



DARKNESS INTO LIGHT
Page 2



BRAY BRIDGE
Page 6



YOUNG VOCALIST
Page 12

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Tuesday 26th April 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

FIRE SERVICE NOT AT BREAKING POINT

Wicklow's Chief Fire Officer Aidan Dempsey has acknowledged that the service is 'under strain'. However, he has downplayed talk of a 'recruitment crisis' in the service, saying it is not yet at 'breaking point'.

In a presentation to councillors at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Mr Dempsey estimated that approximately one third of new recruits in Bray leave after a year or two. There is currently a recruitment drive underway which will hopefully enable Bray Fire Service to return to being a two-crew station.

Speaking at the meeting, Independent councillor Joe Behan said "There is a serious crisis in the recruit-

ment and retention of retained firefighters, not only in Bray, but throughout the county and throughout the country. There is a crisis in recruitment and there is a crisis in retention."

Arguing in favour of a full-time fire service, Cllr Behan said "They don't earn enough to ensure a stable income. In reality, because of the rising cost of living, there will continue to be difficulties when it comes to recruitment and holding on to firefighters. Over the

last number of years, Greystones Fire Service has been used constantly to augment Bray Fire Service. We need a full-time fire service.

"There are things we can do to make the service better and it would make it better for people in Greystones as well as Bray. We could look at the concept of day manning, where for a certain number of hours in the day the staff are paid a full-time wage. Then they could do fire safety



Ross McParland and Nikki Byrne of Whale Theatre, and Dermot Dwyer at Greystones Railway Station with portraits of singer Ronnie Drew and actor Geraldine Fitzgerald. A project is underway to give the station a makeover. See story on page 12

work, checks on high-rise buildings, checking fire hydrants, etc."

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, agrees that there is a "significant recruitment issue".

"Maybe it is about time we looked for a review of the fire service across the whole of Co. Wicklow," she said. "This will cost money, but we shouldn't let the cost stop us from looking at what our community needs."

Sinn Féin councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said "This service is under severe pressure. I'd hate to think we're training people up and then they realise that this is not sustainable for them and leave and that cost of training is wasted. We need to have a balance of veterans and new staff,

and have them working together. If we lose veterans it would be a catastrophe for the service and we need to have that balance."

Mr Dempsey said "We've always had difficulties with recruitment and retention, but we've always managed to fill our stations to keep the standard that's required in each station, as laid down by the national standards. Those who leave mostly go to full-time jobs in Dublin Fire Brigade, the airport fire brigade, the ambulance service and Cork fire service. We lose people because their family circumstances have changed or they have childcare issues, and that is an unfortunate reality."

On the idea of day manning, Mr Dempsey said "It's a UK system

that has never been used in Ireland. It is used in the UK in cer-

tain full-time stations where there are large fluctuations in popula-

tion between day and night.

Continued on Page 3

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Darkness into Light returning to Wicklow

Darkness into Light, which supports Pieta, the suicide counselling and support charity, returns for an in-person event on the morning of Saturday 7th May. In Co. Wicklow, walks are taking place in Bray, Wicklow Town, Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington and Tinahely.

The Bray event, one of many throughout the country, is organised this year by Bray Lions Club. This is the first official walk since 2019, although supporters have held informal gatherings in the intervening years.

Participants can register on-line and two registration days took place on Easter Saturday 16th April and the following Saturday, 23rd April. The Bray community has given tremendous support to the event over the years, during which almost €500,000 has been raised for Pieta.

Bray Lions look forward to welcoming thousands of walkers over the route on the morning of 7th May. In addition to organising the event Lions will undertake administration and stewarding.

In Wicklow Town, the walk will start from the Brass Fox in total darkness and the walkers/runners will return to the same venue as the sun comes up in glorious colours. Darkness Into Light is supported by Wicklow & District Lions Club.

The Bray walk will start from the Bandstand on the seafront. The Arklow walk is starting from Arklow Sea Scouts Centre, the Baltinglass walk from Weavers Square, the Blessington walk from the Town Square at High Definition Fitness, and the Tinahely walk will start at the community hall.

In 2009, in the Phoenix Park in Dublin, 400 people set off on the inaugural Darkness Into Light 5km walk to raise funds for Pieta. From small beginnings, the movement has continued to grow, and now the walk attracts more than 200,000 participants.

Each year the walk provides an opportunity for people to connect with their local community and to bring hope to people who have been impacted by suicide.

Since Darkness Into Light began, the annual walks have helped Pieta raise almost €29 million. These funds have



The Wicklow Town Darkness Into Light Committee with Leo the Lion launching this year's event which takes place on May 7th.

enabled the charity to keep its doors open and to operate a 24/7 free helpline open for people in crisis.

In 2021, despite the impact of Covid 19, Pieta delivered over 48,000 hours of therapy to those impacted by suicide and self-harm. More than 80,000 crisis calls and texts were answered and Pieta supported over 600 households impacted

and bereaved by suicide.

This year, Pieta is delighted that the in-person events can resume safely across Ireland and in fact throughout the world. You can check out the venues where organised events will be taking place by clicking "register" on the homepage.

Pieta is also aware that many people enjoyed taking part in

Darkness Into Light in their own way last year when we could not join together in the usual way. So, this year, Pieta knows that Darkness Into Light will take in many forms and people will come together in different and creative ways to share a sunrise moment and stand in solidarity with people impacted by suicide and self-harm.



Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen was in Newcastle recently to officially launch the Newcastle First Responder Scheme. The official launch comes after nearly two years of work by the committee and over 6 months of scenario-based training for volunteers. The Committee, Greystones/Kilmac CFR groups and the Order of Malta all assisted with setting up and training the group. There are now three 24/7 publicly accessible defibrillators in Newcastle, in addition to two AED's for the 10 volunteer responders plus appropriate equipment for them to deal with every call. The volunteers will respond to Chest Pain, Choking, Cardiac Arrest and Stroke calls within a 5km radius of Newcastle.

Pictured are Martin Hayes, Amanda Ross (Community Engagement Officer with the National Ambulance Service), Joshua Dargan Hayes, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen, Ciara Lafferty (Community First Responder), Newtown Garda John Whelan, Garda Dave Moynihan (Roads Policing), and Catherine Malone. Pic: Michael Kelly

Call for Memories of Dublin Cattle Market

Dr. Mary Muldowney, Dublin City Council Historian-in-Residence for Dublin Central, is working on a new history of the Dublin Cattle Market. If you worked in or around the Cattle Market, or have relatives who did, and are willing to be interviewed, please send your name and contact details to mmuldwyn@gmail.com with the subject 'Cattle Market' in the message line, so an interview can be arranged.

Lecture from The Old Dublin Society

On Wednesday April 27th Professor Finola O'Kane will present her lecture - 'UCD and the Development of Belfield' at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom as the sixth lecture in the Society's Spring 2022 programme. This lecture is free but for reasons of security and control, registration is required for this Zoom lecture by no later than 2pm. on Wednesday April 27th. Shortly before this lecture an invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be issued to all those who have registered to receive it. Please email registration requests to register-witholdublinsociety@gmail.com ONLY.

Ukrainian Support Hub in Greystones

A support hub has been established in Hillside Church, Greystones. As new families arrive, the needs differ each week. Appeals may be made at

short notice. The hub is open every Tuesday and Friday, 10am to 12 pm. You are most welcome to come along and have a cup of coffee with old and new friends. See gkpastoralarea.ie for up-to-date list of current requirements.

Sunflower Seed planting

Greystones Tidy Towns are planning to plant 1,000 sunflowers over the summer in support of Ukraine. You can help them paint the town yellow. Planting will be taking place on Saturday, 30th April in Burnaby Park, from 10am to 12 pm. Proceeds from the day will be in aid of a local charity shop supporting Ukrainians in North Wicklow.

Friendship Variety Show for Ukraine

There will be a Friendship Variety Show for Ukraine on 30th April in Whale Theatre, Greystones. There is an open call for Ukrainian and Irish performers. All ages and levels welcome. Please contact Rachel Harper, 087 9701063 if you would like to participate.

New contact number to report uplands dumping

If you see any people dumping or if you see any dumped material, you can report it. PURE Project now has a new number for reporting: Lo Call 1800 365 123. Help keep Wicklow/Dublin Uplands litter free.

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Delgany Community Council 'horrified' by apartment block plans

RGRE J&R Stylebawn Limited has lodged a planning application with Wicklow County Council for a residential development at the Stylebawn site in the heart of Delgany.

The development consists of 42 residential units, works to Stylebawn house to provide a four-bed house, and works to the Gardeners Cottage to provide a two-bed house. The proposed apartments are to be provided in a single five-storey block. The Council is due to make a decision by 2nd June.

Paul Armstrong, Delgany Community Council (DCC) chairperson, believes that Stylebawn House and gardens is probably one of the greatest opportunities to create a unique development linking the village centre with Blackberry Lane and the Three Trouts Stream.

"DCC recently wrote to the developer seeking the restoration to their former glory of Stylebawn House and gardens. We offered both to meet and to have our Public Realm consultant made available to help shape the devel-

opment of this uniquely important site," says Mr Armstrong.

"We received no reply. We were extremely disappointed to see a planning application proceed without any engagement with the community and frankly, horrified to see an application for a five-storey apartment block on a site that to our knowledge remains zoned at 1 house to the acre.

"Given the importance of the Stylebawn site to the overall village history and heritage and the nature of the proposed development, we feel sure that Wicklow County Council will be inundated with observations from the Delgany community objecting to this totally inappropriate proposal. We have grave concerns regarding the loss of biodiversity as well as the impact on the Three Trouts Stream with increased flood risk and run off from construction. This

plan would see the removal of more than two thirds of the trees on the site. We sincerely hope that Wicklow County Council will do the correct thing and completely reject this application."

According to Wicklowheritage.org, Stylebawn House was "originally Glenowen and later called Stylebawn House. It was two homes, then in 1773 they were joined but the house was still Thatched. Then 100 years ago the roof was changed to slate. It was the old part of the Delgany Inn until the 1700's when the old Rectory was built." The house sits on a 12.5 acre site and Sir Walter Raleigh once stayed there. In 2003 Stylebawn House was sold to a developer and has been neglected since.

Delgany Community Council's Alice O'Donnell added "On viewing the planning file in Wicklow

County Council our fears were confirmed and it is clear that this is just the first phase in a plan that will be destructive to Stylebawn and to the village. There are plans in further phases for 73 terraced houses and another block of apartments as well as large-scale felling of trees and vegetation on the site. The density that the developer is seeking is 14 times what is allowed under the Local Area Plan.

"Submissions are due by May 12th and the planning files can be viewed online on Wicklow County Council's website under planning reference 22380.

"Delgany Community Council will be objecting to this proposal and we will circulate our key concerns to residents through an email update".

Further information is available from delganycommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Calls for Council to purchase HSE Delgany building

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore has called on Wicklow County Council to purchase a vacant HSE property in Delgany for community purposes. Deputy Whitmore says the HSE property at the heart of the village centre in Delgany, has been confirmed vacant for a number of years by the HSE.

