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Tuesday 5th April 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# BRAVE WICKLOW MOTHER

People all over the country were moved last week by the story of County Wicklow woman, Cathy Wheatley, who made the journey to the Ukraine-Romanian border to meet Ivana Holub and her three children to bring them back to the safety of her home just outside Dunlavin, near Hollywood in West Wicklow. Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Cathy says 'it's been a difficult road' but she didn't feel like she had a choice.

Ivana is the surrogate mother of twins for Cathy and her husband Keith. Cathy says that surrogacy was recommended to her and Keith as an option by a Ukrainian doctor, and that Ukraine's strong support system for surrogate mothers was a deciding factor in choosing Ukraine. "Under Ukrainian law, the surrogate mother is protected with robust legislation, and has access to many support services," explains Cathy. They had their twins, Elsie and Ted, through Ivana over two years ago, first travelling over to Ukraine to meet her on St. Patrick's Day 2019, and they remained in close contact since then. "We were talking with Ivana twice a week before the invasion, and we were actually planning to fly over to Ukraine to attend the Christening of her daughter," Cathy says. "That was to be the Sunday before Ukraine was invaded, so we came close to being stuck over there too. The only reason we didn't go was because Elsie and Ted's pass-



Wicklow woman Cathy Wheatley with Ivana Holub

ports didn't come through in time."

This was just one of many instances of incredible luck that Cathy had in the saga which eventually ended with getting Ivana and her children safely to Wicklow.

When Ivana's town was attacked, Cathy and Keith set up a GoFundMe page to support Ivana and her family, who in turn used the money to help the other people in her town affected by the bombing and shelling.

Cathy describes Ivana as "an amazing woman" who took people into her home and used the money sent to her to provide food, blankets and medicine to anyone who needed them.

Originally Ivana was reluctant to leave, but when the town where her son was staying with Ivana's mother came under attack, she

felt that she had to get her and her children out. Cathy, sitting in her cottage in Wicklow and thinking of the situation Ivana was in, was overcome by the need to do all she could to help.

It was an emotional moment when Cathy and Ivana finally found each other at a refugee camp in Ukraine just beyond the border. Travelling over with her brother, it was an arduous journey that eventually saw them crossing into the Ukraine border by mini van as part of a convoy with a Uruguyan diplomat on a humanitarian mission. "We met him in the queue to get into Ukraine - that's something I hadn't been anticipating, the masses of people trying to get into Ukraine," Cathy says. "But of course they were all trying to help to get people out like we were. He gave

us his business card and said to contact him if there was anything he

could do, so we ended up being part of his convoy." Cathy describes

being in the camp, when she eventually got there. *Continued on page 3*

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# Getting Wicklow buzzing for biodiversity

The Climate Action team of Wicklow County Council invites interested groups and individuals from all over Wicklow to attend an upcoming free workshop: "Let's Get Buzzing – Community Actions for Biodiversity."

The workshop takes place on Saturday, 9th April, between 10am-2pm in Roundwood Parish Hall.

Featuring a range of presentations, discussions and an optional outdoor visit to the nearby Vartry Neighbourhood project, this event is focused on providing practical information for those wishing to enhance the biodiversity and climate resilience of their local area. This will also be a valuable opportunity for groups to meet in person and share ideas.

Of particular interest to Tidy Towns groups will be the talk from Kate Chandler of the National Biodiversity Data Centre which will include a tutorial with tips for filling in the Local Authority Heritage Officer Pollinator Award application in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Kate will also share some practical 'Do's & Don'ts' for pollinators.

The recently launched Wicklow Barn Owl project will also feature as well as the Wicklow Swift project. Damian Clarke from National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Oran O Sullivan from Irish Garden Birds will talk about these two projects which are being carried out with NPWS, Wicklow County Council and Heritage Council support.

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council, will highlight the importance of hedgerows while Jim Callery, Environmental Awareness Officer, will give an update of Wicklow County Council's Tree Policy.

A light lunch will be provided in the hall to be followed by an optional field visit to the Vartry led by Faith Wilson, Ecologist. The Vartry Neighbourhood scheme is



an initiative of Roundwood Tidy Towns with funding from The Forest Service.

Booking is required for attendance as there is limited capacity in the venue. To book mail Jim Callery [eao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:eao@wicklowcoco.ie). For other queries contact Deirdre Burns [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie) or telephone 0404 20100. See [www.wicklow.ie/](http://www.wicklow.ie/) under latest news for more.

## Bluebird Care supporting Ukraine with fundraising initiative

Bluebird Care Wicklow conducted a ten-day fundraising initiative to offer support and humanitarian aid to those in desperate need in Ukraine. The campaign began on Monday 21 and ended on 31st March.

Over the course of ten days Bluebird Care Ireland hosted fundraising events across Ireland with all money going to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC). A Bluebird Care JustGiving page was set up to encourage donations from those who can't attend these events.

As an act of solidarity Bluebird Care also removed the colour orange from their online branding for the period of the fundraising campaign. This means Bluebird Care's online brand colour was blue and yellow for this time.

Hannah Banfield, Marketing and Communications Director for Bluebird Care said: "We are fundraising for the Disasters Emergency Committee to offer as much as we can in support of the humanitarian aid needed for Ukrainians. We are dedicated to helping care for people and if we can assist those in most need, we will."

For those who wish to donate to this vital cause see <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bluebird-careukraine>



Greystones Firefighters and members of Poseidon Lifesaving Club at Greystones Harbour. Poseidon Lifesaving Club helped Greystones Fire Service raise €1,200 through car washing for public access AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) around the town.

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Lisa O'Toole and Sadie Luby at the Farmers Market held every Thursday in Bridgewater Shopping Centre in Arklow.

## Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine at Wicklow Gaol

A candlelight vigil has been organised for the people of Wicklow Town and environs to come together in solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine. Everybody is welcome to attend. It will be a solemn occasion led by the lone piper Joe Hanlon. It takes place on 14th April. At 7:15pm attendees will be asked to light a candle. There will be a minute's silence. A fundraising event will be held at a later date in Wicklow Gaol/Jailer's Rest, headed by Sean Olohan and the Wicklow Lions Club committee.

## Belfast at Mermaid

Belfast, winner of the Best Original Screenplay at this year's Oscars, will be screened in the Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th April at 8pm.

Buddy, a nine-year-old boy sees his stable, loving community and everything he thought he understood about life turned upside as violence breaks out on his close knit road. Despite the turmoil he and his family still find joy, laughter, music and the formative magic of the movies to see them through. With his beloved hometown caught up in increasing turmoil, the family faces a momentous choice: hope the conflict will pass or leave everything they know behind for a new life.

From writer-director Kenneth Branagh, and starring an acclaimed ensemble cast, including Caitriona Balfe, Jamie Dornan, Ciarán Hinds, and Judy Dench, Belfast is a deeply personal and joyful story about the power of memory, set in 1960s Northern Ireland. Cert: 12a. Tickets: €9/7. Duration: 98mins.

## My Open Library

Would you like to do more study? Would you like to use the library even when it is closed? If the answer is 'YES' then why not join My Open Library

at Wicklow Library Branch.

My Open Library (MOL) will go live on Monday 4th April. MOL is an unstaffed, self-service library, which will be available at Wicklow library every day of the year between 8am and 10pm. Current normal staffed opening hours remain unchanged.

MOL membership is available to patrons aged 16 and over. In order to be granted MOL access, patrons must attend a brief health and safety walkthrough with a member of staff. These sessions are held Mondays to Saturdays at 4pm and Tuesdays/Thursdays at 7pm.

There is no need to book these sessions, but please bring along your library card and some photo ID. Patrons aged 16/17 must bring a parent/guardian and original, valid age ID (passport, age card etc.).

Contact the branch for further details: Email [wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie) or Phone 0404 67025

## Local economic and community plan

Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) want to hear the public's views about the economic and community development and wellbeing of the county.

There are two plans being developed at present - both interlinked. These are the Co Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and the Co Wicklow PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing Statement.

There are two ways to participate in the consultation: an online survey is now open to feed into both the LECP and the Vision for the PPN Community Wellbeing Statement. Access the survey online on [www.countywicklowppn.ie/news](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie/news) or [www.wicklow.ie/living/consultationhub](http://www.wicklow.ie/living/consultationhub)

Or, alternatively, pick up a hard copy in any local library or Municipal District Office. Written submissions can be made to: Office of Community, Culture & Social Development, Wicklow County Council, County buildings, Wicklow or emailed to: [lecp@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:lecp@wicklowcoco.ie). Closing date for written submissions is 5pm Thursday 21st April.

## Clean Coasts

The Clean Coasts North Wicklow groups rotate beach cleanups at Greystones, Kilcoole, and Newcastle. All are welcome to get involved. See the 'Clean Coasts North Wicklow' Facebook page for more information.

## North Wicklow Country Market

The North Wicklow Country Market takes place every Saturday in Newcastle Community Centre from 10:30am to 12:30pm. For sale you'll find plenty of locally grown fresh vegetables, bread and baked goods, jams, marmelade, eggs, plants and flowers, crafts, and much more. It is Wicklow's longest running market. Coffee and tea is also served.

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# Coral Leisure Centre to accommodate refugees

**Coral Leisure Centre in Arklow will be used to accommodate Ukrainian refugees, Wicklow County Council has confirmed.**

In a statement issued on Friday, the Council said, "A Community Response Forum has been established in every local authority across the country, including Wicklow County Council, Chaired by Chief Executive, Brian Gleeson, to coordinate the community-led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees as they are accommodated in County Wicklow. The Forum will bring together state, private,

community and voluntary organisations acting at local level in response to this emergency. An Internal Response Team has also been set up by the Council to respond to the crisis locally.

"Each Local Authority has been asked to establish a community facility/facilities to provide emergency beds for arriving refugees. Wicklow county Council is responding to this request through its Internal

Response Team. As part of this request, received on the 31st of March and reflecting the national urgency, Wicklow County Council has initiated the set-up of emergency contingency beds temporarily at Coral Leisure Centre Arklow. The Swimming Pool and Gym Facility at the Centre remain open. While it is regrettable that this emergency response measure has had an affect on a small number of businesses at the facility the

council will continue to liaise with the businesses affected.

"The Council is committed to delivering on the humanitarian response to the people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland.

"Outside of the accommodation established at Coral Leisure Centre, the Council has also secured emergency accommodation for refugees across the County in hotels and guest houses."



Coral Leisure Centre in Arklow

## KWETB to lead regional education response to those fleeing Ukraine

*One-stop shop for all schools, English classes, and ICT devices amongst measures by ETBs*

**Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) is coordinating a multi-agency Regional Education and Language Team (REALT), responding to the local need for English Language classes and preparing to deploy laptops and tablets to support schools providing places for Ukrainian children.**

Regional Education and Language Teams, which include professionals and representatives from Tusla's Education Support Service, school psychological services, special education needs specialists and school management bodies, are being established in each of Ireland's sixteen

Education and Training Board regions, including KWETB. ETB's also have:

- A dedicated Coordinator to support each Regional Education and Language Team
- A dedicated school support email and phone number
- A dedicated register of

ICT devices (laptops, notebooks, tablets, and other mobile devices) to facilitate eLearning.

While schools continued to be the primary contact point for Ukrainian families seeking places for their children, the Regional Education and Language

Team will assist those schools in terms of supporting capacity, sharing information and resources including those for ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages).

