to the regional and local road infrastructure. And the aim there is to provide an alternative regional and local road network that would provide alternative routes for traffic that shouldn't be on the N11 causing unnecessary congestion.

"Part of the reason why we have transport issues on the N11 to date is because it has afforded so much access to adjacent communities, not just from primary junctions but all of the intermediate and minor junctions. Ease of access from every point has contributed to the transportation problems we're seeing out there. Part of these recommendations is about restoring the route back to its real purpose and making

sure that trips that shouldn't be on the N11 don't have that ease of access."

He said that the closure of some minor accesses and junctions would improve operational safety: "These are junctions which are noncompliant with existing standards, they shouldn't be present on a busy dual carriageway."

He explained that the option of rail improvements had been looked at but that an investment in the bus service would be a more sustainable solution.

"What we found from our analysis is that the bus offers better opportunities to achieve a more sustainable solution, to carry more people than the rail line. We looked at increasing the frequency of the rail service and improving accessibility. What we found is that while it would have an impact, there is a fundamental difference between the catchment of the rail line and the catchment of our road. Lots of people using the road are going to different areas for example in Dublin or maybe making shorter trips along the corridor going from Arklow to Greystones, or from Greystones to Bray. So, we found by targeting the bus services and high origin destination patterns it allowed us to achieve that objective more so than the rail."

Regarding the road-based measures, he stressed that these proposals are currently just recommendations and will be subject to further assessment in the next phase of the scheme.

The public consultation period ends on 20th September and plans can be viewed on n11m11.ie.



Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris visited Rathdrum to examine first hand the exciting revitalisation plans for the heart of the Town. Minister Harris said: "I was delighted to see the progress in Rathdrum regarding the proposed Community Enterprise Hub. Wicklow County Council have purchased a derelict property and are at preparing an application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for the Enterprise Hub and public realm works in the heart of Rathdrum. It is great to see how the town is revitalised with projects such as the Library and Primary Care Centre. I am fully behind the Community Enterprise Hub and Rathdrum can count on my wholehearted support to deliver this". Minister Harris is pictured with Cllr Pat Kennedy

Funding for Arklow and Wicklow Town

Grant funding of €200,000 has been announced by Minister Catherine Martin in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, for 2 large scale projects in Arklow and Wicklow Town.

The grant will support the development of permanent, year-round, weather proofed outdoor dining areas in both towns. This funding comes under Part Two of the Government's Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme.

€81,000 will be for Abbey Lane in Arklow and €119,000 will be for Market Square in Wicklow Town.

Discussing the announcement, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "I am delighted to see this funding announcement that will see welcome investment in Arklow and Wicklow Town.

"I know that a huge amount of work went into the planning submissions and Wicklow County Council deserve a huge amount of credit for getting these proposals over the line and supported in this round of funding.

"I believe that the addition of permanent weather proofed seating/ dining areas in these towns will have a hugely positive impact and will attract more visitors, benefitting small local businesses. The impact that the pandemic had on the hospitality sector across Wicklow is immeasurable and this funding is about long-term investment to support tourism and hospitality jobs

and help businesses develop new ways of catering for domestic and international tourists outdoors.

"One of the key commitments that the Green Party made before going into government was that any investment in our communities would be fair and geographically balanced to avoid situations where only certain towns/ villages get grant supports. I hope that this announcement, coupled with the series of funding announcements over the summer demonstrate how seriously we took this commitment with funding for projects big and small across Wicklow being announced.

"Part one of this funding

scheme opened earlier in the summer and focused on individual grants of up to €4,000 for businesses to enhance their outdoor seating, build awnings among other opportunities. That funding stream remains open for application until September 30th so I would encourage any hospitality business that has not yet applied - to do so as soon as possible.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Wicklow County Council both on these two projects for Arklow and Wicklow Town but also on a huge variety of future initiatives as part of the wider county Development Plan," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Positive engagement with Minister on mental health needs for Wicklow

A detailed report on existing mental health services in Wicklow includes recommendations for proposed improvements and highlights key shortcomings that the HSE will seek to address as soon as possible.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has held a series of meetings with Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People Mary Butler about various concerns and gaps in service across Wicklow and he has broadly welcomed the report from the Minister.

Discussing the contents, Deputy Matthews said: "I initially sought a full report from the Department of Health on the existing mental health services in Wicklow following a very concerning meeting with a group of GPs from across the county who raised very serious issues with wait times, inequality of access to mental health supports and the potential knock on impacts of failing to intervene and improve these services.

"Since this meeting, earlier this year, I have been going back and forth with Minister Butler and her Department officials seeking a full analysis of the existing mental health services in Wicklow for both children and adults; how we compare to other counties and seeking to highlight and ultimately address where we are failing vulnerable individuals in need of support.

"The report highlighted the recent investment in short term funding by the Government that sought to alleviate the longer-term waiting lists in Wicklow and other areas experiencing similar bottle necks in service. This included the recruitment of part time staff and the redeployment of other experts where required. However, the

report fully acknowledged the need for further - multi annual funding to develop a sustainable Primary Care Psychology service in the longer term which will include the requirement to recruit additional permanent staff. The Minister has assured me on numerous occasions that she will be pushing for this funding as part of the upcoming budget.

"Mental health support and treatment is an extremely complex area, and nobody believes that financial investment alone will alleviate the long-standing waiting list issues and inequality of access to support. This issue requires, long term planning - matched with targeted investment in staff, facilities, and innovation in the sector. I look forward to continuing my work with Minister Butler to ensure that access to these vital services is improved for all those who need them in Wicklow," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Market Square, Wicklow Town

Wicklow teachers are top of the class!

Wicklow teachers Elizabeth Battye (Arklow CBS), and Rory Healy (Scoil Mhuire na n-Áird, Shillelagh) graduated from UCD last week. They studied Inclusive and Special Education and graduated with First Class Honours.

"The course was very challenging, but most worthwhile" said Battye. "I will be happy to further help and support my pupils based on the advice about research-based interventions from the experts in UCD."

"Normally the course would have been delivered on

campus in Belfield," said Healy, "so, like our own students we had to very quickly adapt to and become comfortable with learning through our computers in online contexts."

Both Battye and Healy intend to pursue further post graduate research into the development of diagnostic tools, and research-based interventions for pupils who struggle with mathematics, as well as for those pupils who have been diagnosed with Dyscalculia. They will uniquely span their educational research concurrently across the primary and post primary sectors, and from the perspective of young learners in Ireland.



Elizabeth Battye (Arklow CBS) and Rory Healy (Scoil Mhuire na n-Áird, Shillelagh), with Fiona Ní Aíniféin (Gaelscoil Cois Trá).