Deputy Whitmore goes on to say "it is my understanding that the HSE has started the process to put the property on the public market and has been in touch with various agencies. They had, in the first instance, contacted WCC for first refusal which is the normal process, however this seems not to have progressed any further.

"I believe the opportunity for the Council to purchase this property should be re-examined. It is too good an opportunity to miss out on particularly now that there is such a lack of housing for Ukrainian refugees. In the longer term, I would like to see this property used for community benefit and for the Council to examine whether it could be a heritage centre for the village and the

wider county. Delgany is crying out for a space to showcase its diverse history including nature walks, the Three Trouts Stream and its unique archaeological heritage. Delgany is also home of Éamon de Buítléar, a well-respected national figure on environment issues. I believe this facility would make for a fantastic heritage centre, not just for Delgany but for the wider county and surrounding areas. There is so much to showcase in Wicklow such as the rich natural, historical and archaeological heritage this county has to offer. I hope take Wicklow County Council will take the initiative and urgently look at acquiring it for the benefit of the local community," concludes Whitmore.

FIRE SERVICE NOT AT BREAKING POINT

Continued from page 1

In the centre of cities where the population reduces significantly at night, one or more of the full-time fire stations might not be staffed at night and that station is then referred to as a 'day-man station'. The volume of calls we get between 9am and 5pm isn't enough to require day manning. What Cllr Joe Behan has said about providing more work for retained firefighters within the station at busy periods, would require a small budget increase but would overcome some of the difficulties that are being outlined.

"Bray is currently a one-crew station which achieves the national standard but

was previously a two-crew station, and when we have sufficient trained and experienced firefighters to guarantee two crews all of the time, taking into the account being able to provide a reasonable work/life balance for the firefighters, we will go back to the two-pump configuration which we hope would be sooner rather than later. We're advertising for recruits at this time, and we would ask all councillors to encourage their people in Bray to come forward and serve in the fire services. We have doubled the number of firefighters in Bray in recent years and we have further to go. We're getting applications in, in between

our advertising campaigns, so I'd be hopeful that we will see another increase with the next group of recruits that we take in."

Mr Dempsey refuted the idea that the system was at 'breaking point', however he acknowledged that it was 'under strain'.

"Breaking point is where we cannot get recruits to join retained fire stations and achieve the national standard. We're not at that point. We may be at that point at some stage in the future, and at that time I will be coming back to the chamber calling for a full-time fire service if we can't achieve it with the model we have."



Rosie and Jacob Kelly pictured ahead of the Roosters Motorcycle Club's Easter Run around Ireland, in aid of Arklow Cancer Support Group.

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Council wins prestigious national award



The Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian Gleeson, and Cathaoirleach, Cllr Shay Cullen, pictured with the award for Council of the Year

Wicklow County Council has been crowned Council of the Year in Ireland in prestigious national awards. Council of the Year recognises a local authority which has gone above and beyond for the people of the community and developing continuously a range of innovative projects and initiatives which improve and enhance the social, environmental, cultural and economic aspects of community lives.

The fantastic accolade for the County came as Wicklow County Council also won six other honours in the annual LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Awards.

Wicklow was judged to be Council of the Year in the awards which were presented in a special ceremony in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin on Saturday night.

The 2022 All Ireland Community & Council Awards are presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA (the Local Authority Member's Association) to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities in their Communities all over Ireland.

These awards recognise and

illustrate the collaborative work between Wicklow County Council, the community and volunteers creating a better place to live and work in Wicklow.

In addition to Council of the Year, Wicklow County Council won six other awards across different categories on the night:

- Wicklow Sustainable Development Goals Mapping Tools won Gold in Best Environmental or Ecological Project or Initiative.
- Carrig Eden Housing Project won Gold in Best Social Housing Project/Initiative
- Wicklow Tourism Passport won two awards - Silver in both Best Tourism Initiative and Best Arts/Culture Initiative

(inc. festivals & events)

- San Remo Housing Project won Silver in Best Community Health Initiative
- Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub won Silver in Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment.

Commenting on the achievement, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen said: "I am delighted that Wicklow County Council has been recognised nationally by these awards and I would like to congratulate all involved. I particularly want to pay tribute to the Management and Staff for all their hard work, it is recognition of the fact that so many people in the local authority are delivering

great projects in our community."

Chief Executive Brian Gleeson added: "It is a wonderful achievement for Wicklow to be shortlisted for 16 awards and to win across six categories. Being awarded Council of the Year shows the importance of the work and the commitment by our elected members, staff and everyone involved in the great projects delivering excellence in local economic, social and recreational development across our County."

Wicklow County Council would also like to extend congratulations to Rathnew Afterschool Ray of Sunshine LTD who won Gold in Best CSR Community Programme.

Wicklow hosting 1921 Treaty exhibition

The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives exhibition opens at Wicklow Library and Archives on 25th April, where it will stay until 17th May. This follows a hugely successful three-month exhibition at Dublin Castle where the Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921 went on public display for the first time. The exhibition marks the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty (6th December 1921).

The exhibition is presented by the National Archives in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy, the National Library of Ireland and the Office of Public Works, with records from the collections of the Military Archives and University College Dublin. A virtual exhibition is also available online at www.nationalarchives.ie.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty is one of the most significant historical documents held by the National Archives. Using the Treaty as a centrepiece,

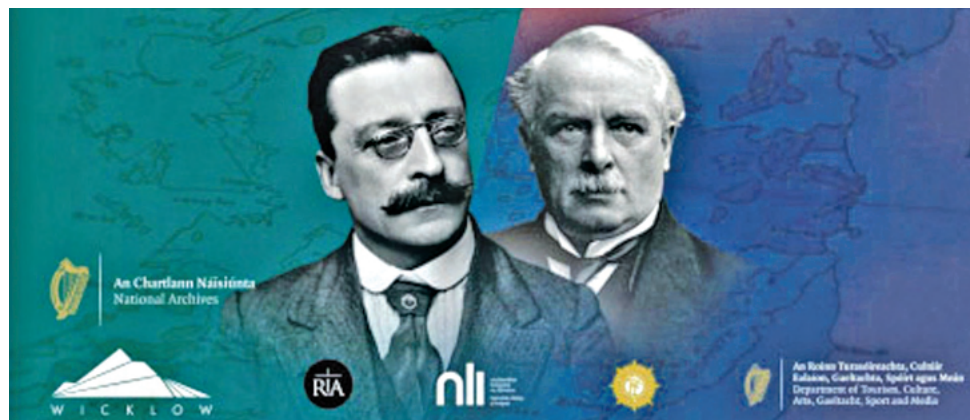
the National Archives present an exhibition that marks its role as the official repository of the records of the State, one hundred years since its formation. The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives opens up significant historical records, official documents and private papers for the first time, including the first public presentation of both the Irish and British copies of the Treaty document.

Using contemporary reportage, images and footage, The Treaty, 1921:

Records from the Archives locates the Treaty negotiations in the political context of the Irish revolution and a world turned upside down by the First World War. Beginning with the exploratory talks between Éamon de Valera, President of Dáil Éireann, and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George during the summer of 1921, it details the work of the Irish plenipotentiaries and their secretariat, by presenting the documentary record that they left behind.

The exhibition also chronicles day-to-day life in London for the men and women who made up the Irish delegation, from parties attended, dinners hosted and appearances at theatre and gala performances, to the tense final days and hours leading to the signing of the Treaty just after 2am on 6 December 1921. Finally, it documents the delegation's return to Dublin, and the Dáil Éireann cabinet meeting that pointed to the split in the independence movement that emerged over the terms of the Treaty, and the divisions that would lead to Civil War.

Speaking in advance of the Wicklow opening, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD said: "As Minister with responsibility for the State's Commemorations Programme, I am committed to ensuring that this complex period in our history is remembered appropriately and meaningfully. I am delighted therefore that this important exhibition commemorating the Treaty negotiations and the ultimate signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921, is touring regionally offering people across the country the opportunity to further their understanding of this period in our history through original records held in the collections of the National Archives.



The exhibition affords all who visit it a chance to better reflect and appreciate the difficult decisions that were made at that time".

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "I look forward to welcoming this important exhibition - The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives to County Wicklow, to our new Wicklow Library and Archives in Wicklow Town this year. The papers of our own Robert Childers Barton of

Glendalough House, who was one of the plenipotentiaries of the treaty, will also feature in the Wicklow element of the exhibition, as well as other local records from the Wicklow County Archives collections. Indeed, archival sources have featured strongly in our Decade of Centenaries programme, where local stories and experiences have been combined with research and scholarship in archival sources. In doing so, it promotes a greater understanding of

historical events and their legacies and thus encourages communities toward further exploration and reflection. It is a tangible demonstration of the benefits of free public access to authentic archival material, which is at the heart of this exhibition."

Orlaith McBride, Director of the National Archives, said: "We are delighted to bring this exhibition to Wicklow. The wide and vivid range of documents, images and text presented capture as never before the drama

that was the Treaty negotiations in London in 1921 and does so in a way that evokes the personal stories and personalities with all the attendant tensions, hopes and disappointments. It represents a really significant contribution to our understanding of one of the most important few weeks in our country's history."

Admission to the exhibition is free. If you can't make the exhibition, a virtual tour is also available online nationalarchives.ie.

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Community Monuments Fund grants of €152,440 for Wicklow

The Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD, has announced the award of grants for a wide range of archaeological heritage projects under the Department's 2022 Community Monuments Fund.

Building on the impact of the scheme last year under which 139 awards were granted to an amount of just under €4.2 million, this year 128 projects are being supported with an overall investment of €6 million.

Wicklow projects awarded funding under the Community Monuments Fund include: Arklow Castle (€44,621.00); Mullinacuffe Church & Graveyard, Stranakeilly, west of Tinahely (€14,954.00); Castlekevin Castle, south-east of Annamoe (€18,682.00); Abbey Lane, Abbeylands, Arklow (€7,072.50); Castlekevin Podcast, south-east of Annamoe (€7,748.70); West Wicklow Historic Graveyards: Ballymaghroe, Moyne, Mullinacuffe and Whitefield, near Tinahely (€30,000.00); Baltinglass Hills (€29,362.00).

The core objective of the Community Monuments Fund is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. It contains a number of different measures aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on archaeological monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to archaeological monuments and improving their presentation and also building resilience in archaeological monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

Under three Streams the Community Monuments Fund supports a broad

range of measures aimed at protecting and promoting archaeological monuments, including emergency conservation repair works at monuments, masonry repair, the development of Conservation Management Plans, access infrastructure and installation of interpretation signage, and social media projects aimed at disseminating knowledge of Ireland's archaeological heritage.

Minister Noonan said: "I am delighted to announce the Community Monuments Fund awards for 2022. The increased funding we are announcing today of €6 million to 128 projects will help protect our wonderful archaeological heritage and make it more accessible to the many who cherish it.