KWETB's Further Education & Training (FET) service will play a

key role in the delivery of ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) providing:

- A single point of contact for ESOL provision through their Adult Education Officer
- Access to nationwide network of adult guidance services

• A Family Learning ESOL toolkit.

Welcoming these developments, General Secretary of Education and Training Boards Ireland, Paddy Lavelle stated: "Because of our nationwide locations and in-house administrative

supports, Education & Training Boards, including KWETB, are ideally placed to co-ordinate this response in collaboration with our partners across the entire school sector. We are all focussed on making the initial entry into our education system as stress-free as

possible for our Ukrainian arrivals. ETBI has also appointed a dedicated lead to support ETBs and we are liaising closely with the Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science."

## BRAVE WICKLOW MOTHER

*Continued from page 1*

as "a very sobering experience". She knew that Ivana was nearby, but the amount of people there and the dying battery on her phone meant that Cathy was close to giving up hope of finding her. Just then, another moment of luck happened when she saw someone in the doorway of a tent shouting 'Here, here,' and a few moments later Ivana was running towards her and they embraced.

They then travelled back to Wicklow, arriving on St. Patrick's Day, three years to the day when they first met.

Cathy is a spokesperson and one of the founding members of the Irish Families Through Surrogacy group, which campaigns for equal rights for Irish children born through surrogacy, and legal recognition of their Irish mothers. The group attracted support from women all over the country who were in a similar position to Cathy, many of them from Wicklow.

Currently under Irish law, Ivana, as the surrogate, is the legal mother of Cathy and Keith's twins as she gave birth to them. Proposed legislation to address this is currently being examined by an Oireachtas committee.



Ivana Holub

Cathy says they've had a lot of engagement with the Government and have cross party support, but that the new legislation "won't be fit for purpose" if it doesn't include international surrogacy. "We don't have enough surrogates here, Ireland is a small country," says Cathy. "We want there to be a legal relationship. Currently I can't buy Calpol for my children, and as it stands they can't inherit

our farm."

Cathy was aware that bringing Ivana over to Ireland could create a precarious situation, however the friendship and connection she has built up with Ivana over the last few years has brought them all closer together and meant that Cathy never hesitated or had a moment of doubt.

The three adults and five children are now all living together in a two-bedroom cottage. Ivana's children Oleg (5) and Sergii (7) have started school at Scoil Níocláis Naofa in Dunlavin. Their father remained in Ukraine as he's of fighting age, and Ivana remains in contact with him and her mother.

Ivana and her children are settling in well to life in Wicklow, with Scoil Níocláis Naofa taking in Ivana's children. Cathy says the school has been incredibly supportive, as has Maria Desmond of Ukrainian Family Services in West Wicklow.

"Before when it was just our family in this small cottage, my mother described it as 'beautiful pandemonium!'," says Cathy. "Now it's a beautiful pandemonium multiplied."

### The Kings Quarters Restaurant

Starters		Mains	
Castles Soup of the Day <small>Served with home-made brown bread with sesame seed crust and crunchy french stick</small>	€6.90	Castle Surf 'n' Turf <small>10oz 28 Day Dry Aged Sirloin of Beef with Tempura of Atlantic Prawns Grilled tomato and our house peppercorn &amp; brandy sauce</small>	€34.90
Creamy Tomato & Fennel Seafood Chowder <small>Filled with prawns, scallops &amp; Atlantic Prawns Topped with Puff Pastry Crust (and the Castle twist)</small>	€12.90	10oz 28 Day Dry Aged Sirloin Steak <small>With battered onion rings, grilled tomato and house pink peppercorn &amp; brandy sauce. Served with fries</small>	€29.90
Irish Oak-Soaked Salmon Salad <small>With Red Onion &amp; Sliced Peppers tossed in Mixed Leaves with Softened Whipped Cream Mustard &amp; Honey Dressing</small>	€11.90	Oven Baked Hake Fillet <small>Served on a chive mash with pan fried Atlantic Prawns in a lemon and butter herb sauce</small>	€25.90
Home-Made Chicken Liver Pate <small>With Fennel &amp; Sun-Dried Tomatoes &amp; Toasted Rustic Bread</small>	€9.90	Crispy Boneless Half Roast Duck <small>Served on creamed potatoes with a garlic and star anise sauce</small>	€27.90
Oven Baked Goats Cheese Puff Pastry Parcel <small>With Balsamic Reduction Drizzle &amp; Baby Leaf Salad</small>	€11.90	Roast Chicken Supreme <small>With a Black Pudding and herb stuffing. Served with a Whiskey cream sauce topped with crispy Pancetta</small>	€24.90
Coquilles Dublin Bay Prawns <small>Dublin Bay Prawns cooked in butter served on a Scallop Shell with Mass Potato top &amp; a Garlic Cream Sauce</small>	€14.90	Pan Fried Monk Fish Fillet <small>With shallot, dill and tomato cream sauce, tossed with fried samphire</small>	€29.90
Pan Fried Crab Claws <small>Junio Crab Claws tossed in Garlic &amp; Herb Butter served with a thimble of Turnmeric Rice</small>	Priced to Market	Grilled Plaice Fillet <small>Grilled with fresh lemon and herb butter and baby capers &amp; spring onion</small>	€24.90
<b>Desserts</b>		Seafood Specials of the Day <small>Fresh Seafood Hand picked by our Chef Daily</small>	Priced to Market
Wild Berry Crumble <small>Served with Vanilla ice-cream and a mango coulis</small>	€7.90		
Luxurious Death by Chocolate <small>Served with whipped cream and caramel sauce</small>	€7.90		
Fresh Fruit Salad <small>With Mango coulis and vanilla ice-cream</small>	€7.90		
Classic Eton Mess <small>Meringue, fresh strawberries and whipped cream with strawberry &amp; mango coulis</small>	€7.90		
Selection of Ice-cream <small>Mint, Chocolate, Strawberry &amp; Vanilla</small>	€7.90		

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# Baby survives cardiac arrest thanks to multi-agency response

Eight-month-old baby Penny recently suffered a cardiac arrest and survived thanks to a multi-agency response led by Dr. David Menzies of Wicklow Rapid Response.



Amy and Nick Raymond with baby Penny at Loughlinstown Hospital. Pic: Joe McQuillan

The frightening and traumatic incident taught Penny's parents, Amy and Nick, the importance of CPR training and they are now spreading the word about the value of having that skill.

On the evening of 2nd February, baby Penny became unresponsive, her parents called the National Ambulance Service. The person who took the call in the National Emergency Operations Centre coached Nick to perform CPR chest compression on baby Penny, while also alerting and tasking Paramedics, Wicklow Rapid Response, an off duty Advanced Paramedic, Bray Cardiac First Responders and Bray Fire Service to respond to baby Penny's aid.

Dr. Menzies and the



Amy and Nick Raymond with baby Penny, Pippa and Max Raymond, with Paramedic Kevin Jennings, Dr David Menzies, and paramedic Peter Collins at Loughlinstown Hospital. Pic: Joe McQuillan

first ambulance were quickly on the scene and were able to provide advanced care to stabilise Baby Penny and to con-

tinue caring for her en route to Crumlin Children's Hospital where Dr. Menzies handed her over to the Paediatric

Emergency Medicine Team. Thankfully, Penny has made a full recovery and recently baby Penny and her parents met up

with her rescuers at Loughlinstown Ambulance Base. On Friday 25th March Amy and Nick went to St

Columcilles Hospital to meet the paramedics, first responders and the volunteers who came to Penny's aid.

## Improved homes for older and disabled persons in Wicklow

### €2.3 Million in Housing Adaptation Grants for Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council is set to receive increased funding to continue its work in supporting older people and people with a disability to live independently.

The Housing Adaptation Grant is 80% exchequer funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with 20% funding from the relevant local authority. Wicklow County Council will receive a total of €1,839,500 from government with an additional €460,000 from the Council's own funds.

Grants of up to Minister Simon Harris

€30,000 are available to assist disabled people in carrying out necessary works to make a house more suitable for their needs. Additionally, grants of up to €8,000 are available to assist older people to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out on their homes and grants of up to €6,000 are available for mobility aids.

said: "This is both good news for people who need and deserve the support to live in their own homes for as long as possible, and is also positive in terms of reducing dependency on our health service."

"Fine Gael is working to build stronger safer communities and it is important we support people to live in their own homes for as long as they possibly can. These

grants have a really positive impact on the quality of life of the people who benefit from them and they play an important role in helping people with a disability and people who are reaching an age in life when they are less mobile, to continue to live independently in their own homes. Another positive aspect of the Housing Adaptation Grant is that it helps to create employment for local contractors."

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke TD added, "I am pleased that funding for our local authorities to administer this scheme has been increasing year on year

since 2014. This shows the importance that is attached to the scheme and the Government's commitment to older people and those with a disability."

"These grants have a huge impact on the quality of life of the many beneficiaries and play a vitally important role in helping people with a disability and people who are reaching an age in life when they are less mobile, to continue to live independently in their own homes."

"As Minister of State with responsibility for housing for older people and people with a disability, I am fully committed to assisting individuals to stay in their

own homes and within their own communities for as long as possible and these allocations today will facilitate this goal for many," he concluded.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD said "I am delighted to be in a position to allocate increased funding to Wicklow County Council so that they can continue to support older people and disabled people to live independently in Wicklow. Importantly, home adaptations help reduce the dependency on our health services by supporting independent living for as long as possible and in other instances facilitate

an early return from hospital, taking pressure off already over-burdened services. These grants will also provide a boost to Wicklow's economy, creating employment opportunities for local contractors."

In January, the Government published a new National Strategy for Disabled People 2022-27. The Strategy sets out how the Government will put in place the frameworks to ensure that the housing and support needs of disabled people are comprehensively addressed. The Housing Agency is preparing a detailed implementation plan for the Strategy.

The plan contains a range of actions and mea-

sures to ensure over 300,000 homes are built by 2030, backed by over €20 billion in guaranteed State investment to the end of 2026, so that that high-quality, affordable housing is accessible for all.

Data indicates that the construction of over 33,000 homes commenced in 2021, the highest rolling 12-month total since comparable data were first published.

Housing for All commits to a review of the range of grants available to assist with meeting specific housing needs. The aim is to ensure the grants remain fit for purpose and meet the housing needs of the people availing of them.



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## Athlete with Wicklow roots named as Team Ireland flagbearer

Elizabeth Golding was named as the Team Ireland flagbearer for the Closing Ceremony of the European Youth Olympic Festival in Vuokatti, Finland. The Dubai based athlete, whose grandmother lives in Bray, was the first ever figure skater to compete for Team Ireland in an Olympic event.

Throughout the event she performed strongly finishing with season best performances across the two days, signalling the arrival of Irish figure skating to a multi-sport event. Four Irish athletes competed in the EYOF which ran from the 20-25 March 2022.

Speaking on her selection Golding said, "It was an honour to carry the flag for my country, and it was very exciting to walk into the arena and represent Ireland and skating."

Team Ireland Chef de Mission for the event Linda O'Reilly was pleased with the performances of the athletes throughout this important development stage for young athletes.

"As the Games come to a close, it is great to be sharing the European stage with 45 other Nations and look forward to seeing the future career of these young athletes. They are an inspiration to the youth to take part in sport."