Council soon to resume face-to-face meetings

Wicklow County Council plans to resume face-to-face meetings from October, it was announced last week.

The Council and Municipal Districts have been holding meetings remotely via Zoom since Covid regulations were introduced. Independent Councillor Joe Behan has been pushing for several weeks, since restrictions have been eased, for face-to-face meetings to resume.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Behan said that the legislation to allow meetings take place online was a 'sunset clause' that has now elapsed.

"Most restrictions are being lifted at the moment, there are four members of Wicklow County Council who will attend a physical meeting of the HSC health forum in two weeks' time, so I cannot understand why we are not meeting physically in the Council Chamber today and why we cannot meet physically at municipal district level from now on," he said.

"I would beseech the members of the protocol committee to please move on this so that we get back to normality as quickly as

possible, and to allow everybody to participate in the meetings. If there is a hybrid option, that is fine, but we have a chamber that we spent a small fortune getting ready for physical meetings, I think that we should get to them as soon as possible."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen said it's the Council's intention to have a hybrid meeting in October and that he is awaiting clarification for it to go ahead.

"I will organise a Corporate Policy Group meeting in the coming week to organise a pathway for a full return to the

Council Chamber," he said. "If any members here feel that they are not in a position to return to the chamber they should make contact with the administrator so that appropriate measures can be put in place to make sure that everybody feels part of the future in terms of physical meetings or a hybrid model."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "the sooner the better, from my point of view.

"We will get clarity during the week in terms of physical distancing in the workplace, etc. We are bringing staff back in from 20th September."

Famous ballerina backs campaign to save Bray's swans

Concerned locals and wildlife lovers rallied at Bray Harbour on Sunday 12th September to raise awareness of the danger the proposed suspension bridge poses to the 120+ swans in Bray swan sanctuary. Famous ballerina Monica Loughman, the first Westerner to achieve solo status with the Perm State Theatre of Opera and Ballet of Russia, was in attendance with her students who were dressed as Ballet swans.



Ballerina Monica Loughman with President Michael D. Higgins

The concerned locals say that the suspension bridge that Wicklow County Council intends to build over the Dargle River will be directly in the swans' flight path.

Wicklow County Council has concluded from a screening determination that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Many concerned locals have expressed their concerns and believe that the aesthetic considerations of the design seem to have been prioritised above animal and environmental welfare.

Pearse Stokes, founder of WeHelpWildlife.ie, says "Currently, many wildlife rescue volunteers help the swans in Bray harbour. They also help the swans on the river Liffey. Many of the Dublin swans crash into the Samuel Beckett bridge, fall onto the road and cause traffic problems. Likewise, swans in Bray regularly fall on the train tracks and cause DART and train delays."

A petition to save the Bray swans has already reached over 1500 signatures on change.org.

In a joint submission for the project, Green Party TD Steven Matthews and Green Party councillor Erika Doyle noted that the bridge is consistent with planning policy but they also raised a number of issues and concerns.

Regarding the bridge's environmental impact, they stated "The Harbour area is rich in biodiversity and the River Dargle is classified as a Salmonid river. There

is a large swan colony present in the area. We have been in contact with Birdwatch Ireland to discuss the impact the bridge design may have on Swans (and other birds) especially in relation to bridge strikes whilst in flight. It is our understanding that Birdwatch has requested ABP to assess the EIA screening determination and are of the view that an EIA is required for this proposal.

"There are a number of pieces of infrastructure across the River Dargle in the estuarine area that may pose a hazard to birds in flight - the foot / road bridge, the railway bridge, the overhead electrification catenary system and a power line further upstream.

"We wish to request that Wicklow County Council engage with Birdwatch

Ireland and others with local expertise and knowledge on bird flight patterns; Assess the number of bird collisions recorded with the infrastructure in the area through engagement with Irish Rail, Birdwatch and a local vet with knowledge of the area; Risk assess the impact of the bridge in its current design with the existing infrastructure and the cumulative impact of the three pieces of infrastructure on birds in flight; Assess modifications that could be made to the bridge design to eliminate or reduce strike hazards and the risk for birds in flight."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on Wicklow County Council to carry out an environmental impact assessment on the proposed suspension bridge.

Deputy Whitmore says, "I welcome a new

bridge for Bray over the River Dargle as it will help to alleviate traffic congestion providing and the new pedestrian boardwalk along the southern bank wall will help keep pedestrians safer on the road.

"However, given that this will be a high suspension bridge, there are environmental concerns that need to be looked at before we can fully welcome this proposal.

"I have spoken to environmental organisations and have written to Wicklow County Council outlining the impact a suspension bridge could have on the flight path of the local swan population. Near a similar bridge, the Samuel Beckett Bridge in Dublin, there are fewer swans and they have been negatively impacted by that structure. In Bray, there are 119 swans according to experts in the area, and it is believed even more damage can be caused.

"As swans swim up the Dargle at high tide, they fly back, potentially into the cables of the suspension bridge which would be disastrous to the local population. I really believe an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed here to look into this in further detail. I have expressed this to the Council and to local experts and will continue to raise this in my capacity as TD for the area," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Fiona and Marie O'Callaghan with Brenda Hall enjoying the good weather at Bray Seafront



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Pictured are Jodie Lively from Annacurragh and John Fleming from Monaseed, Co. Wexford, who were married at St. Brendan's Church, Monaseed, followed by a reception in Aghrim.

Soft plastic still not accepted at Wicklow recycling centres

Following the announcement by Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth TD, that all soft plastics may now be placed in customers household recycling bins, Wicklow County Council wishes to advise that its Recycling Centres cannot presently accept soft plastics.

Waste recycled in the Council operated Recycling centres is baled onsite into high-quality materials that are shipped directly for recycling/reuse. The Council does not currently collect materials for energy recovery/incineration.

The Council is reviewing the logistics of accepting this material into its Recycling Centres and says it is committed to finding the most environmentally sustainable route for all materials accepted.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has welcomed the Green Party overhaul of our waste management systems so that all plastic packaging waste including soft plastics can now be placed in household recycling bins.

This will be welcomed by families who were disappointed and very dissatisfied when bring centres and kerbside collectors refused to take soft plastics in recent years, he said.

Deputy Matthews said, "I had calls from all across Wicklow when the recycling bring centres stopped taking this waste material but because of Green Party Minister Ossian Smyth's intervention and upscaling of our Circular Economy objectives, soft plastics are no longer a waste but are now a recyclable and reusable product.

"The difficulty with soft plastics is that they are made up of many different types of polymers and identification and separation is extremely difficult. This meant that the plastics were classified as waste and were mostly exported or diverted to incineration.