These awards help us to deliver on various commitments under Heritage Ireland 2030, the new national heritage plan launched earlier this year. It will provide further supports for communities and custodians and the heritage sector, for archaeologists, conservation architects, the stone masons, and other professional trades. These projects will also help build resilience against extreme weather and mitigate the impacts of climate change, a priority action embedded in our Climate Adaptation Plan.

Minister Noonan added: "I want to commend our National Monuments Service for their huge effort in managing the scheme and the Local Authorities for their incredible support in administering applications. I am particularly

happy that we are helping to meet the ambition of local communities across Ireland in protecting their archaeological heritage."

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, said:

"Our archaeological monuments provide a sense of place to rural communities, villages, towns and cities across the country. With my colleague, Minister of State Malcolm Noonan, TD, we have grown this Fund yet again from last year to have a real impact on communities and the monuments. The wide range of projects which have been included are testament to the rich history which surrounds us all."

Minister of State for Local Government Peter Burke also welcomed the announcement, stating:

"The remarkable impact and success of the Community Monuments Fund is a result of the close working relationship between our Department's National Monuments Service and Local Authorities - the Archaeologists, Conservation Officers, Heritage Officers and planning and administrative staff and partnership with communities - showcasing their valuable role in protecting and promoting Ireland's heritage. On foot of this week's celebration of heritage through the International Day for Monuments and Sites, otherwise known as World Heritage Day, it is really fitting that such support is shown for our archaeological heritage.



Members of Arklow Cancer Support Group pictured with the East Coast Roosters Motorcycle Club ahead of their Easter Run around Ireland in aid of Arklow Cancer Support Group.

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Cllr Tommy Annesley and Mary Burke of the Arklow St. Patrick's Day parade committee present Murt Mulligan with the John Swan Cup for Best Vintage Display at the Arklow parade.

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Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020

Public meeting on transport bridge over Dargle



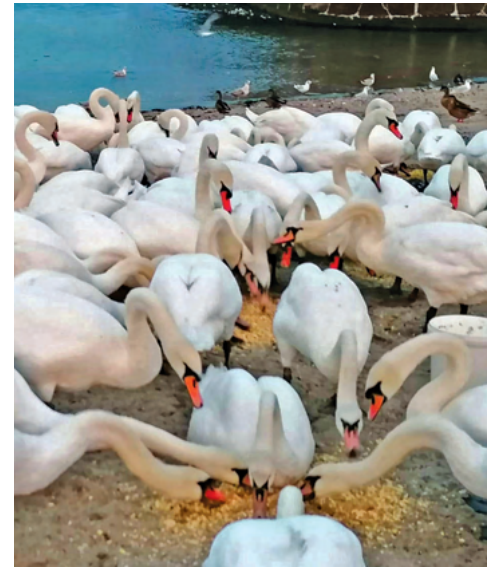
The decision of whether to approve the Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge project has now fallen to Wicklow's 32 councillors after An Bord Pleanála determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not required for the project.

Some Bray community groups (Save the Bray Swans, Save Our Floodplain, and Seapoint Court residents) directly affected have organised a public meeting to take place via Zoom this Thursday in response to Wicklow County Council's proposals to build a 'sustainable transport bridge' across the River Dargle. Anyone who feels strongly about this proposal is invited to attend.

A report published by the Council last year stated that an EIAR report was not required, and now ABP will not force the Council's hand to carry one out, deciding that the bridge would have 'limited potential for significant effects on the environment'.

The Council's Part 8 process was put on hold while ABP made its decision. The public consultation phase for the project was carried out last year, with many submissions, expressing deep concerns about the danger that the proposed suspension bridge might pose to the 120 swans in Bray Swan Sanctuary.

Councillors will now make the final decision on the project, but it is not yet known when the Council's Chief Executive's report will be



The swans at Bray Harbour

put before them for a vote.

The proposed bridge and link road would consist of a two-lane public transport road and pedestrian and cycle path. It will also facilitate buses and, possibly in the future, the LUAS.

The flight path of Bray's local swan population is along the Dargle River, and campaigners say the 'unnecessarily tall' bridge will be directly in their path. They say that the 'vain' design of the bridge - with vertical cables - has prioritised aesthetic con-

siderations above animal welfare.

Wildlife rescue volunteers who currently help the swans in Bray harbour and on the river Liffey, have observed that many of the Dublin swans crash into the Samuel Becket bridge, fall onto the road and cause traffic problems. Likewise, swans in Bray regularly fall on the train tracks and cause DART and train delays.

Campaigners have also expressed concerns about the otters which feed in the River Dargle underneath the railway and road

bridges. These feeding grounds could be severely compromised by the construction of the transport bridge, they say.

As well as wildlife concerns, the local residents fighting for the preservation of the Dargle river's natural floodplain are also concerned as the bridge will cut across the floodplain, where heavy rain and potential overflow from the river can be absorbed. They believe the construction of the bridge will destroy a valuable safety valve which provides protection from flooding for the low-lying areas of Little Bray.

The meeting will take place at 7pm. A dedicated email address savebray2021@gmail.com has been set up for registrations to attend. Anyone who wishes to raise any particular issue about the proposal, or who has any ideas for our campaign, is being asked to include them in their email of registration so that they can be included in the meeting under broad headings. Otherwise, a simple email saying you wish to attend is sufficient, and all email addresses will be deleted immediately after sending out the necessary link to the meeting. All 32 Wicklow county councillors will be invited to attend also.

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Children from Tinahely National School tidying up their local community for National Spring Clean Month.

'Danger to road users from deer on N11/M11 requires safety review'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on Wicklow County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to conduct an urgent safety review into the danger to motorists posed by the increased numbers of deer on the N11 / M11, before somebody is seriously injured or worse, following reports of a number of accidents and near misses along the road.

Deputy Brady said: "I have been approached by road users who are gravely concerned at the numbers of deer who have become increasingly evident along the grass verge on the N11 / M11. The worst section of the road affected is that of the Northbound Junction 16 on the M11, and the south exit to Newtown Mount Kennedy on the N11.

"One motorist that has contacted me has had two accidents on the N11, thankfully he wasn't injured. However, there is a sizable cost to repair his car, the first accident cost €4800 and the second in the region of €3000.

"There are very serious concerns here from motorists that if action is not taken, we are going to see more accidents, possibly resulting in serious injury or even fatalities to road users. Wicklow County Council and the National Roads Authority need to conduct an urgent safety review of the danger to traffic and introduce measures that will guarantee the safety of drivers.

"There has been a significant increase in the deer population in the area in recent years, which is forcing numbers away from their traditional areas, as they seek new food sources. This is leading to a public safety issue and must be addressed immediately before the situation results in a tragedy."



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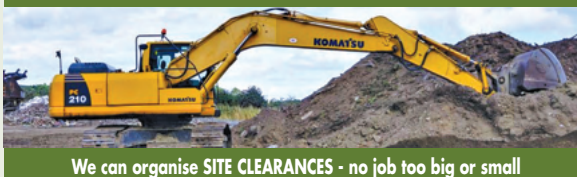
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Payments and planning exemptions for solar energy

The long-awaited micro-generation support scheme that enables householders to get paid for extra energy they produce has been announced. If someone chooses to put solar panels in their home as part of an energy upgrade or new build, they can now get paid for every unused unit of power they put back onto the grid.

Welcoming the news, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "Solar power has massive potential in Ireland for domestic and commercial scale energy production. Every roof top in Ireland, in every home, school, farm building or community centre can play a part in our clean green energy revolution. Those who have registered for the scheme will be paid a Clean Export Guarantee (CEG) likely from July 1st depending on customers' billing cycles."

Some householders who have registered are already accruing financial credit for the electricity they have exported to the grid since February 15th, when the regulations were signed, and they will receive back payments once the CEG starts to be paid.

Deputy Matthews continued, "This was a key Green Party commitment in the Programme for Government, as were improved grants for energy retrofits and a more ambitious target for offshore renewable energy development. Ireland has an abundance of wind energy potential and excellent solar energy generation capability. Last month, Minister Eamon Ryan introduced one of the best home-energy retrofit grant schemes in Europe, we have recently passed legislation for a major plan-led investment in offshore wind development and now we are helping homeowners to generate their own power and to sell back any excess to the national grid. This is the Green Party's ambition in action, to eliminate fossil fuels and decarbonise our country whilst providing clean, reliable, and affordable energy. We are creating thousands of well-paid jobs as we retrofit and electrify our home heating and transport systems and above all tackle climate chaos to protect our children and future generations. This is the work of a Government that thinks ahead whilst acting on the greatest threat we face in climate breakdown.

"The announcement comes at a time when millions are suffering from a war in Europe in which fossil



Steven Matthews TD

fuel oil, gas and coal are being used as a lever by a war criminal to inflict horrors on innocent Ukrainian people. Our future and the safety and security of our children is an Ireland with large-scale renewable energy which we will export from our homes and from our windfarms to a pan-European interconnected grid. All homes across Europe are facing unprecedented high energy costs and while Government initiatives are in place to tackle the short-term implications, the future is in wind, solar and hydrogen energy production and we are making rapid progress now.

Planning Exemptions for Solar Panels Ready in June

Planning exemptions for solar panels are expected to be completed and ready by the end of June 2022, meaning planning permission will no longer be required for larger installations of solar panels across residential rooftops, farm buildings, schools, community centres and a range of commercial buildings.

Deputy Matthews said, "I have worked consistently with Minister Darragh O'Brien and the Taoiseach to make it easier for people to put solar panels on their roofs by reduc-

ing the current planning requirements. I am pleased to get a confirmation date of no later than the end of June for the removal of this unnecessary planning regulation.

"Solar power, in both individual rooftops and at utility scale, has huge potential in supplying our energy needs and helping to achieve the targets in our Climate Action Plan. The Microgeneration Support Scheme will also allow residents to get paid for excess energy they generate. Payments for excess energy have commenced and the roll out of smart electricity meters to facilitate individuals to 'feed-back' into the national grid is accelerating."

Deputy Matthews added; "The overall package of grants, feed-back tariffs and ease of planning regulations makes sense in the context of the immediate energy crisis, but also for our longer-term objectives for accelerating our renewable energy objectives and reducing fossil fuel dependency. There is huge potential across every rooftop in Ireland to install solar. This will create thousands of jobs, increase reliability and resilience in our energy supply and lead to a decarbonised future. These measures support key government policies on energy, our transition to Net Zero and will help us to achieve our EU renewable energy targets."

This announcement comes on the back of a bill brought to the Seanad by the Green Party in June 2021. The Bill introduces planning exemptions to the Planning and Development Regulations, which will allow for the installation of solar panels on public buildings, including schools, without planning permission.

The draft regulations are currently undergoing the Strategic Environmental Assessment process, and the environmental report and draft regulations will be published for a 4-week public consultation shortly. Following this stage, the regulations will be laid before the Oireachtas, with the new regulations expected to be completed by the end of June.

