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Tuesday 4th July 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'DON'T BUILD MORE HOMES'

“The recent decision by Wicklow County Council to refuse planning permission for 98 houses in Greystones has raised significant concerns due to the difficult precedent it sets. If this principle is applied throughout the county and beyond, it could lead to a widespread refusal of housing applications across Wicklow and the entire country”, according to Wicklow Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey.

Cairn were refused planning permission by the Council for the 98 houses at the townland of Coolgad near Blacklion, because Greystones has already exceeded its 2028 population target, established in the National Planning Framework and adopted into Wicklow's County Development Plan.

Continuing, Senator Casey said, “As early as 2017, I expressed serious concerns in both parliamentary and committee meetings regarding the potential consequences of adopting this policy, warning that it would result in housing applications being rejected.” “The implications of this decision are

far-reaching. It will lead to the denial of housing applications in various areas of Wicklow, including Newcastle, Kilcoole, Newtown, Ashford, Rathdrum, Roundwood, and others. If other counties follow suit, we can expect similar refusals across the country, particularly in commuter belt counties



Carol Whelan with Emily and Aoife Quinn at the Taste of Wicklow, at Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School in Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly



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such as Kildare, Meath, and Louth.

“Should a population target alone be a valid refusal reason in a housing crisis? A target is an aspiration or objective that you aim to achieve within a specific timeframe. It serves as a benchmark, providing focus and direction. Reaching a target is certainly an achievement, but it should not be perceived as the endpoint or a reason to stop progress.

“It is daft that reaching a housing population target becomes a sole reason to refuse the delivery of more homes during a housing crisis. If we were to reach our climate change targets before 2030 in any one sector, will we stop?”

“I am strongly urging an immediate review of the population targets outlined in the National Planning Framework and Regional Plans.

Furthermore, I am calling for the modification of all existing county plans affected by this issue. This review should consider the most up-to-date population figures available from the latest census.”

“Urgent action is required to address this situation, as we find ourselves in the midst of a housing crisis, and this focus on flawed and failed population targets must be changed.”

Also speaking on the matter, Cllr Derek Mitchell said “Last year's Census showed that the population of Greystones was 300 below the target of 21,727. There are over 1,000 houses with permission, many currently being constructed, so when occupied the population could be 24,000. There has been a huge expansion of Greystones but this is

the first time I have seen a refusal based on being over target popu-

lation. The challenge for the local authority is to get the infrastructure,

transport and budget to support all this development.”

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Graham, Quinn, Laura and Adam Larkin at the Taste of Wicklow at Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, Wicklow Town

Beacon CARE Fertility announce Vhi Collaboration

Fertility Pioneers, Beacon CARE Fertility, is now a Vhi Approved Fertility Clinic. The partnership enables Vhi members to access a wide range of fertility benefits, including Beacon CARE Fertility's cutting-edge IVF with Genetic Testing (PGT), depending on their level of cover.

The announcement adds to the Clinic's series of notable developments, including the recent openings of two Satellite Clinics in Drogheda and Limerick and the launch of their Egg Freezing AI Technology.

"Our motivation from Day 1 was to deliver the latest international techniques, science and expertise to fertility patients in Ireland, without the need to travel abroad," says Medical Director, Dr Ahmed Omar.

"We are delighted that access to our services is now more accessible than ever with our Satellite Clinics and Vhi Partnership", adds Dr Omar.

Sean Walks 300km

"100K in June" slogan seems to be sweeping the country since the start of the month.

The Marie Keating foundation is back again for the annual 100K during the 30 days of June in aid of Breast Cancer Services.

Sean Olohan representing himself and his local Wicklow Lions Club will walk 300K instead of the required minimum of 100K. He is supported by Wicklow Lions as well as many of the members.

If anyone would like to sponsor Sean this can be done directly or through Revolut (086-3428043). Members of Wicklow Lions Club will also accept donations. All proceeds will be passed on to the Marie Keating foundation when Sean completes his 10K a day walk until the end of the month.

Camino Trek 2023

Make Walking The Camino one of your goals for 2023 and help Purple House to support families living with Cancer in Wicklow and beyond.

The trek will take place from the 3rd-10th September 2023 will include a fully guided trek over 6 days from Sarria to Santiago de compostela.