"This intervention will significantly reduce Ireland's export of plastic waste, it will improve our recycling targets and create further jobs in waste management and the recycling industry.

"Ultimately the objectives for all should be to reduce our waste rather than recycling. This can be difficult for families as so much of our food and shopping comes wrapped in all sorts of plastic packing and wraps. We will continue to work with the packaging industry to incentivise and support them in their move to reduce single use plastics.

"We are working hard to eliminate excess waste and this week we have also seen the first deposit return scheme introduced for returning plastic bottles and aluminium cans. A 'Reverse vending machines' has been installed in Lidl, Glenageary to allow customers to return bottles and cans in return for store voucher. It's a trial location at the moment but it is anticipated that it will be rolled out across the country in a nationwide scheme."

New cycling route objective between Bray and Dun Laoghaire

Following a submission by Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle a cycling and walking route from Bray Harbour northbound towards Dun Laoghaire land at Woodbrook and Shanganagh has been identified as an active travel objective in the Wicklow County Development plan.

The route which will join the extensive cycling infrastructure at Bray Seafront and the former Bray Golf Club lands to link up with DLRCoCo has been a long-time objective of the Green Party in both local authorities. Green Party councillors and TDs have worked consistently with the NTA and the Roads and Transport section in Bray, Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire to establish this important link to facilitate walking, cycling and active travel and to link to the proposed new DART station at Woodbrook.

Councillor Doyle said, "A detailed route selection and design will be developed in conjunction with the proposed developments at Bray Harbour, the former Golf Club lands and the construction of the new DART station at Woodbrook. The Shanganagh lands in DLRCoCo is currently commencing large scale construction of Cost Rental housing.

"There are a few potential routes which could be delivered through the Golf Club lands towards Corke Abbey and Woodbrook Glen and continuing into Bray across the new public transport bridge directly to Bray Railway Station. Alternatively, this route could join the existing segregated cycling route, under the railway underpass, south across the Harbour and link to the Seafront cycle path.

"Another potential route could continue north at the Harbour creating a coastal route incorporated into the coastal protection and old Bray dump remedial works and continue parallel to the DART line to Woodbrook. An existing underpass at Woodbrook may be a viable and safe option to cross the rail line and connect onwards towards Shanganagh.

"There is unprecedented investment in public transport, safe walking and cycling routes and Safe Routes to School committed



Cllr Erika Doyle at Bray Harbour

to in the Programme for Government and this has been matched with the appointment of extra staff in both Local Authorities to design and construct this infrastructure.

"Our spiralling transport emissions, poor air quality, congestion and car dependency has been created by a lack of investment in alternatives over decades but that is changing. If we wish to reduce emissions, we need

to look at how we travel, and the creation of these safe active travel routes will provide an alternative for those who choose to use them.

"I look forward to delivering on the years of Green Party work on this proposal and on further cycling and walking routes through Bray and especially on Safe Routes to Schools throughout the town."

Bray named as one of the best places to live in Ireland

Bray has been named as one of the Top 20 Best Places to live in Ireland and is in the running for the overall title following the publication of the long list of contenders.

The town was just one of the 470 locations which were nominated by more than 2,400 people from across the 32 counties for the title of 'Best Place to Live in Ireland 2021'.

Bray, one of nine towns selected from all over Ireland for the Top 20, received 55 nominations.

The Irish Times 'Best Place to Live in Ireland' competition, which is sponsored by Randox Health, began in June when members of the public were invited to nominate their favourite place to live for the award. The Top 5 finalists will be named in mid-September with the overall winner announced on Saturday September 25th.

Each nominated location was considered by a panel of judges on specific criteria, including community spirit, local services and amenities, diversity, transport links, vibrancy of the local economy, cost of living, safety and of course the unique 'X factor'.

In the nomination selected by the judges as best representing everything which is great about Bray, Nikki McLaughlin described the people of the town as being helpful, happy and having a hearty love of life.

"The mountains and the sea give it the prettiest of backdrops. Bray provides all manners of



activities from the wonderful Bray Wanderers, Bray Emmets and Bray Lakers to soccer, martial arts, Irish dancing and boxing clubs. The blue flag beach and a Victorian promenade attract families from all over Ireland and abroad. And it's free. We feel lucky."

The panel of five judges - which includes Mayo county architect Simon Wall, Monaghan GP Dr Illona Duffy, Nationwide TV presenter Zainab Boladale and Irish Times journalist Rosita Boland - spent hours reading and debating the entries, before selecting the Top 20. The Irish Times is currently on the road visiting the 20 locations and in a couple of

weeks will announce the Top 5 before revealing the overall winner.

The Chair of the Judging Panel, Conor Goodman said the entries from people all over the island showcased the quality-of-life available here.

"While the competition is a celebration of the many great places this country has to offer, it also has a serious mission. We want to highlight good examples of community cohesion and local initiatives, in the face of challenges such as the housing shortage and the public health crisis.

"In Bray and the other locations named in the Top 20 - our judges saw how pride in, and pas-

sion for a place can galvanise a community to action and lead to the forging of a unique and open spirit of creativity and innovation. In each of these locations a strong culture of volunteerism is evident as is a keen interest in sustainability and a desire to create a welcoming environment which caters for people of all ages and backgrounds."

Other places to be nominated include Killarney, Carrick-on-Shannon, Gorey, Clonakilty, Abbeyleix and Tullamore. While towns predominate - there are 9 - the Top 20 also includes 4 villages, 2 Dublin suburbs and 3 cities. Four counties, Monaghan, Laois, Galway, and Dublin have two representatives on the long list.

The most heavily nominated locations were the suburb of Malahide in Co. Dublin with 320 entries and the village of Glaslough in Co. Monaghan - population 450 - with 246 entries.

The countrywide competition last took place almost 10 years ago in 2012 in the midst of the financial crisis. On that occasion Westport was selected as the overall Irish Times Best Place to Live as it met so many criteria and displayed a remarkable community spirit that was evident in its 90-plus voluntary organisations.

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Why I should wait until next year to go to college?

As details of their schools' Leaving Certificate grades have finally arrived, students are feeling that they have got a raw deal by the system designed to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The vast majority of students (53,680 from 60,000+) opted for a combination of exam results and accredited grades. Grades awarded to candidates this year are significantly higher than last year and even more so from 2019, pre covid. With CAO points for many courses increasing substantially as a result, many students have been left feeling frustrated and bewildered.