Elizabeth Golding



# Wicklow house prices were 9% higher than a year previously

In Wicklow, house prices in the first three months of 2022 were 9% higher than a year previously, compared to a rise of 12% seen a year ago. The average price of a home is now €394,000, 94% above its lowest point.

That's according to the latest Daft.ie Sales Report released last week. A national survey by Real Estate Alliance, meanwhile, revealed that the price of the average second-hand three-bed semi in Co. Wicklow has risen by 3.5% to €354,000 in the last three months.

Across the county, the average time taken to sell is three weeks, the Q1 REA Average House Price Index has shown.

Prices in Bray rose by 5.1% to €415,000 this quarter, while Wicklow town saw a 5.4% increase to €390,000 over the past three months.

"Wicklow Town has seen a significant increase in achieved prices in the last three months, and this is mainly due to the lack of supply of housing in the second-hand market," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin, Wicklow.

"Although more new homes are being released to the market than there were in Q1 2021, the new homes supply is nowhere close to meeting the level of demand from the market.

"Bray has seen a steady increase in achieved prices over the last three months, and for the most part this is due to lack of supply of suitable family homes in the market.

"Few new homes are

planned for the town so the vast majority of housing supply has to come from the second hand market."

Prices in Blessington saw a 1.4% increase this quarter to €335,000, while Baltinglass prices rose 2.1% to €240,000.

"Supply of property remains a problem for intended purchasers in preferred areas and those buyers are beginning to accept more outlying areas like Baltinglass because of such shortage in higher demand areas," said Simon Murphy of REA Murphy Baltinglass and Blessington.

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

Nationally, house prices are increasing at an average of almost €100 a day as the market shows no signs of slowing up in the early months of 2022, the survey has found.

Average house prices rose by 3.16% nationally in the first three months of year, matching the 1% a month increases experienced during the Celtic Tiger days.

And illustrating the

two-tier nature of the market, 59% of all purchasers were first-time buyers, that figure rising to 76% in Dublin as people with mortgage approval scramble to get on the housing ladder.

The price of a three-bedroom semi-detached house across the country rose by almost €9,000 over the past three months to €278,500 - representing an annual increase of over 14%.

The average three bed in Dublin is fast approaching the €500,000 mark, with actual selling prices rising by 2.2% since the new year, to an average of €481,250.

Commuter counties saw prices increase 4.47% - a jump of €13,000 to €305,000 - and double the rate of increase seen in the capital.

In the rest of the country, where prices rose 3.4% to €196,569, the survey found that one in every three buyers were from outside the county as new working conditions enable a rethink on home bases.

Just 10,000 homes were listed for sale nationwide on March 1st, another new low in a series stretching back to July 2006, when online advertising was still

emerging. During 2019, the average number of homes for sale on the market at any one time was just over 17,500. There were 429 properties for sale in Wicklow at the end of Q1 2022 - a decrease of 2% over the quarter according to the latest MyHome.ie Property Report.

The report for Q1 2022 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county is now €370,000. This means prices are up by €35,000 compared to this time last year. Asking prices for a 3-bed semi-detached house in the county also rose by €2,500 during the quarter to €375,000. This still means that prices in the segment have risen by €32,500 compared to this time last year.

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow fell by €7,500 over the quarter to €475,000.

This still represents an increase of €45,000 compared to this time last year. There were 429 properties for sale in Wicklow at the end of Q1 2022 - a decrease of 2% over the quarter. The average time for a property to go sale agreed in the county after being placed up for sale now stands at just over three months.



Finian and Darragh McEvoy planting native Irish trees on the Ballard Trail in Laragh during National Tree Week.



## Supporting people with disabilities at work

### Public Consultation

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## 15% reduction in households on social housing waiting lists in 5 years

Figures published in the 2021 Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) last week show a reduction of 15% in the Wicklow social housing waiting list since the first annual assessment was conducted in 2016.

The 2021 Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) shows 2,128 households in Wicklow were assessed as being qualified for, and in need of, social housing support as of 17 November 2021. This figure is down 64 (3%) from 2,192 households recorded on 2 November 2020. This figure also represents a total decrease of 383 (15%) households since 2016 when annual recording of the SSHA began.

Nationally, 59,247 households were assessed as being qualified for social housing support as of 17 November 2021, down 2,633 (4.3%) from 61,880 households on 2 November 2020. This figure is a reduction of 32,353 (35.3%) since 2016.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien, T.D. also published the social housing statistics for Quarter 4 2021. Nationally, a total of 4,010 social homes were delivered in Quarter 4, including 2,053 new build social homes, 810 acquisitions and 1,147 homes delivered through leasing programmes.

Overall in 2021, a total of 9,183 new social homes were delivered, an increase of 17% on 2020 figures. This total includes 5,202 new build homes (an increase of 2.6% on 2020), 1,270 acquisitions and 2,711 homes delivered through leasing programmes.

The Minister welcomed the publication of the data, noting that for a fifth consecutive year the overall number of households on local authority waiting lists continued to decrease. He also welcomed the fact that 9,183 social housing solutions were found for people despite the significant impact which the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent construction sector shutdowns had on efforts.

Commenting on today's figures, Minister O'Brien said:

"These results are evidence that Government investment in social housing supports is working for Wicklow. Nationally, over 23,300 households had their housing needs met in 2021 - this is despite the very significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on delivery. It's important to remember that most residential construction was halted for a 13-week period from January to April.

"We must not, and will not, lose sight of the fact that there are still over 2,100 households in Wicklow who are relying on us for the provision of housing support. Housing for All, which was launched six months ago, sets us on a pathway to delivering 90,000 new social homes between now and the end of 2030. This year we will be investing more than €4bn to deliver 11,820 new social homes in 2022, including 9,000 new build social homes.

"As with all Department's, we are watching the situation in Ukraine closely. The Russian invasion is having significant impacts on all sectors of society and our goal is to provide shelter and accommodation for those fleeing war while protecting to the greatest extent possible, Housing for All delivery at its existing pace.

"The strong pipeline of home building activity is encouraging. New figures show that in the past twelve months (March 2021 to February 2022), Commencement Notices for the construction of 33,006 new homes were received. This is the highest rolling 12-month total since comparable data was first published. Specifically related to social housing, the Construction Status Report for Quarter 4 2021, showed that there were 8,749 social homes onsite at the end of December, with a further 10,455 homes at various stages of design and procurement. Supporting local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to increase housing construction is a priority for my Department."



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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# Strand Road Plaza in Bray officially opened

The recently completed Strand Road Plaza in Bray was officially opened last Wednesday by the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

The completion of this high-quality public plaza has greatly enhanced the public space on Bray's famous seafront.

## The scheme includes:

- Widened pedestrian areas using new paving materials
- A shared space linking to the existing cycle route on both sides of the scheme
- New seating, trees,

planters, public lighting.

• The road carriageway has been raised and reduced in width, to control vehicle speeds and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "Strand Road Plaza's development is one of many National Transport

Authority (NTA) projects in progress and its completion and opening, is a clear demonstration of Wicklow County Council's commitment to sustainable transport and active travel measures for the future in conjunction with the NTA."

Cllr Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Bray Municipal District, stated:



Paul McGartoll NTA; Deputy Steven Matthews, Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Sarah McDonagh NTA, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach Bray Municipal District; Conor Page, Wicklow County Council, Michael Ahern NTA



Strand Road Plaza in Bray

"This completed project has significantly enhanced the area and it has given people the opportunity to sit and relax; allows people to move about easily and comfortably between amenities, cafes, and businesses on both sides of Strand Road Plaza; provides a coherent connection between the footpaths

and cycle tracks on either side and provides for outdoor café/restaurant seating and hosting public events.

"This project has achieved what is set out in the Bray Local Area Plan in the development of safe and accessible pedestrian and cycle routes. It is a job well done."

Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transport Authority, stated: "The Strand Road Plaza in Bray has presented a great opportunity for the NTA to work with Wicklow County Council on a project that both improves active travel access through the area and provides a link between two previously unconnected cycle facilities.

"It also focuses on place-making to ensure that the Strand Road Plaza is a key destination and a welcoming space at Bray Seafront. This project is just one of several hundred, not just in the Greater Dublin Area, but

across the country, being funded by NTA as part of the overall plan to make cycling and walking easier and safer for more people."

Wicklow County Council said it would like to thank the National Transport Authority for providing funding to facilitate this project.

## New wing opens at Arklow Maritime Museum

A new wing of Arklow Maritime Museum was officially opened by Captain Danny O'Neill in the Bridgewater Centre last Monday evening.

He made the point that not only have the collections continued to grow, but also that the museum is expanding to include non-maritime themes to give a fuller history of the town.

Master of ceremonies was Jimmy Tyrrell who gave a brief background to the formation of the museum nearly fifty

years ago and its progress over the five decades. He also spoke of its aims for the future.

Brian Carty, CEO of Wicklow Partnership, who granted aided the project through the EU Leader Programme, congratulated everyone who had been involved in making the project such a success.

"Wicklow Partnership are delighted to have been part of the project. It is an excellent example of what can be achieved when a community group is backed by a mix of public and private funding," he said.

Chairman of the museum, Jim Rees, explained why history is

necessary for the well-being of a community: "Imagine waking up one morning with amnesia. No idea who you are or how you came to be where you are. How could you plan your day? What will you do tomorrow? A community, a country, is like that. A knowledge of the past is needed to explain the present. Only then can we plan for the future."

"Since its inception in 1974, the museum has been focused solely on our maritime heritage. Vital as that is, it is only one aspect of Arklow's long and varied history. We needed more space to include aspects such as archaeology in the area, the Viking connections and the importance of the medieval period.

"Of course, our important maritime collections are still a major factor in the story we have to tell, but now we can widen the context."

It had been hoped to have the occasion open to all, but the recent massive upsurge in Covid figures prompted a late decision to restrict numbers to those who had been essential to the project's success.

The museum, complete with new wing, is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Arklow Maritime Museum committee Jimmy Tyrrell, Captain Danny O'Neill, Ann McGovern, Jim Rees, Karen Bermingham, Eamonn Bermingham, Aisling Rees and Michael Fitzgerald at the opening of the new wing at Arklow Maritime Museum.



Jim Rees with Cllr Pat Fitzgerald at the opening of the new wing at Arklow Maritime Museum



Karen, Maria, Captain Danny and Niamh O'Neill with Libby Byrne at the opening of the new wing at the Arklow Maritime Museum, Bridgewater Centre, Arklow





The fireplace has been a focus-point of the home for many generations and everyone loves the comfort and warmth provided by a traditional fire. However, open fires and chimneys are major sources of heat loss.

An open fire is approximately 30% efficient, whereas a modern stove can reach efficiencies of 80% or more. SKC supplies an extensive range of stoves, which are on display in our Wicklow showrooms.



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# Over 5 million litres of water saved every day

Irish Water in partnership with Wicklow County Council have been working hard to deliver a strategic plan to reduce leakage across the county since 2018. In 2021, as part of the national Leakage Reduction Programme, intensive efforts were made which resulted in savings of over 5 million litres of water every day.

That's enough clean drinking water to supply almost 15,000 homes for one day.