Previous Camino trekker Karen Quinn from Bray says: "Myself, Megan, Lauren & Molly where part of the Camino trek team 2019 for Purple House. The experience itself was a once in a lifetime opportunity for us & we were very honoured to be doing it for Purple House Cancer Support. Purple House is very close to all our hearts. They do amazing work supporting families affected by cancer in the community. The trek itself was an amazing experience and we made lifelong friends & memories we'll never forget. The days where spent sharing our own stories with each other as we supported & encouraged everyone along the way. The places we passed through and visited where amazing and I'd encourage anyone who has the opportunity to take part, to go for it."

For more information, contact Purple House on 012866966 or visit purplehouse.ie



Delgany Rose Show returns

The Delgany Rose Show took place on Saturday, June 24th, at the Old Schoolhouse in Delgany. The event was organised for the first time in four years by the Delgany and District Horticultural Society.

Cllr Stephen Stokes attended the event and congratulated the organisers. Cllr Stokes stated: "The event was a great success. I would like to commend all of the volunteers and the entrants that took part. It was great to see and smell so many of the horticultural entries."

Entries were received from across Wicklow and Dublin. The Horticultural Society serving Delgany and District was first founded in the 1870s. Cllr Stephen Stokes added: "It was nice to see people come to the event from across the area. People look forward to these kinds of events during the summer. It adds great social value to the community. I would like to wish the Delgany and District Horticultural Society the best of continued success."



Cllr Stokes at the Delgany Rose Show

Newcastle Flower Festival a 'blooming' success

The flowers were in full bloom in Newcastle for the annual Flower Festival organised by Newcastle Parish.

The event was held over three days and featured a Gardeners Question Time, where horticulturist turned Rector Ross Styles was joined on the panel by Cherry Sleeman and John Stephenson, who answered all sorts of gardening related questions from the audience.

This event led into the weekend, where a large selection of flowers and plants were available to view in the church and grounds of Newcastle parish. Each floral arrangement was based on one of the arrangers favourite hymns. The festival concluded with a beautiful Songs of Praise service, which featured the hymns chosen by the flower arrangers.

Rev. Ross Styles says "We had a wonderful Flower Festival this weekend. Our sincere thanks to Sheila for organising it and for playing the hymns so beautifully at our Songs of Praise service. Thank you to Karen for coordinating and to Caroline for the magnificent plant sale! Huge thanks to everyone for all the incredible arrangements, they were stunning, to Peter who looked after the sound and everyone who set up, cleaned up, baked, served teas and sold tickets! Finally, many thanks to everyone who came and supported this special event!"



Flowers on display at the Newcastle Flower Show

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

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‘N11 traffic congestion is being resolved’

There are major traffic jams on the M50 and N11 each evening and even worse on bank holiday weekends. Speaking recently about the congestion issues Minister Simon Harris discussed a number of factors in relation to the N11 congestion.

“I fully agree that the situation cannot continue (N11), and I also agree that the resolution will come from a number of elements being addressed. I use the N11 myself every day and I understand the frustration people feel,” Minister Harris said.

“People in County Wicklow should expect a more efficient commute on the N11 (north or south), but this is not the case at the moment, which is partially due to peoples work schedules and not having more options for their commute.”

Park and Ride is being rolled out on the N11 with Fassaroe, Ashford and



Traffic on the N11

several locations over the next eighteen months. The Park and Ride will also need designated bus corridors to compliment this

service and the design of these corridors are under consideration now.

Minister Harris said “Another issue which is

contributing to traffic congestion on the N11 are tailbacks from exits, a number of exits are being examined to allow drivers to exit the road efficiently and not sit in heavy traffic, exit 7 (south Bray) is an example of this, not alone is this a congestion issue but it is also a very dangerous exit as the tailback can extend back down the N11. A number of exits will need to be redesigned to make them more efficient to cope with the higher traffic volumes.”

The National Transport Authority is charged with all aspects of this project in conjunction with Wicklow County Council.

Harris encourages Council to complete N81 Safety Scheme

Minister Simon Harris has today encouraged Wicklow County Council to finish a Feasibility and Options Report that will set out their proposed safety scheme for the N81 in Blessington South along with a request for funding.

After working with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Minister Harris has confirmed that TII are currently awaiting the completion and submission of the Feasibility and Options Report so that it’s safety scheme can be reviewed.