So what are the options now? Rather than taking their CAO second or third choices, students should consider taking the year out, doing a further education course in their area of interest and then applying next year through the CAO system. The result of this would be as follows according to Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal of Bray Institute of Further Education:

1.) The leaving certificate results will probably fall back to levels of previous years (10% less) giving this year's leaving certificate students an advantage.

2.) CAO points required for courses should, in the same way, drop back to 2019 (Pre Covid) norms.

3.) By doing a PLC course in their area of interest, students will be more University ready for their course, and will be at par with the assessment system in use in universities.

4.) By doing a PLC level six course offers students the opportunity to apply for advanced entry to the second year of an



BIFE staff and students enjoying the weather in one of BIFE's internal gardens

honours degree course in a number of Institutes of Technologies.

5.) Students will not lose out on the "University Experience". University life is meant to be fun! The transitional phase from secondary school to starting a degree can be one of the most exciting times for many students who are eager to break away from their tight-knit group of secondary school friends and immerse themselves in the university culture.

Allen added, "The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment, but also for those who might want to defer their place at University or IT for the year so as to complete a further education course, whether it be related to their University choice or one of the fabulous niche courses on offer at Bray Institute such as Music Production, 3D Game Design, DJ Techniques, TV, Science

Pre-University, Brewing & Distilling, Equine Studies, Furniture Design, Animal Care, Dance, Acting and much more."

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychology.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National Diplomas in the following:

- Fine Art - Art Practice
- Acting
- Dance
- TV & Film (Moving Image)
- Music Production
- Music Performance
- Graphic Design

As Gabriel Allen explained, "These seven courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition."

Bray Institute will offer a number of new courses in September '20:

- Brewing & Distilling

Techniques.

- Equine Studies.
- Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies.
- Traditional Irish & Folk Music Performance – Higher National Diploma.
- Barista, Pastry & Baking.

All of the above courses will offer progression routes to higher education.

Allen assured that there are also many opportunities for mature students to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute."

To discover more about the courses available at BIFE, prospective students are invited to attend their 'Open Afternoon' on **Wednesday 15th and 29th September from 4pm to 6pm.**

Applications for September 2021 Courses are now open. Apply online at www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information

Thursday night is Network Night with Co Wicklow PPN

Co Wicklow PPN has a busy schedule of events lined up for the autumn and winter evenings and all are welcome to attend. All these events will be run online starting at 7.30pm.

"Starting on 16th September, we are running 'Let's Talk About Policing Safety & Security' where we will find out about the development of new local partnership projects to strengthen community safety. This new initiative, announced by Government in 2020, is currently being piloted in the Dublin North Inner City Local Electoral Area, Waterford City and County Council and Longford. John Hawkes from Waterford PPN will tell us how this is developing in their county. There will also be an opportunity at our event to find out about the Policing Plan for Co Wicklow and have an input in to a Co Wicklow PPN submission to it.

"Four training and information sessions will be run over the following four weeks. Sessions will include: 'Ready & Able to Re-open 2021 (23 Sept)', supporting com-

munity groups and clubs to return safely to activities; 'Promoting & Marketing Your Group (30 Sept)', supporting groups to raise their profile and encourage new members and volunteers; 'Sourcing Funding for Your Group (4 Oct)', to support groups to access funding for their activities; 'Looking After Your Group's Money' (21 Oct), to support groups to follow good governance and fiscal practises including reporting.

"Due to popular demand, we will again run 'Meet Your Elected Representatives'. Groups and individuals will again get the chance of posing questions and hearing the experiences of our Local Representatives from each of the Municipal Districts as follows: Wicklow MD 21 Oct; Greystones MD 28 Oct; Bray MD 4 Nov; Baltinglass MD 11 Nov; and

Arklow MD 18 Nov.

"Due to the success of our 'Finding Your Way Around Local Government' sessions earlier this year, we are extending the programme to look at the many different areas of work of the local authority. We will find out about the Community, Cultural and Social Development section of the council in October and in November we will find out about the many projects and activities that the Heritage Office supports. These events will run on Tuesday evenings with further details to follow and more sessions being developed in 2022."

Further information and booking details for these events are currently being posted in the news section of the Co Wicklow PPN website www.countywicklowppn.ie.

People can avail of up to date information on the PPN Facebook Page or by calling Helen Howes on 087 189 5145 / Grainne Quinn on 086 048 7434 or by emailing: info@countywicklowppn.ie



Welcoming Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien to Arklow to the site of the proposed Arklow Wind Bank Park Phase 2 operations and maintenance facility in the harbour's south dock, were Senator Pat Casey, Steven Matthews TD, Louise Glennon, Head of External Affairs, SSE Renewables Ireland, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore for SSE, and Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. SSE hopes to deliver the facility by 2025. It will accommodate a team of 80 people, with office and warehouse facilities to service the wind farm.

Council examining alternative locations for Kilcoole scooter park

Wicklow County Council is now examining a number of alternative locations in Kilcoole for the scooter park facility.

The previous proposal for a scooter park focussed on land adjacent to the Little Tern Playground. Greystones Municipal District Council has advised after engineers examining it that the site in question is too restricted to build such a facility.

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD received an update from Wicklow County Council regarding the campaign to provide a scooter park in Kilcoole.

Minister Harris said "I have raised the Wicklow County Council the need for a Scooter Park to be installed in the Kilcoole area. The issue was highlighted by Temple Carrig student Jake Mitchell who has led

a campaign to secure a safe space in the community for scooter enthusiasts engage in their hobby.

"It is great to see young people campaigning for better facilities in their community and they can continue to count on my full support", Minister Harris concluded.



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Delgany/Greystones Community Audit - have your say

Wicklow County Council has commenced their "Community Audit" for the Greystones and Delgany area to identify the infrastructure needed for the years ahead.

Welcoming the news, Minister Simon Harris said: "It has been a source of anxiety for many Greystones and Delgany residents that sports clubs, community centres, school places and public transport needs cannot keep pace with the level of new residential development in our community.

"Earlier this year I requested Wicklow County Council conduct a community audit to ascertain the areas needs in the years ahead. I am delighted to announce today that the community audit has opened and residents and community groups can make submissions until September 24th."

Wicklow County Council have advised that all submissions to the audit will be treated as confidential and that the process is open to individuals and community/ sporting organisations.

Minister Harris added "Wicklow County Council have advised me that a more detailed survey is to be sent out by the Local Sports Partnership, the Public Participation Network and to all community organisations registered for the community grants schemes. Please contact me if your organisation has not received an invitation to participate and I will ensure your group is included."

Social Democrats

Councillor Jodie Neary said "It's great that our community audit on sports and recreational facilities has finally started. It was my first call as a Councillor when I started just over a year ago as it was clear that our existing recreational infrastructure was not meeting the needs of our growing towns. The Council are now inviting community and sports organisations to take their survey online as well as residents.