People in Wicklow urged to take a stand against illegal dumping

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has urged locals to take a stand against illegal dumping in Wicklow. Speaking following the announcement of a new law that will allow Wicklow CoCo to use CCTV cameras in dumping blackspots, Deputy Matthews has called for all incidents of dumping to be reported immediately and has committed to working with the council to highlight areas of particular concern.

Discussing the issue, Deputy Matthews said: "This is a massive issue across Wicklow, and I am calling on people to identify areas that are blackspots for illegal dumping and fly-tipping. The newly launched Circular Economy Bill will enable local councils to install CCTV in areas where illegal dumping is pervasive and often undetected. This is an important measure which will lead to more prosecutions and fines for illegal dumping and hopefully deter others from

repeating the same actions. Illegal dumping is a scourge on our towns, villages and scenic areas in Wicklow and a harm both to our environment and human health.

"In the last year alone, the Pure Project collected 144 tonnes of illegal dumped waste from 800 sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. I was delighted to be able to work with Pure to guarantee their funding for the coming years, but they can't do it alone - they need the support of the

community in calling out this disgusting practice. This doesn't even begin to take into account the amount of waste removed directly by the council or community groups.

"If there are areas in your locality that are blackspots for illegal dumping, please drop me an email and I will work with Wicklow County Council to try and secure funding for increased monitoring, CCTV cameras and to arrange clean-ups in the area. Finally, I would like to thank the

residents' groups, Tidy Towns branches and particularly the Pure Mile Project for all their work in organising litter picks, clean-ups and anti-dumping campaigns and carrying out research into local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of different areas. This is much-appreciated, they are a credit to our local communities in Wicklow."

Please note that there is a new lo-call phone number for reporting illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, and they can now be contacted on 1800 365 123.

If you would like to get in touch with Deputy Matthews, please email steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie.



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Darren Hicks, Collette Ghith, Desi O'Toole and Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy launching the newsignage on Bray seafront

Spreading the message of mental health awareness in Bray

Bray Municipal District and Bray Community Reaches Out have developed signage helping to raise awareness of the support and mental health advice available to the citizens of Bray.

Community Reaches Out representative, Desi O'Toole, said: "This organisation was set up to support the work being done in our community on suicide awareness and raise awareness of the support and services available to the people of Bray". The signs have positive messaging and advertise the social channels where information on suicide awareness and improving mental health can be found. This signage will be erected throughout the District. The Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, added: "We want to promote positive mental health in the local community and we believe that looking after your mental health is just as important as looking after your physical health. The placement of the signs throughout Bray is a positive step in collectively looking after for the mental health of our community."

Wexford Home Carer from Bray honoured at National Awards Ceremony

A Gorey-based home carer has been honoured for her fantastic work in the community. Jean Kelly was honoured at a special ceremony at Comfort Keepers office in Gorey, on the 1st of April 2022, as a finalist for the Comfort Keepers Carer of the Year 2021 award.

Comfort Keepers, the nationwide quality provider of award-winning home care services, employs 80 people at its Gorey office. Following the judges' selection based on set criteria and including online voting, Jean - who lives in Bray, - was chosen as one of twelve finalists in the running for the prestigious accolade of Comfort Keepers Carer of the Year 2021. Jean is a mother of three and a proud grandmother to eight grandchildren. She has been a carer for Comfort Keepers for over seven years - she became a carer because she loves helping and supporting people in their own homes. According to the nominations from co-workers and clients, Jean is a brilliant carer and a delight to work with - she is positive, understanding, and always willing to help anyone. She is 'not just the coming and going person. She is truly there for her clients and can make them laugh.' Collette Gleeson, Managing Director at Comfort Keepers Ireland said: "Our carers are amazing individuals and a vital resource providing outstanding, personal and relationship-based care and support to the most vulnerable in our society and their families all across the South East. Their hard work and passion have been particularly valued since the onset of the global pandemic, with people wanting to stay safe and happy at home for as long as possible. "Jean has done fantastic work in the community across the last year and throughout her caring career, making a positive impact on her clients' daily lives. She is such a kind-hearted and hard-working lady - she puts the people she cares for at ease, treats them with respect and makes them laugh. She is a great representative for Comfort Keepers and our quality care." On being nominated for this year's award, Jean said: "I am delighted to have been nominated. I am truly proud of what I do for my beautiful clients and I'm grateful to feel their appreciation and kindness returned to me. Everyone is a pleasure to work with at Comfort Keepers and my favourite thing about my role is being able to stand back and see how it makes such a big difference to my clients' lives in so many different ways." Comfort Keepers is currently recruiting and has around 60 available roles across the South East and around 650 roles nationwide, such as home support worker, office administration, clinical management and supervisory roles. Comfort Keepers offers training/qualifications and progression opportunities, as well as contracts, mileage, etc. Visit www.ckjobs.ie for more information. Comfort Keepers clinical nurse-led teams of highly trained home support workers provide world-class care tailored to their client's specific needs, day and night, in homes all across Ireland. With the utmost respect and dignity, they support people to live independently in the comfort of their own homes and within the communities they love through life-changing illnesses or as they get older. Comfort Keepers has been an HSE preferred provider of home care for the last 16 years.



Jean Kelly (Carer of the Year Nominee) and Maggie Smith



NOTICE OF MAKING OR AMENDING EXISTING TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS UNDER SECTION 205 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

Notice is hereby given that Wicklow County Council, pursuant to Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), at its meeting of 29th March 2022 resolved to make new (9) new Tree Preservation Orders and to amend three (3) existing Tree Preservation Orders in accordance with the Schedule set out below. Maps showing the locations of all subject trees / groups are trees are available to view at www.wicklow.ie Any person who contravenes an order under this section shall be guilty of an offence.

Schedule – New / Amended Tree Preservation Orders in County Wicklow

District	ID	Location	Description
Bray MD	TPO B18	Bray Richmond Park	A: 1st green, Mature Redwood B: 2nd green, Scots Pine (2 No.), Beech (4 No.)
	TPO B5	Bray Oldcourt Demesne	Amendment proposed to existing TPO No. B5 Add to description 'Row of mature oak and beech trees along the western boundary of Charnwood Estate; stand alone mature oak in open area to west of Charnwood, to east of Swan River valley woodlands'
	TPO B19	Bray Rockbrae House (FCA)	Redwood, left of entrance
	TPO B20	Bray Ravenswell School	Large Pine right of entrance
	TPO 47	Kilmacanogue, N11	Mature Scots Pine, mature Beech trees, mature Monterey pine, Monterey Cypress, Blue Atlas Cedars, east of N11 bridge at roundabout
	TPO 2	Kilmacanogue, Avoca Handweavers	Amendment proposed to existing TPO No. 2 Add to description 'In particular (but not limited to): – The Yew walk, containing 12 mature Yew trees – Sessile oak and beech within garden area – Weeping Monterey cypress – Redwoods – Blue atlas cedar
Wicklow MD	TPO 48	Wicklow Town – Rathnew; Knockrobin	A group of c. 33 mature sessile oak and large mature Scots pine.
	TPO 49	Wicklow Town – Rathnew; Burkeen Wood	Large mature woodland consisting of mature oak, ash, sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore
Arklow MD	TPO 50	Arklow, Coast Road	Corsican Pine trees at Kynoch's Lodge
	TPO 51	Rathdrum, Parnell Memorial Park	Trees in the Parnell Memorial Park; including blue atlas cedar, common alder, sycamore (4 No.), Scots pine.
Baltinglass MD	TPO 52	Manor Kilbride, east of Kilbride Bridge	Small woodland containing c. 150 trees of predominantly beech, with sycamore, oak and pine.
	TPO 44	Manor Kilbride	Amendment proposed to existing TPO No. 44 Revised map

New tourism video showcases Wicklow Town

The many attractions of Wicklow town are highlighted in a new video. The video, which will be used across various channels to promote Wicklow, shows how the friendly vibrant coastal town offers a unique experience for the local as well as the visitor.



Still image from the tourism video

It also shows how while people take a break from shopping in the wide variety of shops and boutiques there is no shortage of cafes, pubs and restaurants to suit every taste and budget.

Wicklow town, of course, is rich in history and the Heritage Trail will take you through Wicklow's historical sites.

Enjoy the newly refurbished public realm of Fitzwilliam Square and discover the outdoor dining options created here and at Market Square.

Visit and enjoy the variety of shops as you walk between these two pivotal squares.

Take time to explore the wonderful sites which surround Wicklow town. The Main Street has many linkages to the South Quay allowing pedestrian access to the harbour and its many recreational amenities as it runs parallel with the South Quay. It also links with the Riverwalk over the river Leitrim leading onto the Murrough a

special area of conservation and a coastal walkway.

The nearby Glen Beach looped Cliff Walk on the outskirts of Wicklow town provides a natural recreational amenity. It continues to Lime-Kiln Bay and the lighthouse and encompasses one of the most spectacular stretches of Wicklow coastline.

Visitors can visit the new modern public library facility comprising 1,234m² over five floors and take in the panoramic views out over the harbour and surrounding area.

Speaking at the launch of the video, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, Cllr Gail Dunne said: "I am delighted to be involved in promoting Wicklow town through this video, Wicklow is now one of the most sought-after places to live in and I can understand why. It's now a destination town for those to live as well as visit."



Over 250 children and their parents turned out in Newtownmountkennedy on Easter Sunday for the annual Egg Hunt in aid of the local Tidy Towns. Eager egg hunters searched through Mount Kennedy Wood for their reward and in the process over €1,000 was raised to help the community group with their local activities.

"A big thank you to everyone who showed up to show their support for our local fundraiser," said Grace Garde from the Tidy Towns committee.

"And thank you also to Dunnes Stores in Newtownmountkennedy for donating the Easter eggs, to Top Oil Junction 12 for giving each child a free ice cream, to Coillte for letting us hold the event in our beautiful local woods and to our local Gardaí John, Lorraine and Emma Jane from Garda Síochána Wicklow for keeping everyone safe. We had some eggs left over and these were donated to the Grand Hotel Reception centre for asylum seekers in Wicklow Town. We are overwhelmed with how generous everyone was - community spirit at its finest!"



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022- 2028

Notice is hereby given that the Members of Wicklow County Council, at Special Council Meetings on the 28th & 29th March 2022, having considered the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Chief Executive's Report in respect of submissions received, have resolved in accordance with Sections 12(6) and 12(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that the Draft Development Plan be amended. The proposed amendments constitute material alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Proposed Amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the **Environmental Report** which provides information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendments, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

The Proposed Amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the **Natura Impact Report** which provides an evaluation of the impacts, if any, of the proposed amendments on any Natura 2000 / European site either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives, prepared in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

The Proposed Amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which provides an assessment of flood risk, if any, associated with the proposed amendments.

The Material Amendments include proposals to make alterations to:

- The description of previously published and notified proposed additions to the **Record of Protected Structures**.
- The description of existing entries on the **Record of Protected Structures**.

In accordance with Section 12 of the Planning Act, the Planning Authority shall serve on each person who is the owner or occupier of the protected structure, as the case may be, a notice of the proposed amendment, including the particulars.