Minister Harris said, “I have been in close contact with a number of Blessington residents who have raised their concerns about pedestrian and road safety along the N81. After being in touch with both Wicklow County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, I have received confirmation that Transport

Infrastructure Ireland are currently waiting for Wicklow County Council to submit a report detailing their safety scheme proposal for this stretch of the N81, and I want to encourage Wicklow County Council to follow up on this as soon as possible.

“Ensuring pedestrian and road safety must be a priority in our towns, especially as so many students walk to school in Blessington every morning. I want to thank everyone who has been in touch with me recently on this issue and look forward to continuing to work on it,” concluded Minister Harris.

Low noise materials to be used for Newtown road resurfacing

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has welcomed the decision by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to revisit its decision in respect of resurfacing works on the N11 at Newtownmountkennedy. The original plans were to replace the current surface with similar material, but following representation from Brady TII committed to using low noise material in the resurfacing works.

Deputy Brady said: “Residents in the area were being significantly impacted by traffic noise in the area. Many could no longer use their gardens. Some residents reported being woken at 5 a.m. daily by traffic. Residents had been waiting patiently for the N11 to be resurfaced, hoping that the EU law Environmental Noise Directive would ensure that the next surface would be noise-reducing, particularly as one of the key action areas is the prevention and reduction of environmental noise.

“The original decision to replace like with like was met with dismay by residents. But thankfully following my representations the decision has been taken to review the situation and to now use low noise materials.

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Pictured is Fine Gael councillor Edward Timmins (left), the new Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, with Cllr Vincent Blake, who was elected Leas Cathaoirleach. Cllr Timmins said he was honoured to be elected into the position.

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In Partnership With



Arklow celebrates 50 years of EU membership



Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Cllr Tommy Annesley celebrates Ireland's 50 years of EU membership, with children from local primary schools.

Arklow Municipal District in partnership with Arklow Library recently welcomed students along with the parents and teachers from local primary schools to a prize giving event to mark 50 years of Ireland's EU membership.

During the month of May a competition was held to mark the anniversary. Students were asked to complete an EU Fun Fact Trail by visiting the Library in Arklow and the District Offices as well as picking up some fun facts along Arklow Main Street.

All individual entries from participating schools are on display in Arklow Library and each entrant took home a prize for participation, prizes were also awarded to primary schools who had participated.

Welcoming the students, Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, expressed his admiration for the colourful display of entries and commended the pupils for their participation in the competition.

He thanked the Department of Foreign Affairs for allocating funding to the District to hold the competition celebrating Ireland's 50 years membership of the European Union and went on to say that it was fantastic to see the staff from the library and Municipal District working in partnership to hold such an event and hoped to see many more.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, offered her congratulations to all the students who entered the competition and welcomed the collaboration between the Municipal District and Library.

Each participant received a goodie bag and each primary school received a small prize to acknowledge their efforts.

Council joins forces with Think Before You Flush Campaign to protect Blue Flag Beaches



Katrina Browne, Uisce Eireann, Michael McNamara, Wicklow County Council, and Jonathan Deane, Uisce Eireann. Picture by Dylan Vaughan

In a landmark collaboration, Wicklow County Council has come together with other local authorities from coastal regions across Ireland to pledge their commitment to the "Think Before You Flush" campaign on all Blue Flag Beaches. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of flushing instead of binning sanitary products on our natural environment including beaches and promote responsible waste management practices among beachgoers.

The "Think Before You Flush" campaign, operated by Clean Coasts in partnership with Uisce Éireann, emphasises the importance of appropriate flushing behaviour and disposal of items including wipes and other sanitary products in the bin, even if they are labelled as flushable. Only the 3 Ps, pee, poo and paper should be flushed down the toilet. When items such as wipes and sanitary products are flushed down the toilet, they can cause serious blockages in sewage systems, leading to sewage overflows and ultimately polluting coastal waters and beaches.

Recognising the urgent need to protect Ireland's remarkable coastal ecosystems, Wicklow County Council has united with other coastal local authorities around Ireland in their commitment to spread awareness about the campaign and promote responsible waste disposal practices.

Under this collaborative effort, participating councils will display Think Before You Flush signage on Blue Flag Beaches, offering clear instructions on appropriate flushing behaviour, highlighting the main items people incorrectly flush down their toilets (the 'Dirty Dozen') and encouraging visitors to use designated sanitary waste bins.