"I want to urge everyone to have their say and take the survey. This is your community audit and locals should have a say in what facilities and green open spaces we need to meet our recreational needs.

"It will also provide an inventory of our needs as a community and where the potential is to fill in any deficits we have now that we are a growing town. For the first time this audit will help the council identify what they are looking for when they meet developers and request community facilities.

"They will now have the necessary information to back up their requests and hope for acquiring facilities that will meet a need. While it won't solve all the recreational and community deficit we are experiencing it will go a long way towards addressing that need especially now that

we face further SHDs on the horizon."

The deadline for submissions is September 24th and online submissions for residents associ-

ations can be made at www.surveymonkey.com/r/N8DC2Q2 and sporting organisations at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NK3VYLC>



Hedley and Patrick Butler of Dower House in Rathnew make a donation of €1,000 to Sinead Tarmey of Wicklow Hospice Foundation. The funds were raised from the proceeds of entry to the beautiful Dower Gardens

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Ambitious library project for Blessington

Minister Simon Harris TD has outlined his support for an ambitious project to relocate Baltinglass Library to the old Baltinglass Court House.

Minister Harris said: "I have called for the Department of Rural and Community to support the relocation of Baltinglass Library to the Court House.

"Baltinglass Court House is a treasured historic landmark in the heart of the town. Last year the Court House received in the region of €600k from the Department of Rural and Community Development for maintenance and structural works.

"Wicklow County Council are now drafting new plans for the Court House that would encompass Baltinglass Library, Co Working Facilities, Heritage Centre and new public realm features out front.

"Wicklow County Council are to hold a public consultation concerning the new plan before applying for additional funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

"I am fully behind the project as it would give Baltinglass a great amenity, a dynamic public space and revitalise the town," Minister Harris concluded.

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS!



Wicklow's Ladies are All-Ireland JFC champions after emerging victorious against Antrim in the final in Croke Park, beating them by a score of 2-17 to 1-9 to lift the West County Hotel Cup and reclaim their Intermediate status. Last year's agonising defeat at the final hurdle is now a distant memory, replaced by the joyful scenes on the field in Croke Park and the homecoming celebrations in Baltinglass.



Congratulations to Wicklow Junior Ladies





Continued from page 11.

Wicklow, under the management of Mark Murnaghan, had already got the better of Antrim on their journey to the final, yet while that surely gave them confidence it was by no means a guarantee of anything, as Antrim were the toughest opponent Wicklow faced en route - with just five points separating them in the end.

Elsewhere, Wicklow's trip to the final was rela-

tively smooth as they notched up convincing seven, eight and eleven-point victory margins against the likes of Carlow and Limerick. As well as that, at the forefront of the minds of the players and management would have been the bitter memory of Parnell Park, the venue for last year's Junior final where they lost to Fermanagh after being billed as the favourites.

This year, Wicklow seemed determined to

bury that memory for good, and they would have been extra wary of Antrim's 'underdog' billing. Going in front after four minutes, by half-time they'd established a seven-point lead (0-10 to 0-3), and a goal was swiftly added by Clodagh Fox after the break. Clodagh would go on to be named Player of the Match.

By the game's second water break, Wicklow were leading 1-15 to 0-5,

and it was shortly after the game resumed that Antrim scored a goal of their own, putting what looked like a resounding Wicklow victory in doubt, at least for a minute, after which any hopes of a comeback for The Saffrons were doused by a goal from Meadhbh Deeney.

Looking back on the game's key moments, it would be remiss not to also mention a crucial block by Wicklow captain Sarah Jane Winders at the other end of the pitch, which - had it gone differently - might have been a turning point. Instead, Wicklow went on to increase their lead and never looked back.



Paula Faulkner, Catherine Dempsey and Evelyn Deans celebrate

MINISTER SIMON HARRIS

**Congratulations to the
Wicklow Ladies
GAA Team on
their terrific
victory**

5 WAYS TO CONTACT SIMON

- Wicklow Constituency Office: @simon.harris@oir.ie
- 5A Quinnsborough Road, DeputySimonHarris
- Bray, Co. Wicklow @SimonHarrisTD
- 01 2813727

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Jennifer WHITMORE TD

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Wicklow Ladies GAA
team on a well
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Social Democrats

John BRADY TD

Sinn Féin

**Well done to the
Wicklow Ladies
GAA team on
a great win**

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Arklow: 0402-41853
E: John.bradley@oireachtas.ie

Cllr. Derek MITCHELL

**Well done to
the Wicklow
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Cllr Tom Fortune

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**Congratulations
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INDEPENDENT

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Fantastic result**

Ph.: 087 2629129

Congratulations to Wicklow Junior Ladies



Lorna Fuscuardi, Meadhbh Deeney and Laurie Ahern celebrate in Croke Park.

Congratulating the team, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow, Cllr Shay Cullen, said "I know a lot of hard work went into the team. It was a well-deserved victory and has brought a lot of pride and joy to the county - a magnificent success."

Cllr Gaul Dunne, whose daughter Lucy plays on the team, said "It was great to see, they came up trumps and played excellent on the day. The game was in the melting pot, and we killed the game off with a late goal. I want to congratulate all the players, and management involved. I was a proud dad yesterday to see our win. It was great for myself and for the county. It is not often that we win All Irelands, and I hope that down the road we can honour this group with a reception, as it was a magnificent achievement for all involved."



Chloe Dwyer and Amy Burke celebrate

Cllr Edward Timmins said the victory was especially sweet given the team's defeat last year: "It shows how persistence works, they were worthy winners and won that match very convincingly with great style and attitude," said Cllr Timmins. "I wish them all the best next year."



Marie Kealy and Lucy Dunne celebrate the win

Cllr. Erika DOYLE

Well Done to Wicklow Ladies All Ireland Champions

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Cllr. Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

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Cllr. Lourda SCOTT

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Cllr. RORY O'CONNOR

INDEPENDENT

Tel: 083 461 0357



Cllr. Joe BEHAN
INDEPENDENT

TEL: 086 8375602 EMAIL: joebehan@outlook.ie

Congratulations and well done on a hard won game and a great result



Councillor Edward Timmins

Well Done to the Wicklow Ladies GAA Champions

FINE GAEL



Cllr Grace McManus

Congratulations & Well done to Our Ladies GAA All Ireland Champions

@gracemcmanussf@gmail.com
083 068 0654
@graciemcmanus
@CllrGrace





Congratulations to Wicklow Junior Ladies






Kate Hennessy celebrates with Aoife Gillen

Cllr Avril Cronin said "I would like to congratulate the Wicklow ladies football team with their huge success in the All-Ireland final. It was a fantastic week-end for women in sport. Many of you are aware that ladies football is the fastest growing sport in Ireland, the ladies are fantastic role models, especially for the younger generation in Wicklow. I was delighted to be involved in welcoming the ladies home, especially with so many from the West Wicklow district and the captain Sarah-Jane, and to acknowledge Lucy Dunne, definitely the skills came from the mother's side of the family!"