Over half of these water savings achieved last year were as a result of active leak detection and repair works, known as the Find and Fix scheme. Visible bursts on the pipes are easy to find and fix, but hidden, underground leaks are a bigger challenge and therefore, a considerable focus was placed on improving systems to measure the water flow and usage, to better understand where the worst underground leaks were located, and direct crews to those areas. As a result of this scheme, almost 300 major underground leaks were repaired amounting to savings of over 2.6 million litres of water every day.

Another important part of the programme was the replacement of over 500 backyard service connections. Backyard services are found in older premises, often installed to the



Joe Carroll, Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead with Irish Water

rear of a property and typically made of cast iron or lead. Due to the age and the poor condition of the pipework, they are a significant source of leakage and supply disruption for customers. Irish Water would like to thank all those who facilitated and assisted in the provision

of this programme which has not only reduced the number of bursts and outages impacting customers, but has also considerably improved the water quality for entire communities throughout Scotts Park, Charnwood, Edward Road, Fr Colahan Terrace, Dwyer Park, Ballywaltrim

Cottages, Friarshill, Rocky Road, Palermo and Avondale Park in Bray, and Trafalgar Road in Greystones.

In addition to this, Irish Water also replaced a further 7.5km of aged and problematic water mains as well as controlling and managing pressure on the network more effectively, which will benefit customers in these areas for years to come".

The people of Wicklow really got behind conserving water last year with over 1 million litres saved through Irish Water's First Fix Free Scheme. The First Fix Free scheme aims to help reduce the amount of water wasted through leaks on a customer's property where a water meter shows a constant flow of water.

Speaking about the success of the works, Joe Carroll, Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead with Irish Water, said, "The hard work across Wicklow is paying off. People often think that the solution to



Charnwood in Bray where Irish Water carried out works to replace backyard service connections

our leakage problem in this Country is to replace all the pipes. The rate at which we could do that would mean sprinting to a standstill given the age & condition of our current underground infrastructure. We have had to take a much more aggressive approach to deal with leakage head on. In Wicklow we continue to deliver a programme of works that collectively drives down leakage, this involves detailed planning and close collaboration with Wicklow County Council and our contractor Ward & Burke Construction Ltd. This work has resulted in local communities enjoying

long-term benefits regarding water quality and supply."

"Though the journey continues, this is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank the people of Wicklow for engaging with us, supporting our vision and helping us achieve these results."

John Bowes, Senior Engineer with Wicklow County Council, added: "As a result of the collaboration between Wicklow County Council and Irish Water, customers across the county are enjoying a more secure and reliable water supply. The works undertaken through the Leakage Reduction

Programme will benefit customers by strengthening and reinforcing the water network, reducing leaks and unplanned outages. On behalf of Wicklow County Council, I would like to thank these communities for their continued patience as we deliver this important work to provide a better water supply."

President of Bray and District Chamber of Commerce, Sarah Finnegan, welcomed the improvements for the business community further adding, "A reliable, secure water supply is an integral factor for local business, particularly for

our multinationals and hospitality sectors. As Bray continues to develop, local economic growth will be underpinned by the work already undertaken and by the work that is currently underway.

"It is important that the capital expenditure planned for Bray and other towns across Wicklow continues to be implemented effectively in order to ensure the long-term delivery of an efficient and clean water supply in the community and for businesses and we welcome the continued development of this key part of infrastructure by Irish Water".

## Garden Village residents updated on connection to public sewerage scheme

Minister Simon Harris TD has updated Kilpedder residents in Garden Village Estate on the progress to connect their estate to the public sewerage network.

Minister Harris said: "I have been working on behalf of residents of Garden Village Estate regarding the delivery of a permanent connection for their estate to the wider public sewerage system. When the estate was originally built in the 1980s, Garden Village was never connected to the public sewerage network and has instead been served by a private sewerage treatment plant put in place by the original developers.

In 2020 the Department of Housing and Local Government announced over

€300,000 of funding towards Garden Village being finally connected to the public sewerage network and the decommissioning of the developer built private sewerage treatment plant".

Minister Harris has been advised by Wicklow County Council that: "Wicklow County Council have appointed consultants and spoken to the landowners involved, as the proposed project requires works through multiple 3rd party lands. The consultants have a proposed design for the pumping station, rising main and

sewer to connect the sewerage system in Garden Village to the Woodstock Road sewer, where it will flow to Kilcoole and then be pumped to Greystones for treatment. We have yet to reach an agreement with the relevant landowners and will continue engage with the landowners to see if we can get agreement on a wayleave".

Minister Harris continued: "I am continuing to work on this project and have sought assurances from the Minister for Housing and Local Government that the funding allocated for Garden Village will be ring fenced until the council has concluded the necessary discussions with the landowners involved".

## Improved water supply in Newtown

Irish Water is progressing with the delivery of a significant upgrade to the water supply in Newtownmountkennedy. The delivery of this project will help to provide a safer and more secure water supply for the local community while also supporting future growth.

Works will involve the replacement of approximately 1.2km of problematic water mains along Woodstock Road to provide a secure, safe and robust water supply. The project, which is being carried out by Ward & Burke Construction under Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme, is scheduled to begin next week and is expected to be completed by the end of June. To facilitate

the safe delivery of these works, traffic management will be in place for the duration of the works however local and emergency access will be maintained.

Joe Carroll, Water Network Programme Lead with Irish Water, said: "These works are part of a significant investment by Irish Water to safeguard the water supply across Wicklow and we are delighted to

progress this important project in Newtownmountkennedy. The new water mains will improve the reliability of water supply for the local community. Irish Water is committed to providing a safe, secure and sustainable source of drinking water for our customers and this important project will have significant long-term benefits for the area."

Joe added: "We understand that road works can be inconvenient, but our crews will make every effort to minimise disruption to the local community as we continue to improve the water supply in Wicklow and progress the national Leakage

Reduction Programme."

The works will also involve laying new water service connections from the public water main in the road to customers' property boundaries and connecting it to the customer's water supply.

Irish Water and Wicklow County Council say they will make every effort to maintain normal supply to customers throughout the delivery of these vital works. Some short-term water interruptions may be necessary, however, the project team say they will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned interruptions.



Michael and Ellie Luka planting native Irish trees on the Ballard Trail in Laragh during National Tree Week. Pic: Michael Kelly



# Brady going to Ukrainian border on fact finding mission

Sinn Féin TD John Brady is traveling to Eastern Europe this week as part of delegation from the EU Affairs Committee, which will be visiting Ukraine border crossings as part of a fact-finding mission, intending to bring recommendations to the Dáil as to how Ireland can maximise its efforts on the ground in order to alleviate the suffering of those fleeing the Russian invasion.

Deputy Brady said: "We are traveling to Eastern Europe and while there will be a series of high-level meetings with officials on the ground, particularly in Moldova and Romania, I will also be following a path trod by quite a number of Wicklow natives in the last number of weeks, who have driven from Wicklow, across Europe, to various border crossings in Ukraine in order deliver badly needed humanitarian supplies to refugees."

"I have been deeply moved by the efforts of people in Wicklow, who have made enormous efforts and sacrifices to do what they could to help

alleviate the suffering of Ukrainian refugees who have been forced to flee their homes and all that they hold dear as a result of the Russian invasion. Many of these refugees are deeply traumatised from what they have seen and endured. And the importance of the efforts of ordinary people to make sure that humanitarian supplies are being delivered to where they are needed most is just incredible.

"I felt compelled to raise a number of instances of the efforts of people here in Wicklow who are leading the way in getting aid to refugees, in the Dáil chamber. And while I hope that I didn't miss out on



John Brady TD

anyone, I have been moved by the efforts of people like Colette Talbot, Nicole Browne, and David Whyte who have just returned from delivering badly needed supplies to the Ukrainian border; and of course we have Neil Treanor, and Willie Coster,

who are still out there doing their very best to address the plight of Ukrainian refugees.

"I have already called for the Irish government to provide chartered planes to assist refugees to get here to Ireland safely. Protections also need to be put in place to protect vulnerable refugees, the majority of whom are women and children, who are being targeting by people traffickers. We need to make sure these people are kept safe."

"Part of my role in going out there will be to bring back an accurate picture of what is happening on the ground, and to make sure that Ireland is as

effective as it can be in terms of delivering aid and assistance to Ukraine. I have spoken with Ambassadors from Poland, Romanian, Moldova, and Ukraine about the difficulties on the ground in recent weeks. And it is very clear that countries like Moldova, which is a small country, and probably one of the poorest in Europe, but one that has made an incredible effort to aid the people of Ukraine, is at bursting point. It is simply running out of capacity. And countries like Ireland have a responsibility to ensure along with our EU colleagues that we are fulfilling our responsibilities during this crisis."



Reece Nally planting native Irish trees on the Ballard Trail in Laragh to mark National Tree Week.

## Permission granted for apartments at former Pres site

An Bord Pleanála has given the green light for the construction of 179 apartments at the former Pres Bray site off the Puland Road in Bray.

The Strategic Housing Development will involve the demolition of buildings, and the finished development will also include a creche. The planning application was lodged with ABP by Denver Valley Developments Ltd last November.

The non-original shed and outbuildings to the rear of Bray Head House will be demolished, as will the 1950s two-to-three storey redbrick secondary school extension

to Bray Herad House and other sheds and outbuildings to the rear of the site.

The apartments will be a mixture of one-bed, two-bed, and three-bed units. They'll be provided across four buildings arranged around a central landscaped podium.

Bray Head House, a protected structure, will be refurbished, with internal reconfiguration and change of use from school to apartments. It will accommodate six apart-

ments and an internal communal space area.

In making its decision, the Bord stated that the development would enhance the protected structure on the site, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of the property in the vicinity and would be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety and convenience. ABP concluded that the development would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

## NTA cancel 133 bus service to Dublin Airport

Cllr Derek Mitchell has criticised the National Transport Authority for cancelling the 133 bus service to Dublin Airport. He says the move will only increase the number of cars on the road.

"Prior to the pandemic the 133 bus served much of Wicklow and went to Dublin centre and on to the airport. The airport part of the service was cancelled during the lockdown but the NTA has now decided that it will permanently end in Busarus," said Cllr Mitchell.

"Passengers, with luggage cases, will have to transfer to the infrequent 101 there. The journey time is listed as 98 minutes, from Willow Grove, which is far too long and uncertain compared to driving at 45 minutes.

"The Aircoach from Greystones takes 83 minutes. These bus times are too long, the Aircoach from Belfast takes 110 minutes, only slightly longer! This will encourage car use, the opposite of what is supposed to happen. What is the Minister for Transport Eamonn Ryan doing?"

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# National Spring Clean 2022



## WICKLOW PLAYS ITS PART IN TACKLING LITTER PROBLEM

*An Taisce's National Spring Clean appeals to everyone to play their part in tackling Ireland's litter problem to help fighting climate change*

People across County Wicklow are being asked to take part in the biggest anti-litter campaign in the country - National Spring Clean month which launched on Friday, 1st April.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Wicklow County Council and supported by the Department of Environment, Communications and Climate Environment and

Mars Wrigley Ireland.

The initiative takes place throughout the month of April and for the past 23 years National Spring Clean has volunteered over 12 million hours of their time to remove 42,000 tonnes of litter across the country.

Last year over 150 clean-up events were registered in County Wicklow. For 2022 County Wicklow already has 97 registered events and it looks like it will be another record-breaking year.

Community spirit is

integral to the work that The National Spring Clean does and each year communities from all over the country come together to ensure their local areas are as clean as possible for everyone to enjoy together.