By partnering with

Clean Coasts and Uisce Éireann's Think Before You Flush campaign, Wicklow County Council aims to foster a culture of environmental responsibility, where individuals can take proactive steps to protect our coastal habitats. The success of this campaign hinges on the participation and support of Wicklow's coastal stakeholders, including the public, beachgoers, residents, and tourists alike.

Sinead McCoy, Coastal Communities Manager at Clean Coasts, expressed her enthusiasm for Wicklow County Council's collaborative efforts and support of the campaign.

"We are thrilled to see Wicklow County Council and communities from coastal regions across Ireland joining forces to champion the 'Think Before You Flush' campaign on our cherished Blue Flag Beaches.

This joint commitment not only underscores Wicklow County Council's dedication to promoting environmental practices but also highlights shared responsibility for our coastal communities."

Talking about the importance of safeguarding our water and our local environment including our Blue Flag beaches Tom Cuddy, Uisce Éireann said: "Everyday people flush thousands of sanitary items such as wet wipes



A wet wipe that has been flushed down the toilet washes up on a beach

and cotton buds down the toilet instead of simply putting them in the bin. This causes blockages in our network, pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants and can lead to sewage overflows impacting some of our

most beautiful coastal and river locations. We clear approximately 10,000 blockages from our wastewater network every year."

Tom continued: "We are delighted to continue our partnership with Clean Coasts and collab-

orate with local councils and communities including those with Blue Flag beaches to preserve and protect our environment and shine a light on the link between what you flush down the toilet and can end up on your local beach."

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public road.

Road to be closed
L-58084 Ravenswell Road (Dargle River Walk).

Period of closure
From 0:00 hours to 0:00 hours Monday 3rd July to Monday 17th July.

Alternative Routes
Minor Deviation from the path through Ballymore owned lands, safe surface for cyclists and pedestrians via this diversion (approx. 50m long).

Reason for Closure
Installation of river outfall to the River Dargle.

‘Men’s Sheds need Govt support’

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Government to provide more support to Wicklow’s Men’s Sheds and those across the country in the upcoming budget. Whitmore made the call following a meeting with the Irish Men’s Sheds Association where she discussed their pre-budget submission with their CEO Enda Egan.

Deputy Whitmore said: "It was a pleasure to meet with representatives from the Irish Men’s Sheds Association this week in Dublin. We discussed their pre-budget submission which lays out their recommendations to government. They are looking for a modest increase in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development. And the money invested in these sheds is very well spent."

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw reports from ALONE about increased rates of loneliness amongst older people. Many people are only now returning to more socialising, and these sheds offer an excellent resource for men returning to their communities."

"We can see the great work done in Wicklow, where we have Men’s Sheds around the county in Arklow, Greystones, Bray, Wicklow Town, Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Blessington, Kilcoole, Tinahealy, Roundwood and Avoca. These spaces allow men to socialise, get active, be creative and learn new skills. Men’s mental

health is an issue that we are increasingly encouraged to promote. Men’s Sheds are an excellent way for men, especially those living alone, to socialise and build community networks."

"One of the most worrying statistics in their pre-budget submission is that as many as 70 Men’s Sheds are continuously threatened by closure. The IMSA are seeking dedicated funding to target these sheds, which cannot always remain open year-round. When building a network for people in our communities, we must have consistency of access. Sheds need the funding to open regularly and offer their members activities and projects."

"We also have had several Women’s Sheds in Wicklow. These projects allow women to have a dedicated space and build new skills and connections. I am happy to support their call for an increase in funding, and I will raise this directly with government Ministers in the budget run-up at every chance I get."



Deputy Whitmore with Enda Egan from the Irish Men’s Sheds Association



Green Party councillor Erika Doyle with her daughter and activist Emer O’Neill with her daughter, pictured at the Bray For Love intercultural Family Community Day at the Carlisle Grounds

85 FOI requests made to Council

There were 85 requests made to Wicklow County Council under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act in 2022, according to the FOI Office’s annual report. 18 of these requests were personal and 67 were non-personal.