Cllr Gerry Walsh said "Watching the game, it was very impressive seeing the commitment, the level of fitness and of course the skill. It was a really great game. And a special congratulations to the five members of my team from my own club."

Cllr Tom Fortune said "I would like to congratulate the girls on their great victory. They played fantastic. There is no reason why they would not be able to go on and win for the next two years. Between that and Katie Taylor's massive achievement, the ladies of Wicklow are doing exceptionally well and long may it continue."



A proud supporter of the Wicklow Ladies team watches the game

Augustus Cullen Law

*Congratulations
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GAA All Ireland
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Well done ladies
**Cill Mhantáin
Abú!**

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

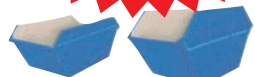
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Congratulations to Wicklow Junior Ladies



Lilly May O'Brien, Jackie Byrne, Sarah Jane Winders and Harry Kavanagh celebrate

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said "I want to congratulate the team. It was tremendous to watch it on the television, to see the efforts of the girls. I have no doubt they will follow the way many have, from junior through to senior. I congratulate the management of the team, too, they did a very good job and the girls played their hearts out. They had an impressive win and I have no doubt we will be praising them again next year."

Wicklow's Champions

The Team

L Dempsey; M Healy, SJ Winders, L Dunne; L Fuscuardi, A Conroy, A Gillen; N McGettigan, S Delahunt; R McGettigan, M Kealy, L Ahern; C Fox, C Dempsey, M Deeney.
Subs: S McGettigan for R McGettigan (37), K Hennessy for Gillen (42), E Parke for Kealy (54), P Faulkner for Dunne (58), A Burke for Ahern (58)

The Scorers

M Deeney 1-4, C Fox 1-3, C Dempsey 0-4, M Kealy 0-3 (1f), R McGettigan 0-1, L Ahern 0-1, S McGettigan 0-1



Wicklow captain Sarah Jane Winders celebrates with her dad Billy

Congratulations to Wicklow Ladies Junior Champions

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Congratulations to the Wicklow Junior Ladies GAA Team

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Congratulations to the Wicklow All-Ireland Ladies Junior Football Champions - delivering a great victory for the County!

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Times

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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Frank Curran
Chief Executive

Shay Cullen
Cathaoirleach

On behalf of the members and staff of Wicklow County Council, the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive send their warmest congratulations to the players, managers, coaches and all involved in winning the Ladies' Junior All Ireland Football Final. Everyone in County Wicklow is proud of you!



Breda Wall, Mark Granier, and Carmen Cullen from Bray at the announcement of Bray's Poetry Town events. Pic: Gareth Chaney

When poetry comes to town ...

Bray was chosen as one of 20 'Poetry Towns' around the country - a new initiative which sees poetry related activities taking place in the town between 10th and 18th of September presented by Poetry Ireland in partnership with Wicklow County Council Arts Office.

A number of initiatives are taking place to celebrate poetry. On **Friday September 17th at 7.30pm** at The Bandstand on Bray Seafront, there is an outdoor hour-long performance of poetry and music on the Culture Night Stage as part of Poetry Town. The Town Poem written for Bray by Poetry Town Laureate, Kayssie K. will be unveiled at this event.

The night will also feature performances by strong female voices in poetry and spoken word, including poets Jane Clarke, Nell Regan and music by singer-songwriter Amy Barrett. Tickets are free but please register on Eventbrite using the url: <https://bit.ly/3kY5hre>

Poetry Town is an initiative of Poetry Ireland in partnership with Local Authority Arts Offices. It is made possible with funding from the Arts Council of Ireland's Open Call funding, and is also supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Poet Jane Clarke has been the curator selecting the poets and their work. They are all from or resident in the county of Wicklow. For further information, visit the Poetry Town website: poetrytown.ie.

The Joy of painting

*An exhibition by Bray Active Retirement
Signal Arts Centre*

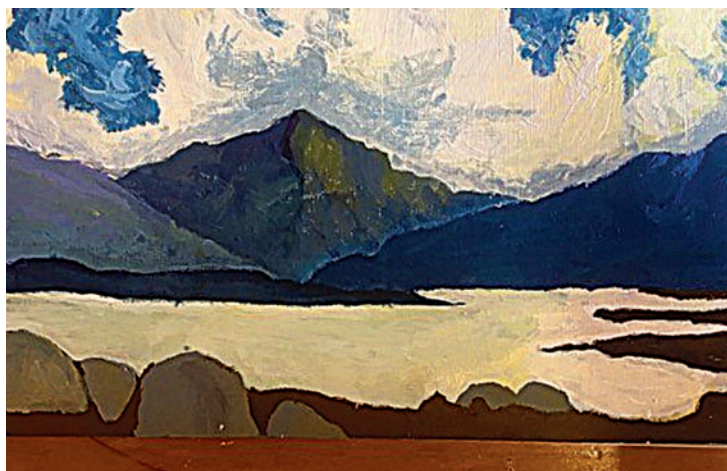
Monday 11th October to Sunday 24th October

Bray Active Retirement Art Group meets weekly to share, stay connected and inspire one another with art.

Henri Matisse viewed his masterpiece 'Le Bonheur de Vivre' of 1905 as 'Creating an art of balance, of purity and serenity, devoid of troubling or depressing subject matter. An art that could be for every mental worker, for the businessman as well as the man of letters, for example, a soothing, calming influence on the mind, or something like a good armchair that provides relaxation from fatigue'.

When this painting became a recognised 'work of art' the upcoming Picasso was disconcerted, which prompted him to out-do Matisse with his 1907 canvas 'Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)'. However Matisse appears the guardian in our darkest times of something that human beings need to be able to imagine and believe in. Happiness is a human right and Matisse speaks up for it beautifully.

The Bray Active Retirement Group might not all want the angst of being a Matisse or Picasso but come together every week to create art, share enthusiasm, fun, and the possibility of taking home a masterpiece. The joy of painting is at heart the joy of sharing and the works exhibited here reflect not just hours, but years of work by the participants. There is always a process of revealing oneself in the art we make and that is possibly the hardest journey we undertake. Sharing our art with others is the joy.