In Wicklow a diverse range of groups and organisations get involved including Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, PURE Mile groups, Coastcare groups, schools, scouting groups, walking groups and individual families.

This year's theme is community pride with the campaign urging people of all ages to gather friends, family, classmates, neighbors or colleagues to unite in cleaning their shared green spaces together.

Last year every town in County Wicklow saw one or more clean-up events. Most of our beaches were visited by at least one group while some got out into the uplands collecting the litter dispersed across walks and scenic areas.

Wicklow County Council is supporting the National Campaign



Members of Rathdrum Tidy Towns and Rathdrum Trout Anglers cleaning up.



including providing extra clean-up equipment such as litter pickers where needed. The Council will also collect bags of litter after an event that was registered with National Spring Clean.

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said: "Litter remains a huge challenge for all of us in

the county. On behalf of all the members of Wicklow County Council I would like to acknowledge and offer thanks to all of the volunteers who get involved and help us maintain a better environment for all to enjoy in County Wicklow."

Anyone Interested in organising an event should contact the Wicklow

County Council Environmental Awareness Office for further details: [eao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:eao@wicklowcoco.ie) or Tel: 0404 20100.

To make sure that each community clean-up can run as smoothly as possible the National Spring Clean has also provided various downloadable information packs on their website for their volunteers to read. The clean-up information pack containing details on how to organise an event, health and safety information, litter facts, useful contacts, media and publicity advice, a guide on how to recycle and information on litter and the law. Further information on [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org).



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# National Spring Clean 2022

## New law to give Council powers to use CCTV to tackle fly tipping

**Local authorities will soon be given powers to use CCTV and other technologies to tackle illegal dumping and littering, while also ensuring that there are robust data protection safeguards in place.**

While there are many litter black spots across the country, to date, local authorities' ability to use CCTV to identify and target offenders has been restricted due to data protection regulations.

Minister Simon Harris said: "This is a much needed piece of legislation that will help tackle the scourge of illegal dumping in County Wicklow, particularly in our most scenic locations and in the uplands."

"The proposed new legislation, will see Local Authorities empowered to use GDPR-compliant technologies such as CCTV to detect and prevent unsightly and illegal dumping and littering, among other measures. This will help to discourage "fly-tipping" which is a blight across County Wicklow."

Minister Harris also highlighted other key aspects of the legislation: "With this Bill, over time, a range of single-use disposable products will also be phased out. Among its targets is to make Ireland the first country in the world to eliminate the use of disposable coffee cups, nearly half a million of which are currently sent to landfill or incineration every day, amounting to 200 million cups a year."

"This process will begin with a ban over the coming months on the use of disposable coffee cups for sit-in customers in cafés and restaurants, followed by the introduction of a small charge on disposable cups for takeaway coffees that can be avoided completely by using a keep cup. This will operate in the same way as the existing Plastic Bag Levy, which has been so successful in reducing plastic bag litter across the country."

"The Circular Economy Bill builds on the Government's commitment to achieving a circular

economy, as set out in the 2020 Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the 2021 Whole-of-Government Circular Economy Strategy. This Bill now places that strategy on a statutory footing, putting the re-use of resources and reduced consumption at the heart of the Irish economy.

"The Bill also effectively calls time on coal exploration by ending the issuing of new licences for the exploration and mining of coal, lignite and oil shale. This follows-on from Programme for Government commitments to end new licences for the exploration and extraction of gas, which was in line with the previous 2019 decision to end oil exploration and extraction."

Minister Harris concluded: "This legislation will not only help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions, change our behaviours but will make a significant difference to the quality of life for Wicklow Communities in the years ahead."

Also welcoming the Bill, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "Bringing in CCTV has been something that many residents have been seeking for years but prior to this new law which will take effect in the coming months, local authorities' hands were tied by Data Protection rules. This prevented the use of cameras to identify people that illegally dump waste either at a smaller domestic level or those who dump industrial style waste, which causes huge amount of damage to our environment but also costs a fortune to have this waste professionally removed. This was hugely frustrating as without this tool, it's very difficult to identify the perpetrators unless they are caught in the act or leave identifying material behind them."

"The impact of litter and fly-tipped waste on the environment, and often our most beautiful locations, is a blight on our community. We need to empower the local authority, who is responsible for waste management and enforcement, to target these practices

and penalise those responsible. The Circular Economy Bill, brought before the Dáil, will finally make this possible while also protecting the privacy rights of the public."

"I am frequently contacted by residents from across Wicklow who have

serious issues with illegal dumping near their homes and its incredibly unfair for people who are doing the right thing to have to deal with the illegal behaviour of a small minority. To their credit, Wicklow County Council are extremely responsive and

generally very quick to come and remove waste when its reported but the additional benefit of using CCTV cameras will be that they will also act as a preventative measure by discouraging illegal dumping. "I have also been working with the Pure Mile

Project to secure funding for the coming years to work with rural communities to tackle illegal dumping. I look forward to working with Pure Mile and Wicklow County Council to identify the areas that need to be prioritised for CCTV across

Wicklow. If anyone has any specific locations that are persistent problems for illegal dumping, I would encourage them to get in touch with me directly and I would be happy to work with the council on their behalf," concluded Deputy Matthews.



**W I C K L O W**

**NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2022**  
**Get involved. Show you care**

National Spring Clean is Ireland's most popular and successful anti-litter initiative. Anyone or any group can get involved. Last year close to 150 events were held in County Wicklow. This year again Wicklow County Council is working with An Taisce to support the campaign, and help to get all our communities litter free.

**How to get involved?** Organise a date for a clean up event in your community and register it with National Spring Clean. Contact Wicklow County Council if you need materials including bags, litter pickers and gloves and also to arrange a collection of the bags afterwards.

If you prefer your local Tidy Towns group may have clean ups planned or other activities which you can help out with in your local town and you could join with them instead of organising your own event.

**Love where you live in County Wicklow this Spring**



Wicklow County Council  
Environmental Awareness Office

**Tel:** 0404 20100  
**Email:** eao@wicklowcoco.ie  
[www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

National Spring Clean  
An Taisce

**Tel:** 01 4002219  
**Email:** nsc@antaisce.org  
[www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org)





Dumping in the Wicklow woodlands. Photo by PURE Project





# National Spring Clean 2022



## PURE - winning the war against waste crime

**In 2021 the Pure Project removed over 800 individual dumping sites, with the collection of over 144,000kg (144 tonnes) of illegally dumped waste from the remote, beautiful, and scenic Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.**

The Pure Project has made huge progress in reducing illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. If you compare the amount of dumping collected by Pure in 2021, which was 144 tonnes of waste, to 2008 which was their busiest year, when they removed 440 tonnes, the project has seen a 67% reduction in illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. However, the project has stressed the importance of not becoming complacent, which they believe would lead to an increase of dumping in the uplands.

The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since the project was established, Pure has collected over 3,690,000kg (3,690 tonnes) of rubbish from over 13,200 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands with the project processing over 14,500 reports. If you were to put all the rubbish that Pure has removed from the uplands into stan-

dard household rubbish bags, they would fill over 400,000 bags. If you lined up all these bags on the road, they would stretch all the way from Dublin to Dingle.

Ian Davis, Pure Manager, commented, "Illegal dumping is not unique to the Wicklow/Dublin uplands, however, while most regions in Ireland are currently reporting an increase in illegal dumping, the Pure Project is seeing a decrease. We're the first project of its kind in Ireland and the success of Pure is based on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and cooperation between all of the organisations involved. However, it is extremely important that we do not become complacent, because if we do, it won't take long before illegal dumping will be on the increase."

The environmental project has been recording and mapping every location

and incident of illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since 2007 and have built up a base-line data of all illegal dumping activity in this region. The data that Pure collect is valuable information providing indicators into the nature and extent of illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, and statistical evidence for all illegal dumping incidents in this region.

Pure utilises a multi-disciplined approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a number of educational initiatives, environment/community projects – The Pure Mile, public awareness campaigns, regional/national media campaigns, enforcement and preventative measures, GPS/GIS database to record all illegal dumping sites, covert CCTV operations, and a dedicated vehicle – The Pure Truck.

The Pure Project Partnership approach,



*The Atha Cliath 'Clean up the Uplands' team*

incorporating statutory, non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, has proven extremely successful in combating illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and over the past five years they have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping activity. This reduction in dumping coincides with the huge increase of Pure Mile groups and areas.

The Pure Mile Project is an environmental, community, heritage initiative, that encourages communities and groups living in rural

areas of Wicklow, South Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire, to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping campaigns, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area. Thousands of Pure Mile volunteers removed hundreds of tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Uplands. Pure provide all

groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-vis vests, and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups. In 2021, Pure Mile groups organised clean ups and litter picks of the Uplands, which resulted in a visible decrease of litter and rubbish in upland areas. These clean-up events carried out by Pure Mile Groups resulted in the removal of over 4,000 bags of litter and rubbish, and it further demonstrates the necessity and importance of The Pure Mile Project, and the need for continued collaboration and engagement.

2021 also saw a large increase of visitors to the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, with day-trippers attracted to remote, secluded, scenic, mountainous, and woodland areas. Unfortunately, abandoned campaign sites were prevalent and the material removed by Pure, included, hundreds of tents, sleeping bags, blankets, chairs, tables, food items, bottles, cans, and barbecues, all discarded on the landscape. In an attempt to tackle the issue, Pure col-

laborated with a number of agencies with each stakeholder providing resources to alleviate the problem, including, Pure Mile Groups, Wicklow County Council, Coillte and An Garda Síochána, which resulted in a decrease of abandoned material left on the landscape in the Garden County.

Another initiative attributed to the decline in illegal dumping is the success of the Pure Covert CCTV Operations, which involved the deployment and installation of a number of covert CCTV units at several problematic upland dumping sites which were continually affected by illegal dumping. A 2021 successful court conviction of an illegal dumper caught on covert CCTV in county Wicklow was a joint collaboration involving Pure, Wicklow County Council, Coillte, and the Gardaí, demonstrating the success of the multi-stakeholder approach. The individual was fined €4,000 and costs of €550 with a two-year driving disqualification. All of the local authorities involved in Pure are continually inves-

tigating illegal dumping incidents and the conviction sends out a clear message to all dumpers, illegal dumping will not be tolerated.

Pure is the first project of its kind in Ireland incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations and stakeholders, including, The Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. This unique partnership project was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.

Pure would also like to inform the public that the lo-call phone number for reporting illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands has changed:

**TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING IN THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN UPLANDS – LO-CALL 1800 365 123**

## RECYCLING TO CREATE RESOURCES

## Authorised Treatment Facility



# multimetals

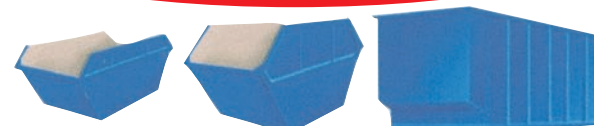
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**The Murrough, Wicklow Town.**

**Email: [office@multimetals.ie](mailto:office@multimetals.ie)**

**[www.multimetals.ie](http://www.multimetals.ie)**





# Illegal Waste Collectors **Don't** **Care** About **Your** Environment.



To Report Dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands

## LoCall 1800 365 123

Check that your waste collector has a valid Waste Collection Permit

Pure is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including; Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Comhairle Contae  
Atha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council



COILLTE  
GROW · TRANSFORM · SUSTAIN

WicklowUplands  
COUNCIL





*Malahide Community School student Abi Colclough with Minister Darragh O'Brien TD and Tom Parlon, Director General of the CIF.*

## Coláiste Chraobh Abhann shortlisted in Build the Future Competition

**Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole is one of eight schools from over 105 teams and 41 schools to be shortlisted for the Construction Industry Federation's (CIF) Build a School Competition.**

These schools will now compete to make to the three finalist spots at the awards ceremony on April 7th at 11:30am which will also be live streamed on to the finalist schools, CIF members and relevant committees. Coláiste Chraobh Abhann made the list for its proposed K Sea Drive sustainable housing development using the latest in sustainable building techniques.