Display of Proposed Amendments

The Proposed Amendments and associated Addenda will be available to view and download from the Council's website consult.wicklow.ie from **Wednesday 27th April 2022 to Wednesday 25th May 2022** inclusive.

Printed copies will be on display at the following locations from **Wednesday 27th April 2022 to Wednesday 25th May 2022** inclusive.

- **Wicklow Town** Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town
- **Arklow** Arklow Municipal District Office, Castle Park, Arklow Town
- **Blessington** Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington
- **Bray** Bray Municipal District Office, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray
- **Greystones** Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones

Hard copies of the Proposed Amendments document will be available to purchase only **on request** (please call 0404 20100).

Making a submission

Submissions or observations regarding the **Proposed Material Amendments** to the Draft Plan and the associated Addenda are hereby invited from the public and interested bodies between **Wednesday 27th April 2022 to 5pm Wednesday 25th May 2022** inclusive.

Any valid submission will be taken into consideration before the making of any amendment.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12 (7) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT ONLY SUBMISSIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND/OR THE ADDENDA REPORTS CAN BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AT THIS STAGE OF PLAN MAKING. SUBMISSIONS NOT ADHERING TO THESE CRITERIA WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID.

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

1. Via the Consultation Portal consult.wicklow.ie, or
2. Write to: County Development Plan Review, Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town.

Email submissions will not be accepted.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5pm Wednesday 25th May 2022.

YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

- All submissions are to be clearly marked with 'WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN' and the **PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER**.
- All submissions should include your name and a contact address, a map (where appropriate) and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent.
- Please make your submission by **one** medium only, i.e. via the portal or hard copy.
- All submissions will form a part of the statutory Chief Executive's report to be presented to the elected members of Wicklow County Council.
- Please be advised that all submissions received will be published online in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act. You should ensure that no vexatious, libellous or confidential information, including confidential information relating to a third party (in respect of which the third party has not, expressly, or impliedly in the circumstances, consented to its disclosure) is included in your submission. The Planning Authority reserves the right to redact any submission or part thereof that does not comply with this requirement. Please be advised that the name of the person(s)/group(s) who made the submission will be published, but personal data will be redacted.

Wicklow Local Authorities are committed to Access For All. All of the above documents are available in alternative format on request. Please contact Wicklow County Council on 0404-20100 should you have any specific access requirements.

Greystones Town Team lead ambitious artistic makeover of railway station

Led by Greystones Town Team, and with the support of CIE, Irish Rail, Greystones Tidy Towns and the Whale Theatre, an ambitious project is aiming to transform the aesthetic of Greystones railway station offering an inspiring, warm welcome to visitors as they arrive into the station.

The Station is located on Church Road and was opened in the autumn of 1856. The architect was George Wilkinson, who also designed the Railway Stations at Dalkey, Harcourt Street and Wicklow. One of the events of note that

occurred at the station was the arrest of Eamon de Valera in May 1918 when he was stepping off the train onto the station platform.

Over the years Greystones Railway Station has received excellent standard maintenance from Irish Rail.

This has been mainly of a technical, safety and public facility nature. However, the public realm of the station has considerably deteriorated with regard to its general appearance, particularly within the confines and

along both platforms. In terms of visitors arriving by train, this may be their first impression of Greystones.

The current promoters together with Greystones Town Team are now determined to deliver on what was initially identified and proposed some years ago by the very active Tidy Towns and Greystones 2020. They do not believe that the station currently creates a sufficiently positive or accurate image of the town, its history, legacy, vibrancy or community.

The project involves a complete makeover of the station, with the integration of stunning visual elements telling the story of the town. At the centre of this project will be the construction of up to nine Corten Steel Totems, each of which will feature artistic portraits of key figures who have connections to Greystones in a variety of ways. These



Mary Kate Hardy and Colum O'Broin at Greystones railway station with portrait of Samuel Beckett by Greystones-based artist Tom Byrne.

portraits have been created by Greystones-based artist Tom Byrne, and the collection includes well-known figures such as Ronnie Drew, Samuel Beckett and Michael Collins as well as lesser-known individuals such as Averil Devereil (one of Ireland's first female barristers), Geraldine FitzGerald (Irish actor born in Greystones) and A. J. Potter (prolific classical composer and radio broadcaster). The portraits themselves have been photographed by Gillian Buckley, and these images will be embedded into the

3m x 1.4m steel totems, with the precision craftsmanship and skill of Billy Griffin. A sample size Totem silhouette will be on show at the station.

Another local artist, Mary Kate Hardy has also been commissioned to paint an amazing 45-foot wall mural along the station's eastern platform, with images depicting nostalgic and original scenes inspired by Greystones and the surrounding landscapes. In addition, waves of Portuguese Laurel hedging (Prunus Lusitanica) will adorn the platforms

and colourful illuminated scoop planters will add an extra splash of colour and fun to the station.

The work has already begun. The team of professionals, volunteers, and Irish Rail digging and clearing on the East platform. Irish Rail have repainted the station inside and out and repairing walls and boundaries.

Chairman of Greystones Town Team, Mr Dermot Dwyer said "This exciting project is designed, approved and about to be delivered. Now to literally keep this makeover train moving

we need you. This is our Town, your legacy, please step up and help fund this citizen project."

Sponsorship opportunities are available across all elements of this makeover project, and prices range from €500 - €20,000 +VAT, and sponsors/donors will be acknowledged on plaques along the platform and within the railway station.

For further information, or to make an enquiry, please contact Ross McParland ross@whaletheatre.ie or Mr Dermot Dwyer dermod.dwyer@gmail.com



CGI image of the completed project

Wicklow vocalist a semi-finalist in international contest

The nonprofit Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center (OHMTEC) have announced the semi-finalists in their international solo contest, and among them is 11-year-old Niamh Smith from Wicklow for the song Stepsister's Lament. Niamh lives in Annamoe and goes to school in Bray.

Niamh, along with her brother Jesse, received National Colours for Performing Arts earlier this year and represented both Ireland and South Africa at the Performing Arts International Cup. Niamh received a first place in the overall drama junior category and 7 first places in the 9 - 11 year old group for Broadway, open, jazz, pop and drama solos.

OHMTEC, which is in the midst of a nationwide fundraising campaign, was pleased to offer this opportunity for singers of all ages to display their talents and celebrate the works of the "Father of Broadway," who contributed lyrics to over 800 songs that continue to reverberate around the world.

The contest was created in 2021 by OHMTEC Board Member and Music Educator, Jaime Rogers, in response to the challenges of teaching virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rogers stated, "I created this contest as a way to create a safe and valuable performance experience for young people who were unable to publicly share their talents during the isolation of the COVID19 pandemic. Although many of us have been able to return to public performances in some capacity, the value of educating our next generation of performers and theatre consumers about Oscar Hammerstein II's lyrics and legacy remains; not to mention the immense joy

we all share at viewing these wonderful and talented young singers perform his songs with such poise and passion."

This year's contest boasts singers from all over the world and most of the United States. Winners of the contest will earn cash prizes, a voice lesson with Broadway and American Idol veteran, Justin Guarini, and the opportunity to perform their winning song in Oscar Hammerstein's living room at Highland Farm. Winners who are willing to make the trip, will also be invited to perform during the cocktail hour at an upcoming gala hosted by the non-profit, featuring Broadway talent.

The Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center has been raising funds to support the non-profit's ongoing vision to secure the Highland Farm property and realise the dream of a museum and theatre education center on the site of Oscar Hammerstein's home, where he penned The Sound of Music, Carousel, The King and I, Oklahoma! and South Pacific. It is also the place where Hammerstein mentored a young Stephen Sondheim, and where he contributed to society by increasing our awareness of social issues and the need for tolerance of diversity.

The initial fundraising target, which will secure the property and ensure its preservation into the future, has been set at \$2 million.



Young vocalist Niamh Smith

Planning permission for Greystones Community College

Wicklow County Council has granted Cairns planning permission for the new building for Greystones Community College in Charlesland.



Principal of Greystones Community College Ruairi Farrell with Jennifer Whitmore TD and Cllr Jodie Neary.

Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted at the news that the Council have granted permission for Greystones Community College's permanent campus at Charlesland.

"The school has achieved an incredible amount since it opened in autumn 2020 and I want to pay tribute to everyone in the school community, Principal Ruairi Farrell, the staff, parents association and board of management for bringing the project to this point.

Greystones Community College is a fast expanding school and it is imperative that the project moves to construction as speedily as possible and they school can count on my continued wholehearted support".

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, who has helped to campaign

for a new school build, welcomed what she says "will be a new dawn for the school community".

Deputy Whitmore says, "I'm in no doubt of the excitement within the school community of this news, which have fought long and hard for a proper school building. Now they can begin to look forward to a future with more certainty and develop a sense of place for students in future. It is amazing to think how well they have done to build a safe and welcoming school environment in a sports facility and with additional temporary accommodation across the road. Now they can look forward to a fully equipped, permanent school home.

"I also hope that this news brings reassurances to the Principal, teachers, staff and students who have experienced so many changes over the past year especially during the school places crisis in the area last year. It



Minister Harris meeting with students from Greystones Community College

has been a difficult transition for the school while searching for more accommodation during a pandemic. It wasn't easy, but they did tremendous work to keep persevering. "These processes can take a long time and while it's not possible at this stage to have a timeline for completion of the school building, it's important that urgency is given to this project. Acquiring planning per-

mission is one of the hardest hurdles when building a new school which is why this news is so important. It means, the Department of Education can begin focusing on tendering the construction project as soon as possible.

"I am now urging the Department to do what it can to prevent any unnecessary delays" concluded Deputy Whitmore. Also speaking on the

news, Cllr Jodie Neary says "this is a very welcome development after a long road for the school community. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work they have done to get this far.

"The Department needs to reflect that by making sure this project is a priority so the students can enjoy their new school as soon as possible."

Greystones local graduates from political programme for migrants

Pratiksha Kamat from Greystones, was among a number of migrants that were celebrated at an event recently, as she graduated the Migrant-Councillor Internship Scheme, run by the Immigrant Council of Ireland, aimed at increasing migrant representation in society.

The Wicklow graduate was presented with a certificate by Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD, at the event which took place at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin.

Also in attendance were some of the political representatives who mentored migrant interns as part of the Migrant-Councillor Internship Scheme, including

Mayor of Galway Colette Connolly, Dublin City Councillor Anne Feeney, Cork County Councillor Gearóid Murphy, and Leitrim County Councillor Sean McGowan.

Speaking about the graduation, Minister of State Joe O'Brien said, "I am honoured to have presented the 26 participants with their certificates. The work that the Immigrant Council does in promoting diversity

and inclusion across all aspects of Irish life, especially politics, is important for an ever-changing Irish society. It's vital that those marginalised in society see themselves represented and have a voice in politics and the programmes being run by the Immigrant Council facilitate this.