September shows at Whale Theatre

Cormac Breatnach and Steve Cooney

Friday 24th September, 8pm – Tickets €22

Cormac Breatnach and Steve Cooney are two masters of their instruments and this opportunity to see them live is not to be missed.

Australian-born guitarist Steve Cooney, a long time Irish resident, won three awards in the 2020 RTÉ Folk Music Awards: The Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Best Traditional Folk Track prize for his version of Eleanor Plunkett, and Best Folk Album for "Ceol Ársa Cláirsí: Tunes for the Irish Harpers for Solo Guitar", his solo album debut after four decades collaborating with the finest traditional musicians in the field. He is also recording fusion music with his band "Éiníni".

"His influence on Irish trad guitar is akin to Hendrix's on rock: he raised the bar and the rest of the world is still catching up. Since Cooney, and in his image, guitar accompanists have driven Irish music with momentum and visceral energy, though none has yet matched Cooney's genius," said Mike Scott of The Waterboys. See stevecooneymusic.com/ba to find out more.

Cormac Breatnach's whistle playing can be heard on over 30 albums. In recent times, he received Arts Council Funding for two unrelated Projects: "The Whistle Blower Project" (with Daire Bracken and Martin Tourish dealing with a family trauma) and "Loco Por Lorca"



(with Irish poets Theo Dorgan and Keith Payne and musicians Cormac de Barra and from Spain, Jaime Munoz and Carlos Beceiro) which celebrated Spain's National Poet, Federico G. Lorca. Cormac also plays with the Wicklow-

based baroque-music group, Sonamus. See cormacbreatnach.com and www.thewhistleblower.ie

Neil Delamere - Pick N Mix: some old, some new, and plenty of messing

Saturday 25th September, 4pm and 8pm – Tickets €25



Hailed as one of Ireland's foremost comedians, Neil Delamere comes to The Whale Theatre for the first time in his long-standing (get it!) career, with a combination of new material, old material and plenty of messing.

Neil Delamere is one of the top acts working in the Irish comedy scene today, having presented Neil Delamere's Just For Laughs, Eureka! The Big Bang Query and Republic of Telly as well as featuring on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Stand Up For The Week and Comedy Central at the Comedy Store. He is also known to audiences for his regular appearances on RTE's The Panel and BBC's The Blame Game. Neil has performed all over Ireland as well as internationally at the prestigious Vicar Street in Dublin, Kilkenny Cat Laughs Festival, Montreal Just For Laughs Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His DVDs No Message (2007) and Crème Delamere (2009) have achieved platinum status. His recent RTÉ documentaries, which he wrote and presented, called Holding Out for A Hero garnered an Irish Film and Television Award and a Celtic Media Award as well as international sales to the History Channel and SBS.

Carole Nelson Trio: Arboreal

Sunday 26th September, 4pm – Tickets €20

Carole Nelson is a long-established musician and jazz composer whose career across many musical genres has gathered international awards and great critical acclaim.

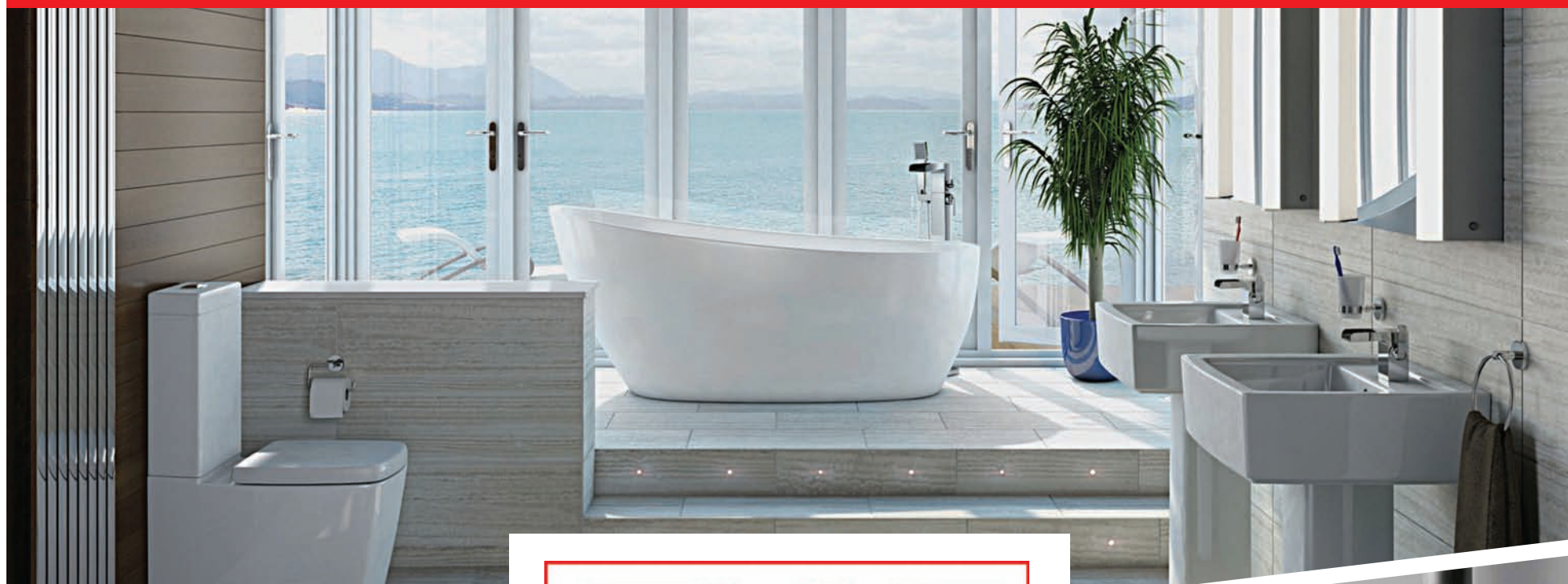
The trio's second album, Arboreal was released early 2020 and went on to feature in UK's All About Jazz Magazine's best albums of the year.

The theme of all things arboreal runs through the album. As Carole says on the album notes: "Arboreal began as a walk through my local woods in South Co. Carlow. I wanted to compose music that would express the living reality of a forest. While I was composing, information about the climate emergency was reaching more and more of us and I felt the need to respond, as a composer, to the overarching concern of our times."

This is music to immerse oneself in - lyrical, open-hearted and grounded in a spirit that refuses to give up hope.



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Free masterclass to help Wicklow businesses eliminate plastic

Businesses must rethink the role of plastic in their operations and significantly increase their efforts to eradicate plastic pollution and its impact on the world's oceans, according to award-winning Science, Natural History and Environmental broadcaster Liz Bonnin.