Speaking at the publication of his Office’s annual report for 2022, the Information Commissioner, Ger Deering, said that usage of FOI remained high with a 26% increase in the number of FOI requests made to public bodies since 2015. Nationally there were over 35,000 requests made to public bodies and 657 applications made to the Information Commissioner to review FOI decisions made by public bodies. There were 35,465 FOI requests made to public bodies, such as government departments, local authorities and voluntary hospitals, in 2022. There were 11,233 FOI requests made to the HSE - an increase of 12% on 2021. The number of requests to the Department of Social Protection increased by 20% on 2021 (to 2,085), while TUSLA reported a drop of 18% on the preceding year (down to 1,120 in 2022).

The Office of the Information Commissioner received 657 applications to review decisions made by public bodies under the FOI Act - mostly involving refusals of access to records. The Commissioner accepted 81 applications in relation to HSE decisions, 31 involved the Department of Justice, while TUSLA saw 25 of its decisions challenged. The Information Commissioner also referred to the ongoing review of the FOI Act by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The Commissioner’s Office made a detailed submission to the Minister aimed at improving the FOI process for everyone, including users and public bodies. The Commissioner said he looked forward to working with the Minister’s officials to progress the implementation of the review.

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Simona and Alyssa Vecoli at the Taste of Wicklow, at Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School in Wicklow Town

Calls for restoration of Cliff Walk Committee

Independent councillors Joe Behan (Bray Municipal District) and Stephen Stokes (Greystones Municipal District) are calling for the restoration of the Cliff Walk Management Committee. The committee used to meet regularly in the days of Bray Town Council and Greystones Town Council. It comprised of Councillors and Council Officials.

Both Cllr Behan and Cllr Stokes submitted motions to their respective Municipal Districts.

Cllr Joe Behan stated: "The Cliff Walk is an essential local amenity that draws in visitors from across Wicklow, and from around the world. People are rightly frustrated by the slow pace of re-opening. We need to address the outstanding issues as a matter of priority."

Greystones Municipal District has now approved the motion submitted by Councillor Stephen Stokes seeking the restoration of the Cliff Walk Management Committee. Cllr Stokes added: "Myself and Cllr Behan are determined to seek action. The Cliff Walk also provides an important boost to tourism. Many local businesses struggled during Covid. One way to help them is to get more tourists visiting the area. A key part of this strategy must include the Cliff Walk. The current Cliff Walk Management Committee exists in name only."

Cllr Joe Behan and Cllr Stephen Stokes highlighted the need for forward planning. Cllr Behan noted: "The pace of change has been slow, but eventually we expect the current issues to be resolved. We need to consider a strategic plan to harness the potential of the Cliff Walk. This can be tied in with the proposed East Coast Greenway. People will be able to walk from Bray to Wicklow Town, with stops in Greystones, Kilcoole or Newcastle. As such we need to breathe new life into the Cliff Walk Management Committee."



Councillors Stephen Stokes and Joe Behan.

Bollards for Bray Main Street

Green Party Councillor for Bray Cllr Erika Doyle has confirmed that bollards will be installed along the Main Street in Bray, to protect pedestrians, cyclists, and little scooterists from cars mounting and parking on kerbs and footpaths.

Cllr Doyle said, "When we first discussed the Bolt e-bike scheme, I asked if any infrastructural additions would be

made. Permanent cycling infrastructure improvements are needed but I wondered if a temporary solution could be provided given we were planning to install and promote an e-bike scheme."

"I was delighted when it was confirmed that soft bollards would be installed along the Main Street. Recent weeks saw delays with the rollout of the bike scheme which is thankfully now up and running. It was confirmed to me that the bollards will be installed very soon, making the Main

Street safer for everybody who uses the footpaths and cycle lanes."

"If we wish to encourage people to use bikes, both electric and manual, where they can, then we must make it safe for them to do so. This goes for walking too, and footpaths should always be prioritised over roads due to the vulnerability of pedestrians compared to car users. We have a lot more to do in Bray and I will continue to advocate for local people who wish for a safer, cleaner town."



Cllr Erika Doyle

Funding for 171 community projects

Wicklow County Council is to receive over €300,000 to fund 171 community projects under a Government scheme. Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, announced the successful projects in County Wicklow under the 2022 Community Support Fund.

The fund was launched in November 2022 with funding of €10m. The key theme of the fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their energy bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

The Community Support Fund is a once off fund provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority, in each area. It is targeted towards enhancing facilities in disadvantaged communities. It provides small grants to community groups in a manner consistent with each area's Local Economic and Community Plan.