"Having previously worked in the area of migrant rights, I am passionate about creating a

society that is welcoming to all. More than ever, Ireland needs an organised movement of migrants, refugees and allies to build a truly diverse and inclusive society. I look forward to seeing the graduates on a political stage in the future. With more migrant involvement in politics and in their local communities, we will see diversity in representation, and a truer reflection of the society we

live in today."

Addressing migrant representation in Irish society

Speaking at the graduation, Immigrant Council of Ireland Integration Manager, Teresa Buczkowska, said: "Ireland is an increasingly diverse society, with one in eight of us coming from a migrant background. The reality, however, is that us migrants don't see ourselves represented in many key sectors of Irish society, including the social justice sector. Migrants in Ireland should be included in conversations on issues affecting us, from housing, education and discrimination to immigration policy reform and more. Both the Migrant Leadership Academy and the Migrant Councillor Internship Scheme equip participants with the skills to begin to use their voice to enact change.

"Many migrants and refugees are doing great work in their local communities championing issues and effecting positive change, but their hard work is often overlooked. We want to celebrate what the participants in both schemes have achieved during their time on the programmes and we wish them every success in the next step on their journey."



Pictured at the event at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin, were: Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD; Pratiksha Kamat, Graduate of the Migrant-Councillor Internship Scheme; Brian Killoran, CEO of Immigrant Council of Ireland.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing committee will hold a public meeting on

Wednesday 4th May 2022

At The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy

Commencing 7.30 p.m.

The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the local authority and the senior Garda officers, responsible for the policing of that area, can consult and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area and in particular to keep under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour occurring and the factors underlying and contributing to it.

Membership of the committee consists of the Chief Superintendent, Senior Members of the Gardai, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Elected Members and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

The focus of the public meeting will be on policing, rather than individuals and obtaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime. The local community will have the opportunity to make their views known and ask questions and all are welcome to attend.

To increase the productivity of the meeting and encourage greater participation written questions may be submitted prior to the meeting to hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie or in writing to the undersigned.

Questioners should give their name and contact details, which will not be publicised. While every effort will be made to provide the information requested in certain circumstances it may not be possible for legal reasons or because it would not be in the public interest to do so.

Helen Purcell,
Senior Executive Officer,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings, Wicklow

5th April 2022





The first large group of Ukrainian refugees arrived in Wicklow town recently. Within hours of their arrival Wicklow Lions Club quickly arranged a team of their volunteers to swiftly move into action to give urgent support. Having prepared for this day over the past few weeks and under the guidance of Martina Robinson of the Wicklow Ukraine Support group, the team was ready. Thanks to Wicklow Tennis Club the teams met and prepared 40 welcome packs which consisted of toiletries, sanitary and cleaning products, as well as underwear - all urgent requirements for men women and the many children. Within one hour the welcome packs were ready and presented directly to the families and individuals all from Ukraine. Martina and Sean Olohan of Wicklow Lions met each person individually and gave them a genuine Wicklow Welcome. Club President Sean Olohan said "we have a special Ukraine fund set up to help in every way we can. It is wonderful that we are in a position to help these unfortunate people and to see a smile on their faces gave us great joy after what they have gone through. They were completely overjoyed to receive our welcome packs." You can make a donation online to www.idonate.ie/wicklowlionsukrainfund

Craft bags for Ukrainian children

Greystones Folk Group recently held a Fun Craft Morning for Ukrainian families, and another Craft Morning will be held shortly.

Organisers want to say a special thanks to all who donated toys and items. Members of the public can help by contributing a Craft Bag for the children. It is easy and fun to do, simply collect craft items and place in a Zip Lock Bag. Lock the bag and put a sticker on the bag indicating the age and gender of the child.

Greystones Folk Group will do its best to make sure your Craft Bag gets to the child. Craft items include colouring books, markers, colouring pencils, Pritt stick, pencils, Rubbers, sharpener, bubbles, small toy, plus other suggestions of your own.

Craft Bags can be left with Greystones Folk Group, who sing each Sunday at the 11.30 am Mass in Holy Rosary Church.

Brady calls for increased humanitarian response following visit to Ukrainian border

Sinn Féin spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Defence John Brady TD, has spoken of the serious challenges that the war in Ukraine is holding for neighbouring countries of Moldova and Romania, following an Oireachtas delegation visit to Eastern Europe.

The visit included a series of high-level meetings with government officials, officials from the UN, and a large number of refugees; including the office of the Prime Minister of Romania, along with the Moldovan Minister for Health, and officials and NGO's at a number of the border crossings in Romania and Moldova which have witnessed thousands of Ukrainian refugees crossing since the Russian invasion began.

Deputy Brady said: "The five-day visit has allowed myself and my

colleagues to build an accurate and detailed picture of the reality of what is happening on the border, of the challenges that are being faced by countries such as Moldova who are carrying so much of the burden of the response to the crisis that has emerged.

"We hope that our observations from our visit coupled with the information we gathered through a series of high-powered meetings with government officials, and NGOs will help inform both the Irish government and EU decision makers.

"We also met and spoke with many refugees who had fled their homes, many with little more than a plastic bag to hold all that they had left in the world. Many were clearly traumatised, others had left loved ones behind to fight for their countries, and a future for their families. We also had detailed briefings from the heads of UNHCR in both Moldova and Romania.

"Moldova is a country under serious pressure,

they have received more refugees per capita than any other country, they are literally pleading for financial assistance to help them to continue to provide the level of assistance that they have offered to date to refugees. And while Ireland has pledged to take in 500 vulnerable refugees from Moldova, there has been no movement up until now on this. I am calling upon the government to act immediately to help alleviate the pressure on Moldova.

"The EU also needs to step up to the mark and offer more assistance to Romania. To date Romania has spent over €600 million on addressing the crisis. They have been told by the EU to spend their EU cohesion funding before the EU will consider any further funding. This is not good enough.

"With all the emphasis from the Irish government and their counterparts in the EU on increased militarisation, and arms shipments to Ukraine, it is critical that decision makers

Harris meets with community volunteers and Ukrainian refugees

Minister Simon Harris TD visited members of the newly arrived Ukrainian community in at the Royal Hotel in Bray and Coolnagreina in Greystones on Friday 22nd April.

Minister Harris said: "I am amazed and humbled by the generosity of Wicklow people and the commitment of the many Wicklow volunteers who have come forward to assist people fleeing the terrible war in Ukraine.

"I met with many new Ukrainian arrivals at both the Royal Hotel in Bray and Coolnagreina in Greystones, who outlined how they had to leave their homes, careers and family members. They outlined to me their experience of coming to Ireland over the past two months since their country was attacked and despite their harrowing stories, they had nothing but good words to say about the welcome they received in County Wicklow."

Minister Harris concluded: "I



Minister Simon Harris with CEO of Tiglin Phil Thompson at Coolnagreina in Greystones and Christina a long term Ukrainian resident in Ireland who is supporting new arrivals in Greystones

want to thank all the local volunteers who have given selflessly, providing English language class-

es, assisting refugees in dealing with public agencies. A wide cross-section of our community has stepped forward to help in this moment of crisis for our European neighbours. I also want to highlight the work of the staff in the Royal Hotel, Tiglin and the Bray Partnership in their efforts in this crisis situation.

"I know that many people want to return home to Ukraine as quickly as possible, but it is important while they are here that they can play a full role in our community and lead productive lives.

The community in Wicklow can be assured of this government's commitment to support the humanitarian effort for however long it takes until this senseless war ends."



Minister Simon Harris meeting local volunteers at the Royal Hotel in Bray with the Hotel staff and management

understand that a failure to adequately address the refugee crisis will precipitate an even worse humanitarian disaster.

"I am calling on the Irish government to step up here. To use their position and standing, as a neutral, non-aligned coun-

try with a voice at the EU, and on the UN Security Council to bring a focus to the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian people."



Deputy Brady meeting the head of UNHCR in Moldova, Francesca Bonelli



Deputy Brady meeting the head of UNHCR Romania, Pablo Zapata

Tinahely teen takes part in 24-hour swim for Crumlin Children's Hospital

Ned Williams from Tinahely was among the Transition Year students from Clongowes Wood College in Clane who undertook the mammoth challenge of swimming for 24 hours in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital recently.

The 50 students swam in relay teams from 4pm Wednesday 6th April to 4pm Thursday 7th April. The fundraiser was part of the annual Clongowes Duck Push initiative for Crumlin and raised €8,000 - a significant boost to their overall goal this year of €30,000. The swim took place in the Clongowes 25m indoor pool, a facility that is used by the students and local groups.

The Duck Push at Clongowes is a tradition that first started in 1993 and since then have raised over €2.2 million for the purchase of vital equipment in the Children's Hospital. Each year, Transition Year students at the Clane boarding school undertake to come up with creative mini companies and fundraising events throughout the school year before taking to the road to push the 3 meter high, bright yellow duck in June from Crumlin to Limerick, shaking buckets to raise funds along the route.

Some 50 students took part in the swim last week where they aimed to cover the length of the

river Shannon, some 360km. The overall distance covered by the swimmers exceeded the goal as they achieved over 406km

The Duck Push holds a special place in the Transition Year programme at Clongowes and under banner of "kids helping kids", the school community and others are to be commended for their ongoing support of the fundraising efforts. The GoFundMe page for the Duck Push is <https://gofund.me/e36ad712>

This first ever, 24-hour swim event at the College was organised by four students: Matthew Kelly (Enniscorthy, Co Wexford), Ned Williams (Tinahely, Co Wicklow), Osian Kileen (Clontarf, Dublin) and James Gilheany (Fenagh, Co Leitrim).

The students explained the importance of the Duck Push to the students: "The whole ethos of our school is to be "a man for others" - this means if we can help those in need, then we should, and we are really happy to be able to do this fundraiser for the

sick children in Crumlin. Swimming for 24 hours was pretty tough but worth it to try achieve our goal of purchasing vital equipment for sick children from all over Ireland that are being cared for in Crumlin Children's Hospital."

Mr Chris Lumb, Headmaster at Clongowes Wood College said: "We're all very proud of the Transition Year boys who have come together to ensure those children in most need of our support will get equipment that they need to allow them to get the best possible care in Crumlin Children's Hospital."

In recent years, the Clongowes Duck Push has provided 3 Recussitaire Beds for ICU at the hospital, a Lumnix Magpix Respiratory Machine and a PCR testing machine.

Members of the public are encouraged to contribute to the Clongowes 2022 Duck Push for Crumlin Children's Hospital at www.gofundme.com/duck-push-2022-clongowes. All donations are very gratefully appreciated.