"This year's finalists further raise the standard from last year," said Frank Kelly, President of the CIF. "The standard across all the entries was exceptional, and the judging process was very challenging. We want to recognise and commend all the schools that entered. The finalists demonstrated creativity and innovation and look forward to naming the winners in April."

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) in association with Sherry FitzGerald has opened this competition (in its second year), which is aimed at Senior cycle and Youthreach students. The competition is a team-based project where students work together to design a residential housing development help address sustainability, climate change, solve the housing crisis and showcase innovation in construction. This competition is aiming to address future skills, as the CIF and National Skills Council reveal 27,500 additional workers needed to achieve annual housing targets by 2030. The competition winners will be announced at a virtual event hosted by the CIF on April 7th.

# Scoil San Eoin says 'Yes' to languages

**Twenty third to sixth class pupils from Scoil San Eoin in Redcross took part in the new Primary Language Sampler from February to March this year.**

The sampler module is a means for raising awareness among pupils of the range of languages used in their community and in the world around them. Over 500 schools nationwide are taking part and offering modules in a range of modern foreign languages and Irish Sign Language. The module introduced the pupils to Spanish and was taught over a 6-week period during the normal school timetable.

Spanish Tutor Sophie Imarzkou was delighted to be involved in sharing her Spanish language and experience with the pupils, having gained the skills while living and studying in France and Ireland for 7 years. Sophie speaks Spanish/French and Arabic.

Linda Greene the School Principal says "I appreciate the importance of languages as a life skill, an opportunity for the pupils to think in a differ-

ent way and build opportunities for the future. This module really helped to build awareness and celebrate diversity. It also linked in nicely with the New Primary Curriculum where pupils are encouraged to look at similarities across various languages. The pupils found this very interesting, as with Sophies knowledge of a number of languages and my limited knowledge of sign language, we were able to examine & explore differences, similarities and uses of a variety of languages."

Education.

A suite of resources has been produced including lesson plans for teachers and tutors and 'Language Passports' for all participating pupils to show their family and friends.



*Pupils of Scoil San Eoin with Spanish tutor Sophie Imarzkou*

## KWETB 'well positioned to meet skills demands of green economy'

**Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (ETB) is "well positioned to meet the skills demands of the green economy". That's according to Ken Seery, Director of Further Education and Training in Kildare and Wicklow ETB, who was speaking following the inaugural FET Green Skills Summit, hosted by SOLAS and Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI).**

The Summit was opened by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD, and took place in Wexford Council's County Hall.

There are currently over 50 green skills programmes being delivered by the 16 ETBs across Ireland, with a particular

focus on construction, agriculture and technology sectors.

Ken Seery, Director of Further Education & Training in Kildare and Wicklow ETB stated: "We in KWETB are delivering and developing programmes to meet the skills demands of the green economy and support our learners and trainees to

access real career opportunities in this area. Our programmes include:

50 Shade Greener, a national programme raising green awareness  
2nd level schools carbon footprint calculation and awareness programme  
Developing waste management programmes for hospitality and working with KETB on the

Wind turbine apprenticeship."

Graduates from Kildare and Wicklow ETB

At the Summit, a graduation also took place for Ireland's first 'Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) Train the Trainer' course. John Ryan from Kildare and Wicklow ETB completed the course. Graduates in attendance

were presented with their certificates by Minister Harris at the event. They will now work across the FET sector to train construction industry professionals in net-zero building processes, and the retro-fitting programme underway across the country.

Skills for the Future  
Speaking about the Green Skills Summit, Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS, said: "We planned the Summit to take a proactive look at the skills needs of industry

and to explore how best further education and training can meet these needs. The Climate Action Plan published in 2021 has set ambitious targets for the decarbonisation of our economy and the transition to this new economy will require significant levels of skills across the country in a huge variety of sectors to come to fruition.

"At the Summit, we heard some great insights on how the further education and training sector can expand on the work

we are already doing to equip people across Ireland with the right skills to contribute to the transition to a greener economy."

Fiona Maloney, Director of Further Education and Training, ETBI added: "Ireland's Education and Training Boards are ideally positioned to meet the skills demands of the green economy. We have over 50 green skills programmes delivered across our sector and NZEB Training Centres of

Excellence in Waterford & Wexford and Laois & Offaly ETBs, with three more to follow in Limerick & Clare, Cork, and Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETBs.

"We will work closely with our SOLAS colleagues to support the implementation of the Green Skills for FET 2021-2030 Roadmap, to ensure that our learners and trainees have the appropriate skills to both power Ireland's green economy and access career opportunities."

## Greystones Community National School needs a library

**Greystones Community National School (GCNS) is organising a Table Quiz to raise money for a new school library.**

The staff and pupils recently moved into their new school building, and although they are settling in well the building is still incomplete in terms of furnishings and equipment. They have a number of projects in the pipeline - the main priority for now being a new library.

The school has had a long journey to get to where it is today. Established by the Department of Education and Skills in 2015 under the patronage of Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board, staff and pupils (numbering 20 junior infants at the time) were first accommodated in a room rented from Carrig Eden Secondary School before moving to prefabs on the grounds of Greystones Rugby Club.

Despite being completed in July of 2020, the new building lay idle for a year while the students continued to attend school in prefabs, due to a dispute between the Department of Education and Western Building Systems (WBS). Students that began in junior infants in 2015 were nearing the end of 4th class and still had no access to a permanent school building.

Finally, just last September, 315 children from Junior Infants to Fifth Class were eventually allowed to occupy their new school building in Charlesland.

Community National Schools (CNS) are child-centred, multi-denominational, publicly-accountable schools, giving equal opportunities to all children in the communities they serve. Community National Schools are places where diversity is recognised and celebrated. Respect for plurality of faiths/beliefs is seen as integral to the daily routine of the school.

"As a school, every day we strive to provide a happy, safe school for every member of our school community," GCNS states. "We do this by valuing each individual, maintaining a positive environment, working together, celebrating uniqueness, respecting ourselves and others and living the ethos of Community National Schools. The Mission of Greystones CNS is for each member of our school community to embody the core values of community national schools every day in supporting each other to become the best we can be."

The Table Quiz will take place on Thursday 5th May at Delgany Golf Club. A Table Quiz is nothing without prizes and a fundraiser is nothing without sponsorship, so the school is grateful for any contribution from local businesses. Email [ptpfundraising@greystonescns.ie](mailto:ptpfundraising@greystonescns.ie) for more details.





# Whitmore calls on Minister to fund new Citizens Information Centre in Wicklow Town

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Social Protection to provide the necessary funding to open a new Citizens Information Centre in Wicklow Town.

The office was closed on 1st March due to the ongoing unsuitability of the premises. A new premises was identified, however funding has still not been secured to reopen the service.

Deputy Whitmore raised the issue in the Dáil during Topical Issues last week seeking a commitment from the Minister.

Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore says, "the recent closure of the Citizens Information Centre in Wicklow Town was a huge blow for people living in the area. Unfortunately, there remains huge uncertainty over the future of this service despite demand for citizens information increasing in light of rising cost of energy and inflation.

"This service has been hugely successful and has catered to a large number of people in the area. Demand for its services are set to continue in light of the rising cost of energy, increasing cost of living and inflation. People are in need of trusted advice and the citizens information centre was one such source of information for people. In the context of rising rents in Wicklow, the centre was helpful in providing contacts for people seeking access to up to date, accurate and independent information/advice/assistance as well as advocacy on their rights and entitlements.

"The centre was also important for a large number of people from minority groups who heavily relied on the assistance of the Citizens Information Office in Wicklow Town. Wicklow Town is host to a Direct Provision Centre, an emergency accommodation centre and is host to an increasing number of Ukrainian refugees.

"I have written to the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys as well as raising it in the Dáil, requesting that she expedite the process to secure funding through the Citizens Information Board which manages the development of the service across the coun-

try. The Minister did confirm in the Dáil that the Board of South Leinster Citizens Information Service continues to work with the Board in relation to this matter, and the Department of Social Protection is engaging with discussions with respect to funding to complete the new premises development for Wicklow Town. All of this will be determined as part of the Board's 2022 Budget allocation. In the meantime, I will continue to raise the issue with the Minister."



Deputy Whitmore in The Dail last week

## Formal request made for repairs to Wicklow Town Courthouse

The Minister for Justice has confirmed that a formal request has been made to the Office of Public Works (OPW) to carry out remedial work, minor repairs, and clean-up of the façade of Wicklow Town Courthouse.

The positive update was provided to Green Party TD Steven Matthews by Minister Helen McEntee during a question session in the Dáil.

Discussing the news, Deputy Matthews said: "Following a number of recent visits to Wicklow Town and meeting with the Wicklow Town Team, I have been in frequent contact with the Minister for Justice regarding the Courthouse and the need at the very least to upgrade the outside of the building with some remedial work, repairs and lighting. Given the huge level of Government investment in the last couple of years in Wicklow Town, it's a real shame that a building with such historical significance has been let decay in this way and detract from the Town Square.

"I welcome the Minister's reply that indicated that the Court Service who have control over the courthouse have met with Wicklow County Council and they have made a formal submission to the Office of Public Works. The submission includes requests to carry out works including painting, weeding and general repairs to the façade of the building and have also looked for the cost of maintaining the upkeep to avoid it falling back into a state of disrepair.

"As many residents in Wicklow Town will be aware, the historic courthouse has been closed for a number of years for health and safety reasons, due to the poor state of repair of the annex and interior. There are proposals with regards to fully refurbishing the Courthouse building but this relies on funding from the National Development Plan (2021-2030) that is not yet in place. While I will continue to push for the full upgrade of the building in budget negotiations, it can't be guaranteed in the short- medium term. I welcome this progress so at the very least, the outside of this historic building is maintained and fits in with the overall improvements in the Town Centre.

"Since my engagement with the Minister for Justice, I have written to the OPW and the Government Minister responsible to request that the submission made in relation to the Courthouse is acted upon as soon as possible. I look forward to working with Wicklow County Council and the OPW on this project and hope that it can be completed as soon as possible. I will also be seeking regular cleaning and maintenance once the initial work has been completed," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Deputy Matthews outside Wicklow Courthouse



### COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

#### ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTACH UIMHIR 5 - 2022 100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow

Tá an Ordú luaite thuas, déanta ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin (as seo amach luaite mar "an tÚdarás Tithíochta"), de réir an chumhacht a thugtar dóibh faoi réir Alt 76 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, agus an Triú Sceideal den Acht chéanna (arna leasú ag an Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000) atá ar tí sheoladh go Bord Pleanála le haghaidh daingniúcháin. Má daingnítear an t-ordú, beidh an tÚdarás Tithíochta ceadaithe an talamh atá sa Sceideal a cheannach go héigeantach le haghaidh cuspóirí an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966.