Funding of €308,834 for Wicklow was welcomed by Cllr

Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, who stated: "This is a very welcome announcement and the funding will be invaluable to communities around the county."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, also welcomed the announcement of the successful projects stating: "It will be of great benefit to the many organisations and groups in the County who work hard to improve services for their members and their communities."

Minister Humphreys said: "I am delighted to announce almost €308,834 in funding for 171 local projects across County Wicklow. This funding is all about giving a helping hand to our local groups and clubs with their energy costs, whether it's the electricity bill,

insurance costs or other overheads. While these grants are small in nature, they can make a big difference by allowing local community organisations to carry out much needed works in their area."

She said she appreciated the fantastic work carried out by volunteers in communities across the country whether it's the local Parish Hall Committee, the Development Association or the local Senior Citizens Group. These local committees work hard to make sure they can keep the lights on and run fantastic local services and events for young and old to enjoy."

The Minister added: "I would like to thank Wicklow County Council and Local Community Development Committee for their assistance in administering this fund."



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New street banners promote Wicklow Town as a great place to live, work and play

Seventeen new street banners promoting Wicklow Town as a destination to Shop, Discover, Enjoy and Relax were erected at Abbey Street, Main Street, Church Street, The Mall, Market Street, Market Square, in Wicklow Town last week.



Paul O'Brien Cathaoirleach, Stephen Delaney President, Brian Gleeson Head of Finance.

These new street banners, which replace banners erected by Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce in 2016, have been funded by the Wicklow Municipal District Council following on representation made to them recently as part of their contribution to ensuring the revitalisation of the many and varied businesses that make Wicklow Town an extremely attractive town to do business in.

Speaking as the new banners were erected, Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District Council said that he and his fellow Councillors were pleased to support this initiative to promote Wicklow Town as part of their ongoing commitment to promote Wicklow Town as a great place to live, work and play. He said that the funding that his fellow Councillors agreed demonstrated the Municipal District Council's determination to continue to support the "Shop Local" campaign, together with promoting everything positive which Wicklow Town has to offer.

Chamber President Mr Stephen Delaney, on behalf of Wicklow Town and District Chamber expressed his thanks to Wicklow Municipal District Council for their funding of this project and he looked forward to continuing to work positively on projects both now and in the future with the Local Authority's ongoing programme to promote Wicklow Town as the capital town of the garden county.



May Kennedy with Ray D'Arcy at the 'Run with Ray' event in Avondale Forest Park, Rathdrum.

'Government still asleep at the wheel on NCT'

Jennifer Whitmore TD has described as "totally unreasonable" the waiting periods for access to NCT appointments for people living in Wicklow.

Deputy Whitmore said: "The current waiting lists for local and nearby NCT centres are unacceptably long. Arklow, the only test centre in Wicklow, does not have an appointment available until February 2024, which is eight

months away. Deansgrange and Naas, the next nearest centres also have an 8-month wait for appointments. The next best is Carlow where you can get an appointment next January.

"Wicklow motorists are

being left in the lurch by the NCT. They are in a position where they have to book an NCT test 8 months in advance or try to get appointments as far away as Athlone or Drogheda. Most motorists are responsible road users

and want to comply with the regulations for NCT testing, but that is becoming increasingly difficult when they are being asked to wait for eight months.

"It is totally unreasonable to expect motorists to meet this standard while not ensuring that the service being provided is delivered in a timely manner. This cannot continue for much longer, or we may find ourselves in the position of a year-long waiting list for an NCT.

"Staff in the test centres are trying their best and are under huge pressure but it appears that systemic issues outside their control are contributing to the backlog. The Department of Transport must work with Applus to ensure staffing and equipment resources needed to get through this backlog are put in place. "What is most frustrating is that I have raised this issue before. In January we saw similar wait times and we were assured by the government that sanctions imposed on the provider Applus would help curb these lists but they have not."

Are you interested in running a Café at Mermaid Arts Centre?

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Deadline for expression of interest
5pm on Friday 14th July.

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Eoghan and Lorraine Delaney at the official opening of the Wicklow Rovers Sensory Garden, Station Road, Wicklow Town.

New exemption makes it easier to store bikes in front gardens

Wicklow bike owners will find it much easier to put a bike shed in their front or back gardens after Wicklow Green Party TD Steven Matthews, the Green Party spokesperson for planning and local government, drafted a new exemption which would remove the requirement for bike storage units to receive planning permission within certain limits.