L-R Matthew Kelly, Ned Williams, James Gilheany and Osian Kileen Duck Push 24 Hour Swim Organisers.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MCHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA TALÚN

ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA UIMHIR 2- 2022 – ORDÚ DAINGNIÚCHÁIN

2 Lakeview Grove, Baile Chill Mhantáin, Co Chill Mhantáin

Ar an 12ú Aibreán 2022, rinne Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Daingniúcháin a dhaingníonn an Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta ainme thuas, maidir leis an talamh sa Sceideal leis. Ceadáíonn an tOrdú, mar a dhaingnítear, Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin chun an talamh sin a cheannach go héigeanta le haghaidh cuspóirí an Acht um Tithíocht 1966. Rachaidh sé i bhfeidhm trí seachtain ón lá a foilsíodh an fógra seo. Is féidir cóip den ordú mar a daingnítear agus an léarscáil dá dtagrítear ann, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin

Is féidir iarratas a dhéanamh ar an Ard Chúirt, maidir le hAithbhreithniú Bhreithiúnach ar chinneadh Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin faoi réir Ordú 84 de Rialacha na hUaschúirteanna, lastigh d'ocht seachtain tar éis dáta foilsíúcháin an bhfógra seo, faoi réir Alt 50 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000.

Má ndéantar iarratas mar sin, is féidir leis an Chúirt:

- (a) An tOrdú Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear a chur ar ceal, trí mheán ordú eatramhach, i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le h aon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra, go dtí go ndéanfaí cinneadh deireannach ar na himeachtaí.
- (b) An tOrdú, mar a dhaingnítear, a neamhniú i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le haon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra; má tá an Chúirt sásta tar éis an iarratas a chloisteáil, nach bhfuil an tOrdú Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear, laistigh de chumhachtaí an tAcht um Tithíochta (arna leasú) nó go bhfuil dochar déanta do leasanna an iarrthóra de bharr neamhaird ar aon cheanglas an Acht.

SCÉIDEAL

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 léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifigí an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme	Léasaithe nó léasaith ainme	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí míosa nó níos lú ná mí)
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 2 – 2022. 22/06/15/100 2 Lakeview Grove, Baile Chill Mhantáin, Co. Cill Mhantáin	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 150m ² .	Barbara (Bobbi) Jones 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow.	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

An 12ú Aibreán 2022

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 2 OF 2022 – CONFIRMATION ORDER

2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has on the 12th day of April 2022, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

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

If such an application is made, the court:

- (c) May by interim order suspend the operation of the compulsory order as so confirmed either generally or in so far as it affects any property of the applicant until the final determination of the proceedings;
- (d) If satisfied upon hearing of the application that the compulsory purchase order as so confirmed is not within the powers of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended), or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by any requirement of the Act not having been complied with, may quash the order as so confirmed either generally or in so far only as it affects any property of the applicant.

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)
22/06/15/100 Wicklow county Council Compulsory Purchase Order No 2 of 2022 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 150m ²	Barbara (Bobbi) Jones of 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 12th day of April 2022

Joe Lane, Director Services



The Art Within by Bray Adult Education Centre

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, May 9th to Sunday, May 22nd

The Signal Arts Centre hosts Bray Adult Education Centre's annual exhibition, a stunning mix of artwork created by first- and second-year art groups "The Art Within". Collection of work developed and created by students discovering their personal journeys through various art disciplines. The artwork captures a multi-faceted array of inspired themes, as diverse in nature as the artists themselves. Using the Art and Design elements the students explore their own individual, creative voice and interpretations of self-expression.

The work embraces an exciting array of mixed media pieces, including Mosaics, Printmaking, Painting, Drawing, Textile Art, Felt Making, Textile Printing and Ceramic, Wood, Sculpture and Mixed media. The use of colour, texture and surface pattern play an integral role in the individual's use of expression.

Most of our students come from Bray and the surrounding areas, most exhibitors are novices and have had little or no exposure to art and design. Their work embraces their courage to learn, to discover and to explore new things.

Bray singer returns from Clare to launch her new album

Originally from Bray and now living in Co. Clare. Irish singer songwriter, Aoife Doyle returned to the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on Friday April 22nd.

Well known on the jazz and blues circuit, Aoife has been performing for many years, it was upon moving to the West Coast of Ireland that she found her songwriting voice.

"In Clare I had more quiet time to reflect. The lack of billboards, traffic and other superficial stimulation makes life a lot simpler. I think nature is the most primal form of creativity and living in the country and keeping a garden etc means you see the cycle of creation from seed to plant to harvest".

On Friday, April 22nd, Aoife launched her new album - Infinitely Clear. She has already released the single, 'Love Conquers all' from this album last February. Aoife grew up in a house steeped in traditional and folk music.

She cites a wide and varied range of musical influences including Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Alison Krauss and Eva Cassidy, as well as Marvin Gaye, Tammy Tyrell, Joni Mitchell, Beyoncé, Declan O'Rourke, Ger Wolfe and Bjork, and echoes of this intriguing mix come through to various extents on different tracks on the album.

The single, 'Love Conquers all' was produced by the highly-regarded musician, arranger and producer Michael Buckley, as was the album, "one of my best musical decisions".

Doyle is joined by a stellar band on the track, featuring some of Ireland's most in-demand musicians including vocalist Margot Daly, saxophonist Michael Buckley, trumpet player Ronan Dooney, pianist Johnny Taylor, Hammond organist Justin Carroll, bassist Andrew Csibi and drummer Dominic Mullan. As quoted in the Irish Times: "Aoife Doyle combines the guts and vulnerability of a blues singer with the poise and musicianship of a well-schooled jazz artist Her albums to date have charted her growth from singer to songwriter, and she always keeps impeccable musical company."



Bray singer Aoife Doyle

May at Mermaid...

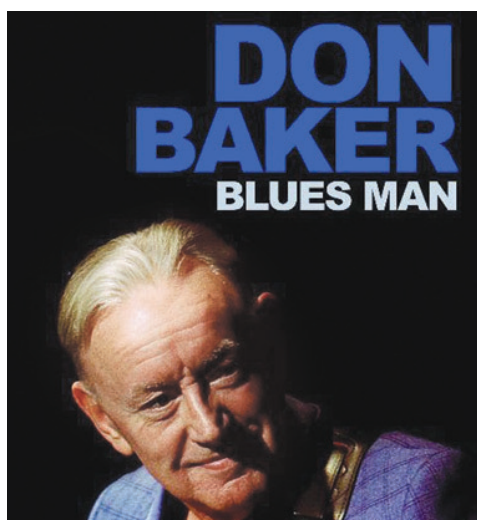
Don Baker: Bluesman

FRIDAY 6th MAY, 8pm, €25

Just turned a young 70 and 55 years on the road, Don has had an amazing career. Harmonica player, singer-songwriter and actor he has headlines with Tom Jones and Van Morrison, acted opposite Daniel Day-Lewis in the Oscar Nominated "In the Name of the Father" and been declared by Bono as "The greatest harmonica player in the World!"

In January 2022 he released his album, "Legacy", his first ever collection of harmonica instrumentals as recorded by Don over the last 40 years.

After two years off the road he tours his new "Blues Man Tour" which features stories of his life and of life on the road together with the legendary performances of the a consummate entertainer that



have engaged, enchanted and charmed audiences over the years.

Workshops With Me and The Moon

SATURDAY 7th MAY 11am & 11.45pm
- Drawing Workshop for 4 - 7 yrs, 2pm
& 2.45pm - Drawing Workshop for 8 - 12 yrs. Free, Booking Essential

In celebration of National Drawing Day, Mermaid Arts Centre is delighted to welcome 'Me and the Moon' for four workshops for children. Admission is free but booking essential as spaces are limited.

Booking is through Box Office on 01-2724030



The Legend of Luke Kelly

SATURDAY 7th May, 8pm, €22/20

This event celebrates the memory and music of a true Irish musical legend. Dublin singer/ songwriter/ multi-instrumentalist Chris Kavanagh was raised on Irish music and has been singing Irish folk songs since he was three years old. His performances capture the depth and passion of the great man he was so heavily influenced by. Over the past sixteen years he has amazed audiences abroad and has sold out prominent Irish venues such as Vicar Street & The Cork Opera House, with the regular attendance of Luke Kelly's family. Chris released his own album of original material "Voice Of The People" in 2011 and shortly afterwards performed with The Dubliners for two weeks on their German tour.



Backstage Theatre Presents Luminaria

TUESDAY 24th May, 11am & 1pm, €8 (Teachers Go Free).
Duration: 50 minutes. Age suitability: 7 +

By Fionnuala Gygax. Directed by Maisie Lee. There is an emergency in the village of Lúminaria and only Lúna can save them. Join Lúna on an adventure into the sky as she tries to find the light to protect her mother and the villagers from darkness. Booking is through Box Office on 01-2724030



BIFE's Week of Theatre & Short Films at Mermaid Theatre

Students of Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) will present the Irish Premiere of the play "Mercy Thieves" by Mark Kilmurry and "Fade To Black" BIFE's Annual presentation of Short Films at the Mermaid Theatre this week starting Tuesday 26th April.

"Mercy Thieves" is an entertaining road trip through murder and betrayal. DJ and Mike, hired killers by trade, bludgeon, stab and shoot a path toward their former gangland associate, the elusive Harry. Part homage to the British gangster movie, part Shakespearean tragedy, Mercy Thieves is a blackly-funny road trip through murder and betrayal,

to a soundtrack of 80's SKA.

"Fade To Black" displays a range of creative works that will entertain and bewilder, amuse and intrigue. Prepare to be captivated by jaw-dropping thrills, chilling surprises, and tender performances. The showcase will feature short films and documentaries written, directed, and produced by the students of the TV

& Film production course of BIFE. Book now at the Mermaid Theatre for "Mercy Thieves" on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th at 8 pm with a matinee at 2 pm on Wednesday 27th and for "Fade To Black" on Wednesday 27th April at 8 pm.

Tickets are €10 (€5 for students). Check Mermaid Arts Centre for details.

First Takes: An evening of scenes and sketches

Whale Theatre, Friday 6th & Saturday 7th May

Making Waves Youth Theatre is delighted to present its 2022 Spring production, **First Takes: an evening of scenes and sketches**, and invites you to join them for a night of engaging theatre and entertainment!

First Takes showcases Making Waves' talented young actors through a diverse and dynamic selection of short scenes and dramatic sketches and is a lively and eclectic drama experience for theatre lovers of all ages. This dynamic troupe delve deep into the craft of creative storytelling through the theatre of comedy, action, the absurd and much more. Juxtaposing diverse and unique worlds and situations, the audience will encounter weird and wonderful characters, sometimes the extraordinary in the ordinary, and each scene or sketch will tell its own vivid story in its own particular way, together making for a great evening's entertainment.

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8 pm. Tickets €12 / €10 @ whaletheatre.ie

The Michael Janisch Band coming to Greystones

Whale Theatre, Friday 29th April

Acclaimed American bassist Michael Janisch has become a major figure on the contemporary UK jazz scene since he decamped to live in London, 17 years ago.

He's a prolific and decorated band leader and musical producer, and is the founder of the influential Whirlwind Recordings label. Janisch is a MOBO-Award nominated solo artist, and leads a fantastic young quintet that features some of the top young talents in UK jazz.

His new album Worlds Collide is an electro-acoustic album of original material recorded at Abbey Road Studios.