Is féidir cóip den Ordú agus an léarscáil atá luaite ann, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin.

Gheobhaidh úinéirí, léasaithe agus áititheoirí an talún luaite sa Sceideal fógraí scríofa ar leith.

De réir an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966, arna leasú, ní féidir leis An Bord Pleanála an tOrdú a dhaingniú maidir leis an talamh má ndéantar aon agóid in éadan an cheannach ag aon úinéir, léasaí nó áititheoir agus gan é a tharraingt siar acu, go dtí go bhfuil Éisteacht ó Bhéal curtha ar bun maidir leis an agóid agus go dtí go bhfuil an agóid agus tuairisc an duine i gceannas ar an Éisteacht ó Bhéal scrúduithe ag an mBord.

#### SCEIDEAL

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáil curtha ar fáil ag oifigí an Údaráis Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún.	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme.	Léasaithe nó léasaithe ainme.	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí ar feadh mí nó am níos lú ná mí)
22/06/20/100 Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeantach Uimhir 5 – 2022	Teach cónaithe agus talamh ar 296 m <sup>2</sup> (0.0296ha)	Enda Lynch agus Leanne Lynch, 100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)

An 29ú Lá Marta 2022.

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí.

#### COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 5 OF 2022 100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, 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.

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 Pleanála 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)
22/06/20/100 Wicklow County Council- Compulsory Purchase Order No 5 of 2022	Dwelling house and land of 296 m <sup>2</sup> (0.0296ha)	Enda Lynch and Leanne Lynch of 100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 29th of March 2022.

Joe Lane, Director of Services.





The Mulcahy Family

## Wicklow features in music TV show

Wicklow and its attractions have been highlighted in the popular international TV show "Ireland in Music" Part 2.

This highly acclaimed national and international TV show is celebrating music with strong heritage links to Irish Culture.

It will be aired in Ireland on Easter Monday, 18th April on RTE, and then is set to air throughout the world and feature two County Wicklow-based performances featured in the show.

Originally from Bray, the band Wyvern Lingo performed on the shore of the Upper Lake at Glendalough in the middle of the amazing settings of the National Park. Winners of Irish Traditional Album of the Year 2016, the Mulcahy Family played in the Gardens of Powerscourt and were joined by traditional dancer Ryan Owens.

"Ireland in Music" Part 2 is currently enjoying significant international success, with several TV broadcasts during the St Patrick's Day period across Australia on SPS and in the United States on New York PBS station WLIW21 and the arts and culture streaming app and TV channel ALL ARTS.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "It really is a fantastic opportunity for Wicklow to be part of such successful show. Ireland in Music Part 1 achieved an estimated five of total global viewership airing on TV stations across 41 countries around the world."

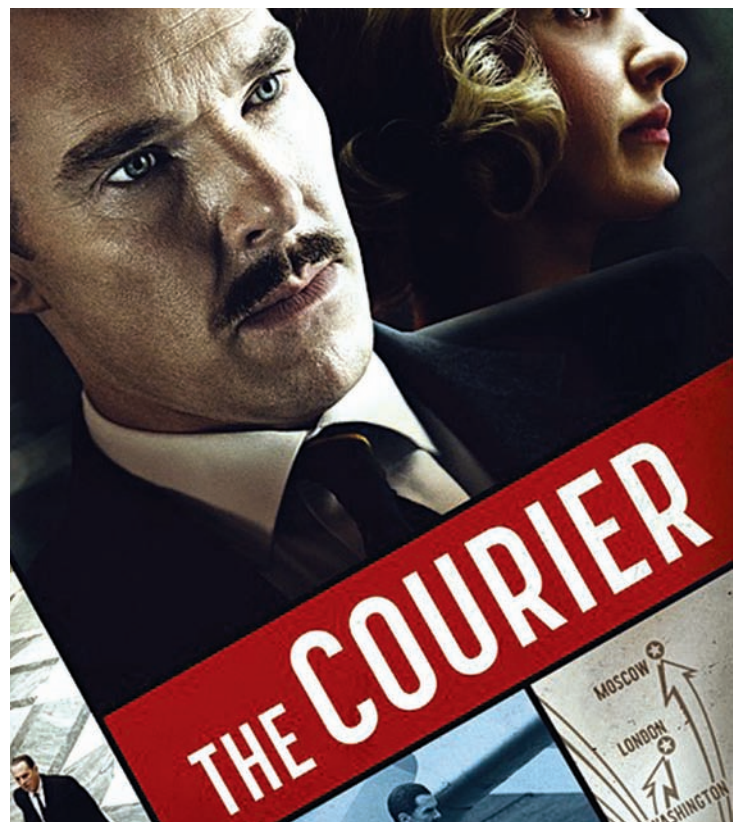
Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, commented: "The two Wicklow performances feature some great drone footage of the Glendalough Valley and Powerscourt Gardens and House and from a tourism perspective, it is a tremendous opportunity to attract international visitors to come to Wicklow."

## The Courier at the Courthouse Arts Centre

Friday 8th April 7:30pm €6/€5. Cert: 12

This intriguing film recounts the activities of British businessman Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch) in helping MI6 and the CIA with the penetration of the Soviet nuclear programme during one of the greatest international conflicts in history.

At the behest of the UK's MI-6 and a CIA operative (Rachel Brosnahan), he forms a covert, dangerous partnership with Soviet officer Oleg Penkovsky (Merab Ninidze) in an effort to provide crucial intelligence needed to prevent a nuclear confrontation and defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis. See [www.courthousearts.ie](http://www.courthousearts.ie)



# Coming up at Whale Theatre...

## Greystones Film Club presents: Petite Maman

Thursday 14th April @ 8pm (doors 7pm).  
Tickets €10

Turning up on many a film critic's Top 10 for 2021, French director Céline Sciamma (Portrait Of A Lady) tackles grief with heartbreaking tenderness in Petite Maman (France/PG/72mins).

The plot has 8-year-old Nelly struggling to overcome the loss of her grandmother when, helping clean out her mum's childhood home, she meets a girl her own age building a tree house in the nearby woods. Just how close the girls become reflects something deeper than mere friendship though...

Part of the Greystones Film Club's re-emergence after over a year of hibernation by re-embracing the new, Petite Maman follows March's much-loved Scottish comedy Limbo. Just be sure to bring a hanky. And a friend to lean on.



## Wicklow ScreenDance Laboratory Artists Salon

Friday 15th April @ 7pm  
(doors 6.30pm). Tickets €12/€10



A popular feature of WSL is the Artists Salon, which is usually held on the Friday night and this year we are thrilled to be returning to a live space with a physical audience. We are grateful to Whale Theatre, Greystones for hosting this event. The Artists Salon is a conversation around topics that arise in art. It is a live, lively, informal, inclusive and respectful gathering of artists, audience and panel who interrogate to enquire, consider and reflect on the works shown. These will feature live dance, filmed choreography, screendance and invited artists. This year we will focus on Irish performances (dance) from new and upcoming choreographers, linking with our partners Bray Institute of Further Education and Inchicore College of Further Education, while celebrating works from established Irish choreographer/dancers and Irish/international films. We draw on the concept of the Salon that was popular in France and Europe in the 18th century where art/politics/philosophy were considered topics worth discussing in a public forum and where art was central to civic life. WSL is proud to continue this practice in a 21st century context and looks forward to a lively evening. Please note tickets are strictly limited so please book early.

## My Aunt and I, 4 Generations

Saturday 16th April @ 8pm (doors 7pm).  
Tickets €15

A multi-generational show you can't afford to miss. Creativity can run in families. My aunt and I, 4 Generations, explores such a family, from the singer Delia Murphy and her sister Angela to the presence on stage of Angela's granddaughter Rianna.

It airs the pandemic poetry – YouTube video poems – of local writer Carmen Cullen, daughter of Angela and niece of Delia, and the world of her artist daughter, Jeni Roddy. There is a fictional narrative, written by Carmen and read on stage by her granddaughter Rhianna. The show also includes the songs and stories of the iconic singer Delia Murphy. All the pandemic poems are embellished by the unique contributions of local artists. Imagery from Deirdre Ridgway, music by Gerry Anderson, and videography by Conor McGowan. My aunt and I, looks at the difficulties facing women as artists, at how artistic pursuit can compensate for loss and how it features as a driving force to move the inner life forward. For Carmen, Covid-19 lockdowns gave her time to write 41 poems, set in her childhood and to organise a collaborative effort to transform these into video-poems. She believes being innovative gives the poems an extra dimension, making them accessible both to eye and ear. Each poem is a combination of Imagery or video, music and the spoken and written word. My Aunt and I explores moments of change when creativity becomes an influence on future generations. Delia Murphy changed the world of Irish song by defying convention and championing the Irish Ballad. A woman of talent and courage when repression by church and state was the order of the day, she was a shining light in the music scene in Ireland from the late thirties to fifties. Married to ambassador Thomas Kirwan she was an artist in her own right. Liam Clancy says that without Delia Murphy, they would not have had the courage to record their ballads. Carmen has 15 of her mother Angela's songs also recorded by HMV. Carmen Cullen was Head of English in Colaiste Dhúlaigh. Her publications include, Class Acts, Drama, Sky of Kites and Under the Eye of the Moon, Poetry. Her novels published by Liberties Press are Two Sisters Singing, 2013 and Hello Love, 2017. She was awarded an M.Phil in Creative Writing, Trinity, 2009 and as a



Carmen Cullen

singer has toured with her show Hello Delia Murphy since 2009. She recently was a featured poet as part of Poetry Town 2021 and also contributed to Bray's Medieval Project. Gerry Anderson is a full time private teacher of music, and a composer. He teaches keyboard, guitar and mandolin to Diploma and performance levels and also teaches the harpsichord, battente and the mandola. He has been accompanying the Delia Murphy Songs and Story Event since 2010. He plays regularly a resident musician in Caffé Letterario on The Albert Walk in Bray. Rianna Ní Ródaigh is a granddaughter of Carmen Cullen. She is currently a student at Colaiste Ráithín in Bray.



# Antelope Productions Presents: MOTHERLAND - Songs of 20th Century Women

Mermaid Arts Centre, Wednesday 13th  
April, 8pm . Tickets €25/23

Featuring evocative projected images alongside thought-provoking spoken word, Edel Murphy performs iconic songs of struggle and celebration from such songwriting greats as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Nina Simone, Kate Bush, Nanci Griffith, Dolly Parton, and The Beatles.

Following extensive tours with Grammy winning shows Celtic Woman and Riverdance, Edel Murphy – singer, actor and musician – and live band bring you through the Dustbowl of the Great Depression, into the homes of 1950s urban desperation, down streets of protest in the 1960s and into the tumult of the 21st Century.

Critics have been singing the praises of the show, with the Business Post saying of

it: “An amazing show...Edel Murphy was stunning, the sharpness of her delivery was outstanding. The songs are acerbic and to the point and the backdrop of visuals was very powerful. I was blown away by it.”

“It is a rare performer that can bring a tear to your eye and a smile to your lips with the sweetness of her singing. Edel Murphy is such a performer,” said the Liffey Champion.