Bonnin is hosting a free, virtual Climate Ready Academy Masterclass for business owners and managers entitled "The Problem with Plastic" that explores why this global plastic crisis is happening and how Irish business can play their part in turning off the plastic tap.

The Masterclass is one in a series hosted by Climate Ready Academy, which is part of the Skillnet Ireland Climate Ready initiative. Climate Ready offers leadership and skills support for enterprises who want to develop their operational and strategic sustainability.

"Our excessive plastic use is causing devastation in our ocean and the wider environment, and it's estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in our seas. Every Irish business, no matter the sector, urgently needs to step up to the challenge of changing how they design, use, repurpose and dispose of plastics, and encourage a fundamentally different way of thinking

about the natural resources we use to produce and consume goods, 99% of plastics are made from fossil fuels - let's just think about that," says Bonnin.

"While individually we can all make a difference by changing our behaviours and using much less plastic every day, reducing production and consumption of plastics at a business-level will obviously have a far greater impact in mitigating the plastic pollution crisis we face. The ripple effect is exponential in terms of impacting employees, customers, suppliers, competitors and industry sectors, and ultimately this is a real opportunity for 21st Century business leaders to lead the charge with bold impactful action, to be ahead of the curve when it comes to being the change the planet needs - the public is ready and willing to support such business leaders."

According to data released by Eurostat in December 2020, Ireland

produces the most plastic waste per person in the EU and has the fourth-lowest recycling rate of plastics in the EU.

Whilst innovation and initiatives such as the ban on certain single-use plastics from July 2021 are welcome and a key part of Ireland's National Waste Policy that will hopefully increase recycling rates, Bonnin believes that we can't recycle our way out of the plastic pollution crisis.

"Current global recycling infrastructure is not fit for purpose, and the suggestion that the problem of plastic pollution can be solved through recycling is a myth. Even if single use plastics were manufactured in a way that made them truly recyclable, no recycling infrastructure in the world could cope with the staggering volumes we throw away every day," she says.

"Globally, only 9% of all plastic in circulation is recycled or repurposed in some way, and it's often downcycled to produce

lower grade items like flower pots or carpet backing, so that more virgin plastic still needs to be used to 'remake' the original product, and much of the Western world's plastic waste is still shipped overseas to countries that lack the recycling facilities to deal with it, often ending up in illegal dump sites," she continues.

Bonnin will discuss how Irish businesses can focus on eliminating all problematic and unnecessary plastics, ensure that the plastics they do use are truly reusable, recyclable, fully biodegradable or easily compostable.

She will also explore how businesses can work together to make all materials part of an ecosystem of resource use, where all waste products can become raw materials for other business sectors, resulting in little to no further natural resources needing to be extracted from the planet.

"Climate Ready Academy supports Irish businesses in developing

the skills and talent required to mitigate the effects of our changing climate and environment," says Paraic Treacy, Climate Ready Academy Programme Director. "The programmes, training, and supports offered as part of this national upskilling initiative are fully funded for Irish businesses and employees in the private sector."

The Climate Ready Academy Masterclass with Liz Bonnin will take place virtually via Zoom on September 15th, 2021, from 13:00 - 14:00. The free to attend, interactive event, will be moderated by Irish food and farm journalist and report Ella McSweeney.

Those wishing to attend can register on www.climate-readyacademy.ie/masterclasses/

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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



Science, Natural History and Environmental broadcaster Liz Bonnin

CLASSIFIEDS

GOSPEL MATTHEW 13:36-43

Leaving the crowds, Jesus went to the house and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the dandel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the dandel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world, the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the dandel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

C.J.

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Renault moves back into centre field with dramatic hybrid Arkana SUV

Renault have been pioneers of electric cars - with the Zoe about to celebrate its tenth birthday later this year.

By Martin McCarthy

It was initially the only all electric car on the market - aside from its first cousin the Leaf - but recently Hyundai, VW

and others have joined in with all electric options of their own.

Renault are now making it clear that while the future they see as electric - but that also definitely includes hybrids.

They have been using a hybrid engine in their current F1 car and have now designed an innovative new SUV which is already selling so well that sales are being restricted by how the factories can keep

up with demand.

We drove the new Arkana all over the home-land of Renault Ireland's MD, - West Wicklow - and the first thing to note is that there two very different power trains on offer.

The true Hybrid version has a 1.6 litre petrol engine coupled to two electric motors and a substantial 240V battery pack - all driven through an automatic gearbox. This gives great performance and

incredible fuel economy - 4.8l/100km (58 mpg). The mild hybrid power-train uses a 12 Volt regenerative system coupled to a 1.3 litre engine via a manual gearbox - but it uses 15% more fuel.

Smaller engines have to work harder to move a large SUV like the Arkana.

The premium over the base "Iconic" model price of €28,990 for the real hybrid is €1,500 - which seems like the bargain of the century as there is an incredible amount of technology involved - and the drive is so delightful.

Being a brand new model has given the

designers great scope and despite the coupe style rear, the back seat passengers still have a lavish headroom and leg space.

The dashboard is slick and uncluttered with the few vital knobs that allow renters and others use the car without a major software lesson.

There is a full suite of driver safety aids as stan-

dard - with the S and RS versions stretching the range to €35,190 for the top of the line RS real Hybrid version.

The Arkana could be a real gamer for Renault - with an echo back to tremendous Renault 20 of the 1970s that perfected the big hatchback and was a runaway best seller for years.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

James and Katrina Canny intend to apply for the retention of alterations to previously permitted detached garage (ref. 13/8125), comprising an increase in eaves and ridge height and attic conversion to provide a study/playroom and toilet, with side access door, window to gable and rooflights at Bella Marie, Duck Walk, Kiladreenan, Newtownmountkennedy, 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 the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Justin Foley seeks planning permission for (1) amendments to previously approved planning reference 201015 consisting of: windows to replace garage door to front, additional entrance door to side, increased roof level to allow for mezzanine level, changing use from garage to playroom, with a veranda to front of house and (2) pergola to rear of house, at 15 Druids Avenue, Druids Glen Golf Resort, Woodstock, Newtownmountkennedy, 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

Retention Permission sought for the following:
1. Single storey restaurant extension to front/eastern elevation and side/northern elevation of the Protected Structure at Ripasso Italian Restaurant with associated signage.
2. Signage to the side/northern elevation of the Protected Structure at Ripasso Italian Restaurant.
3. All above with associated site works.
At Ripasso Italian Restaurant 1 Albert Avenue Bray County Wicklow for PEQ Restaurants Limited. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made 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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