It combines contemporary jazz that's heavily influenced by both the London/New York scenes

alongside free improvisations and soaring melodies over multi-metered grooves, and it pays homage to artists such as Fela Kuti & Afro-Beat and the electronic music pioneer Aphex Twin.

This concert is presented by Bray Jazz Festival, in collaboration with Whale Theatre, Greystones. See www.brayjazz.com.

Tickets €20 available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550. Doors 7pm, show starts at 8pm.

At Signal Arts Centre...



Shoreline Treasure by Mide Reddin

Monday, July 4th to Sunday, July 17th

Mide Quinlan-Reddin is an artist based in Co. Wicklow. Working from her studio in Bray she creates both sculptural and functional clay/glass artwork.

Having trained in Ireland, France and Scotland she received her BA in Ceramic Design from the Glasgow School of Art. Her work has been exhibited in galleries throughout Ireland, the UK and France, in both solo and group exhibitions and select craft fairs. Her work can also be found in private collections across Europe and the Americas.

Mide's work is heavily influenced by nature, in particular the sea. On her regular walks along the beaches of Wicklow she draws inspiration from the organic forms she observes on the coastal shoreline – birds, rippling water, shells and the many varieties of

seaweed. These marine influences are at the centre of her work which comprises a combination of ceramics and glass.

In her ceramic work, she uses porcelain and stoneware clays; some of her work is formed on the wheel; other work she prefers to build by hand. For her glass art, she initially fires powders and glass sheets together and then reforms them in the kiln to craft her final pieces. She brings a vibrancy to her work through her unique decorating techniques and her bold use of colour. Since her last solo exhibition in the Signal in 2013, Mide has continued to challenge herself seeking new ways to expand her creativity. It will be most interesting to view her latest body of work and to see how both she and her work have evolved in the last nine years.

A Sense of the Place by Paula Kearney

Monday, April 25th to Sunday, May 8th

Paula Kearney brings a new series of paintings to the Signal Arts Centre. This collection of work explores the landscape of the Murrrough in Co. Wicklow where she lives and walks each day.

The paintings marry the two mediums of oil paint and graphite. The brush allows Paula the freedom to make lush moody painterly landscapes while the graphite drawings in the forefronts allows her to make sharp, bold, complex and realistic lines. Paula Kearney studied Fine Art Painting in the College of Marketing and Design (DIT) and at the National College of Art and Design (NCAD) in Dublin. She graduated in the late 80's and soon after moved to Singapore where she lectured in Life Drawing and Painting. In early 2000 she moved to Dubai where she continued to teach. Whilst living in Dubai she returned to painting full time and took part in several exhibitions and group shows. Her work hangs in private and corporate settings there. Since returning to Ireland she has focused primarily on her painting, gradually shifting her focus from Figurative Images to exploring the Landscape.



Students secure €1,700 from Social Impact Fund

Students from Wicklow Youthreach and Colaiste Bhride in Carnew secured a total of €1,700 in funding recently to advance their innovative ideas to bring about positive change in their communities.

The teenagers, who are taking part in Young Social Innovators (YSI), pitched their ideas to a Dragons' Den Panel including representatives from Dublin City Council, The Community Foundation for Ireland, and EirGrid for access to a Social Impact Fund dedicated to advancing teenagers' ideas for social good.

The Carry On Caring team from Wicklow Youthreach asked clients of a Direct Provision centre what they needed support with and were told that they needed bikes so that they could access local shops. The team presented their plan to upcycle bikes from their local recycling centre and received €700 to help with repairs and parts as well as to arrange a training day for

the clients to learn how to upcycle and maintain the bikes.

The Be Aware, Don't Compare team from Colaiste Bhride in Carnew are passionate about addressing the harm caused by the comparison culture that we live in and to highlight to young people that edited images online and in print media are not what 'real' people look like. They are launching a national petition for a change in legislation to have identifying symbols on edited images and have already been featured on local and national radio and in newspapers to raise awareness of their cause. They are hoping to use the €1,000 they have received from YSI to spread their message on billboards in their local area.



Students from Colaiste Bhride who secured a total of €1,700 in funding recently to advance their innovative ideas to bring about positive change in their communities.

Almost €10,000 was granted to 18 YSI teams through the Social Impact Fund that is supported by The Community Foundation for Ireland. The students in receipt of funding are developing innovative ideas around a wide range of issues

including biodiversity, plastic reduction, ocean

pollution, inclusion, social media and online safety, racism, and more. Some 7,000 students throughout Ireland are currently involved in similar projects with Young Social Innovators in 2022.

Rachel Collier, CEO and Co-founder, Young Social Innovators said:

"The applications submitted by young people to the Social Impact Fund were of a very high calibre and we are delighted to provide direct support to eighteen inspiring youth-led projects to help them advance their innovations which will make a real difference in their communities. Witnessing

the professionalism in which these students presented their ideas was truly remarkable and we wish them the very best of luck. We are grateful to The Community Foundation for Ireland for supporting the Social Impact Fund this year, a fund which is dedicated to advancing youth-led

ideas for social good."

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland said: "We believe in 'Empowering Generations'. It is a key part of the equality mission we share with our donors and the 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable groups we

work with across Ireland. We are proud to work with Young Social Innovators as it promotes the vision, creativity and talent of our young people to address some of the biggest challenges facing our communities today. We wish all those involved every success and look forward to seeing the freshness and energy they will bring to finding solutions to a range of issues."

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, BUCKLEY PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTS, on behalf of our client Declan Shaw seek permission for the provision of demolition of portion of existing dwelling to facilitate the subdivision of existing dwelling and site into two separate detached dwelling units with new open passage way between units; closing up of doorway to Unit A (east); partial demolition, reconfiguration & front, rear and side extension to Unit B (west) to include new roof lights, elevation changes; new separate access with new gates to Unit B along with all associated site works at Newlands, Kinlen Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow A63 YR79

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.

RECRUITMENT

Full Artic licence drivers wanted for full time part time or relief work collecting milk in Arklow Rathdrum area

Please contact Larry on
087 679 2241

Margaret **087 935 4662**

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Wicklow Town Heritage Trail weekly Guided Walk

The weekly guided walk of the new Wicklow Town Heritage Trail continues every Saturday from now until the end of September. For tourists visiting Wicklow Town, the new Heritage Trail provides a great insight into the rich heritage of the town.

Locals, Visitors and Tourists are all welcome to take part in what is a very informative walk detailing the rich history of Wicklow Town, from the landing of St. Patrick in 432 to the end of the Civil War in 1923.

This walk will commence from Fitzwilliam Square at 11am and will take approximately 2 hours to complete, allowing participants to spend some time at each location.

There are 7 story-boards (lecterns) with beautifully illustrated artwork showing the following:

- The construction of St. Patrick's church, which commenced in 1839.
- The story of the Franciscan Abbey, which dates back to the 12th Century.
- Robert Halpin's achievement in lay-

ing the first Trans-Atlantic cable.

- The story of Billy Byrne and the 1798 rising in Wicklow Town.
- The history of the Black Castle.
- The attempted landing by St. Patrick at the Travelahawk Beach.
- The history relating to the Barrow Green, including stories of the secret burials that took place there.

On each storyboard, there is a QR code which enables participants to watch a video on their phone, telling them the story of each key location. The actors featured on the videos are members of the local dramatic society.

For further information on the Wicklow Town Heritage Trail, visit www.wicklowtown.ie.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

‘An accident waiting to happen’

Dear Sir,

Like many Dubliners I visit Brittas Bay most summers. Over the Easter weekend I noted with concern serious traffic congestion in the vicinity of McDaniels pub on the R750 at Ballinacarrig.

Cars and other vehicles were parked indiscriminately on grass verges narrowing the road for hours.

This stretch of the R750 requires careful driving at the best of times.

But with this careless Parking I fear it is an accident waiting to happen.

Last year the Gardai installed "No Parking" taping which helped -however it appears to have been removed!

Hopefully the tape can be restored.

Alternatively Double Yellow lines and bollards would assist as is the case on a stretch of the coast road south of Wicklow town near the new Hospice.

Hopefully this problem can be addressed before something serious occurs.

Frank Khan.
Dublin 16.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Bairbre Wilson and Jeff Doyle seek Planning Permission for the demolition of a single storey conservatory to the rear and the construction of a part single and part two-storey extension to the rear and to the side, and all ancillary works at Ceadaoin, Putland Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, A98 YX52. 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

Anita Rishdon intends to apply for Planning Permission for a ground floor extension to the front of house to include entrance a porch and shower room and a ground floor extension to back to widen the existing sun room across back of house at No. 5 Riverside, Cooldross Upper, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ciaran and Tracy Buckley seek planning permission for a single storey extension to side of existing house to provide an ensuite bedroom and living area at 46 Deerpark Walk, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, W91 R6D8. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



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pauline@localtimes.ie



Community Safety Innovation Fund now open for applications

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has urged Wicklow Community Organisations to examine whether they are eligible to apply to the 2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund.

Minister Harris said: "The Department of Justice has now opened the 2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund to new applications. This fund is drawn from the proceeds of crime seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau and the Gardai. "The fund supports local projects that

improve community safety. The Department of Justice has called for applications for projects, that reduce the risk of crime, reduce reoffending and divert vulnerable individuals away from criminal behaviour. Projects funded can also involve the improvement of public spaces or sporting and arts facilities".

The Fund is open to bodies involved in community safety and will support them in addressing local needs and opportunities for innovation not provided for in other funds managed by Departments and agencies. The call for applications for the Fund runs until 8th June 2022 and grants will range from €20,000 to €150,000.

Minister Harris concluded: "For further information please go to justice.ie, email CommunitySafetyInnovationFund@justice.ie or please contact my office directly at simon.harris@oireachtas.ie"



Pictured are members and sponsors of Rathdown & District Community Employment Group; Kathleen Kelleher, Treasurer; Rodney Evans; Anne Ivory; Fergus O'Brien; Maria Nolan, Wesley Galloway, Chairman; Tom Hillery; Vincent Hanly, Secretary; Frank Coyne, Billy Harte, Flo Fennell.

Maria retires from Community Employment Group

Maria Nolan, Supervisor of the Rathdown & District Community Employment Group in Greystones, has retired after 17 years of community service.

The Community Employment Programme is designed to help long term unemployed people to get back to work by offering part time and temporary placements in jobs within the local community.

Over her 17 years service with the group, Maria has helped and monitored over 150 men and women, who had previously been unemployed, to return into the permanent workforce, to further their education or to start their own businesses. They did this using the new experiences, training and skills gained while participating in the scheme, which is sponsored and grant aided by the Department of Social Protection.

Rathdown & District CE Group comprises local churches, sports clubs and community support groups. The group welcomes its new supervisor to the scheme, Laura Flood.

Wesley Galloway, Chairman of the group, says, "Maria has developed a successful programme for participants, offering very varied opportunities for learning new skills. She achieved a high progression rate of participants into further employment.

"This progression is well above the national average. We are delighted with Greystones' success and we wish Maria well in her retirement."

CLASSIFIEDS

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. **R.J.K.**

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