Edel Murphy

# Crest of a Wave - Rory Gallagher Tribute

Ireland's newest Rory Gallagher tribute band bring their high intensity show to the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on Friday 8th April.

Crest of a Wave take you on a journey through Rory's back catalog with some Taste classics, deep cuts from the Irish Tour 1974 and some of Rory's marvelous acoustic styles. This is a high energy, electric blues/rock show that is not to be Missed! Known as one of the greatest blues rock guitarists of all times, Rory was born in Ballyshannon in Co. Donegal in 1948, Rory was originally part of the band Taste in the 1960's before going on to record many solo albums through the 1970's and 1980's.

Tickets €12 - €15 Phone 087 2917519 | online [www.thehotspot.ie/tickets](http://www.thehotspot.ie/tickets) or on the door.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

## ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTACH UIMHIR 3 – 2022

53 South Green, An tInbhear Mór

AGUS

## ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTACH UIMHIR 4 – 2022

53A South Green, An tInbhear Mór

Tá an na hOrduithe luaite thuas, déanta ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin (as seo amach luaite mar “an tÚdarás Tithíochta”), de réir an chumhacht a thugtar dóibh faoi réir Alt 76 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, agus an Triú Sceideal den Acht chéanna (arna leasú ag an Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000) atá ar tí sheoladh go Bord Pleanála le haghaidh daingniúcháin. Má daingnítear an t-Ordú, nó na hOrduithe, beidh an tÚdarás Tithíochta ceadaithe an talamh atá sa Sceideal a cheannach go héigeantach le haghaidh cuspóirí an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966.

Is féidir cóip den Ordú nó na hOrduithe agus an léarscáil atá luaite iontu, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin.

Gheobhaidh úinéirí, léasaithe agus áititheoirí an talún luaite sa Sceideal fógraí scríofa ar leith.

De réir an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966, arna leasú, ní féidir leis An Bord Pleanála an tOrdú nó na hOrduithe a dhaingniú maidir leis an talamh má ndéantar aon agóid in éadan an cheannach ag aon úinéir, léasaí nó áititheoir agus gan é a tharraingt siar acu, go dtí go bhfuil Éisteacht ó Bhéal curtha ar bun maidir leis an agóid agus go dtí go bhfuil an agóid agus tuairisc an duine i gceannas ar an Éisteacht ó Bhéal scrúduithe ag an mBord.

### SCEIDEAL

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáil curtha ar fáil ag oifigí an Údaráis Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún.	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme.	Léasaithe nó léasaithe ainme.	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí ar feadh mí nó am níos lú ná mí)
22/06/21/100 Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeantach Uimhir 3 – 2022	Teach cónaithe agus talamh ar 178 m <sup>2</sup> (0.0178ha). 53 South Green, An tInbhear Mór	Henry Barber Croghan View Ashwood Upper Arklow	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)
22/06/22/100 Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeantach Uimhir 4 – 2022	Teach cónaithe agus talamh ar 151 m <sup>2</sup> (0.0151ha). 53A South Green, An tInbhear Mór	Henry Barber Croghan View Ashwood Upper Arklow	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí.

An 29ú Lá Marta 2022.

## COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 3 OF 2022

53 South Green, Arklow, Co Wicklow

AND

## COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 4 OF 2022

53A South Green, Arklow, 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) has made orders entitled as above which are about to be submitted to an Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the orders 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 orders and of the maps referred to in them may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

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

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order(s) 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)
22/06/21/100 Wicklow County Council – Compulsory Purchase Order No 3 of 2022	Dwelling house and land of 178 m <sup>2</sup> (0.0178ha). 53 South Green, Arklow	Henry Barber Croghan View Ashwood Upper Arklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)
22/06/22/100 Wicklow County Council – Compulsory Purchase Order No 4 of 2022	Dwelling house and land of 151 m <sup>2</sup> (0.0151ha). 53A South Green, Arklow	Henry Barber Croghan View Ashwood Upper Arklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Joe Lane, Director of Services.

Dated this 29th of March 2022.



# Network Ireland Wicklow call on local businesswomen to enter 2022 Awards

Network Ireland Wicklow has officially launched the 2022 Businesswoman of the Year Awards. Whether you're a start-up, or you're increasing your product range, advancing your service to customers, or a rising star within your organisation, Network Ireland Wicklow want to hear from you.

## Why apply?

Being a Business Award entrant provides an opportunity of recognition, to promote your business and career, to take a deep dive into your

business and see what is working for you and to mark those achievements amongst your team, friends, and your proud family.

## Categories Available:

The categories for this year are:

- Solo Businesswoman
- Emerging New Business
- Established Business
- Employee – Rising Star
- Employee – Shining Star
- Creative Professional
- STEM
- Power Within Champion

The entry deadline is strictly Friday 8th April 2022 at 6pm, with interviews scheduled to take place, online, at the end of April. For more information on the awards and to enter visit, <https://networkireland.ie/award-cat>

egories/

Speaking about the awards, Network Ireland Wicklow President, Christina Clarkin of MX-3.ie commented: "After going through this process myself some years ago, I can hand on heart say it was such a worthwhile experience. Applying for the awards gave me the opportunity to step away from the business and analyse what was working and what needed tweaking to step further towards my goals. It gave me a platform to promote my business from and ultimately to celebrate what I had achieved in my category as an Emerging New Business at the time. I would highly recommend every one of our members and soon to be members to put through an application".

## Next Steps

Successful applicants will be called for a short interview to discuss their business in more detail. The interview is a wonderful opportunity for you to demonstrate your passion, your objectives and

your professional journey.

## Awards Gala Event

The winners will be announced at our annual Gala event on in Wicklow this May.

Benefits of Network Ireland Wicklow membership:

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

If you would like to join, you can contact our membership officers Dawn and Jean at [wicklow@networkireland.ie](mailto:wicklow@networkireland.ie) for more information.

Established in 1983, Network Ireland now has over 1,200 members across fifteen branches around Ireland.



Ray and Paul Carter of Avon Motors, Rathdrum, who were awarded the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) EV Dealership for County Wicklow. These awards recognise and reward excellence in the promotion and sales of electric vehicles (EV) in Ireland. Car dealerships are a vital part of the transition to clean and efficient transport. SEAI wants to recognise and award those dealerships who are working to increase consumers understanding and experience of EVs and their uptake on Irish roads.

## Top international buyers set sights on Wicklow

International tourism buyers from across the globe experienced some of the best Co. Wicklow has to offer as Fáilte Ireland showcased the unique experiences in Ireland's Ancient East, before they took part in 'Meitheal', Ireland's biggest tourism trade show in Killarney, last week.

This was just one of five pre-Meitheal tours to take place last week, providing the overseas buyers with opportunities to experience first-hand what their clients can expect to see and do while in Ireland.

The tailor-made fact-finding tours play an important part of the 'Meitheal' experience, by providing the travelling buyers with an authentic flavour of what Ireland has to offer their clients. The tours are organised by Fáilte Ireland, the

National Tourism Development Authority, in conjunction with Tourism Ireland and are designed to showcase Ireland's destination regions - Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, and Dublin. In Wicklow they visited Brooklodge & Macreddin Village and Powerscourt Distillery.

## THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

J.B./V.B.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## John 8:12-20 GOSPEL

Jesus said to the people: 'I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark; he will have the light of life.'

At this the Pharisees said to him, 'you are testifying on your own behalf, your testimony is not valid.' Jesus replied: 'It is true that I am testifying on my own behalf, but my testimony is still valid, because I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one, but if I judge, my judgement will be sound, because I am not alone: the one who sent me is with me; and in your Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I may be testifying on my own behalf, but the Father who sent me is my witness too.'

They asked him, 'Where is your Father?' Jesus answered: 'You do not know me, nor do you know my Father; if you did know me, you would know my Father as well.'

He spoke these words in the Treasury, while teaching in the Temple. No one arrested him, because his time had not yet come.

G.J.

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alan and Shelia Duggan seek permission for change of use of named premises from shop/office to a coffee shop (takeaway/walk in with indoor seating) at Ground Floor, The Mall Mews, South Quay, Wicklow A67FD80. 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

Michael Bolger seeks planning permission for FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO SIDE OF EXISTING DWELLING AT 50 ARDMORE 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.

## ATTENTION

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**PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY**





# Young people from Wicklow make their voices heard as Dáil na nÓg celebrates Fiche Bliain ag Fás

Over 200 young people from across Ireland tackled a wide range of issues under the overarching theme of equality at Dáil na nÓg 2022 at Dublin's Convention Centre.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the biennial event which platforms the voices of young people on the issues which matter most to them. Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O'Gorman made an address and engaged with young people at the event.

This year's event explored the theme of equality as young people, through their local youth councils (Comhairle na nÓg), have been investigating the challenges and opportunities in a variety of areas including mental health, climate change, body image, drugs and alcohol, youth facilities and LGBTIQ+. This theme was chosen by young people as the area of most importance to them.

Previous years' themes included climate action, education, and transport. In 2019, a debate and vote on sustainable transport solutions saw delegates from the Comhairle na nÓg councils propose a new policy to offer reduced fares to young people in response to the recognised need to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable transport options; this was successfully intro-

duced by Government in Budget 2021 as well as the Government's Climate Action Plan.

Participants at Dáil na nÓg 2022 hope to influence policy at Government level to advance the areas of equality they see as important.

A panel discussion at this year's event saw Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Ireland's first black female elected representative, RTE Radio DJ and LGBTIQ+ advocate Stephen Byrne, Children's Rights Alliance CEO Tanya Ward, and Aoife Price, disability advocate with Disability Women Ireland engage in an insightful and exciting discussion on the theme of equality from a variety of different perspectives.

Taoiseach Michael Martin said, "I am delighted to see so many young people engage with issues that matter most to them through the Dáil na nÓg forum, and I am grateful that this year's theme is equality, as I know there is much work to be done in this area across all parts of our society."

"I commend the young people taking part in Dáil na nÓg and indeed for their participation throughout the year in Comhairle na nÓg meet-

ings. Their opinion matters and we as a Government will continue to listen to their thoughts and concerns as we strive for a diverse and inclusive society for all."

Dáil na nÓg is an initiative of the Department for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and was first established in 2001.

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Roderic O Gorman said, "The Dáil na nÓg event has, for over 20 years now, been a platform for change driven by the young minds of our country, and I applaud all of those who are taking part in this event for lending their voices and engaging in some of the most important issues of our day."

"This year's theme of equality reflects the values I see across our younger people every day, and I look forward to hearing from their perspective the ways in which we can all play a



Young people from Wicklow ready to debate equality as Dáil na nÓg celebrates Fiche Bliain ag Fás at the Convention Centre Dublin on March 26th. Pictured left to right, Cayden Elliot, Annjelica Foley, Oisín Nunez O'Brien and Kate Macadam.

part in ensuring equality of opportunity is available to everyone."

Prachi Agrawal, a participant from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Comhairle na nÓg said,

"I'm really excited to be here so that people and the Government can hear what we have to say about equality in Ireland. My fellow Comhairle na nÓg members and I have

been working hard in recent months to better understand what the challenge is for equality and today gives us a chance to show what we've learned to people like the

Minister and to the Government. I want to make sure the voices of young people are heard so that equality is a reality for everyone across the country."

## RECRUITMENT

### RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY REQUIRED

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