This would remove the burden of unnecessary regulation and make it easier for more people to take up cycling. Deputy Matthews said, "The exemption would cover structures solely intended for the storage of bicycles or 'personal powered transporters (e-scooters and e-bikes)' with an approximate floor area of 4 metres squared and an approximate height of 1.2 metres, as long as they are appropriately screened or finished in keeping with the character of the house or street."

Deputy Matthews explained why he is proposing this exemption; "To tackle the climate crisis, we need to do everything we can to encourage people to

switch to green transport such as cycling. Cycling is a fantastic way to cut carbon and improve your health, so we should not put unnecessary barriers in people's way. If someone wants to install a small and discreet bike shed, they should not get bogged down in bureaucracy or held back by red tape. We need to be flexible and work with people to achieve a sustainable society."

Last year, An Bord Pleanála ordered the owner of a house in Clontarf to remove a bike storage unit in their front garden as it did not have planning permission. This exemption would eliminate this kind of excessive over-regulation which only makes it more difficult for people to cycle.



Steven Matthews TD

Bray is clean to European norms

Bray town is clean to European norms according to a major national survey carried out by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL).

The survey commented: "A very strong performance by Bray on its return to the League with seven out of the 10 sites surveyed getting

the top litter grade. It noted just one heavily littered site in at Dargle Road/Upper Dargle Road - but added: "Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant properties along the Main Street as there was no litter directly associated with them."

The survey ranked Bray joint 13th out of 40 towns and cities surveyed. It also had praise for the new Bray Central development commenting: "Bray Central is a very recent addition to the town - an exceptionally freshly presented and maintained town centre shopping environment with attractive planting and a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed."

Other locations mentioned in the report include the approach roads, Bray Recycle Centre, Pinewood Close and Bray Town Park, all securing a high grade.

Bray Main Street achieved Grade A status and the judges commented: "Exceptionally fresh main shopping street environment with lovely paving throughout. Work was taking place on some vacant/closed down premises but there were still several others along the Main Street - clearly a close eye is kept on them as they didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. Stainless steel bollards, bicycle parking,

wooden seating and visitor information notices were all in very good condition and there were just a couple of tiny incidents of graffiti."

Welcoming the results of the report, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, said: "I would like to congratulate the staff of Bray Municipal

District on these excellent results for the Town of Bray, it is their commitment and dedication which has led to these positive results in the latest IBAL survey. We must all continue our efforts to dispose of litter correctly and I would appeal to everyone when visiting our parks, beaches and open spaces to

bring litter home or use the bins provided."

Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager, stated: "I would like to pay tribute to the local business community and Tidy Towns committee along with their volunteers who work tirelessly with Bray Municipal District to keep Bray looking so beautiful."

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Road to be closed

Portland Road, Hawkins Lane and Quarry Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Period of closure

18th and 19th July 2023, from 07:00am to 09:00pm on both days.

Alternative Routes

Residents of Portland Road, Hawkins Lane & Quarry Road:

Access by vehicle and on foot at all times except when filming sequences which will just be a few minutes at a time.

Residents of Burnaby Road, Somerby Road, St. Vincent Road, Portland Road North, Kinlen Road, Old Mill Road, Erskine Road, Portland Place, South Place:

Access at all times throughout the two days by vehicle and on foot by entering their relevant streets from the opposite ends of Portland Row, Hawkins Lane and Quarry Road.

All residents will be fully informed in advance about the best direction from which to access their homes and streets so as to avoid the key filming area and to avoid delays.

Reason for Closure

To facilitate filming.

Live-in Care with ALHomecare... Works for my family!

When Alanna's father received a diagnosis of Alzheimer's six years ago, it was a devastating blow for the family. He was only in his fifties.

"Dad retired at 54 and by the following year we started noticing different things, like that he was getting up at night and walking around, or just being a little confused," Alanna explains.

For the first four years after his diagnosis, Alanna's father was able to go about his everyday life as before, which was wonderful.

But life threw another curveball at the family when, in January of 2022, her mother became very ill, ultimately spending 3 months in hospital. It was an incredibly scary experience for the family, not least because it coincided with a period of decline in her father.

"By that stage Dad couldn't be on his own and we were thrown into crisis mode trying to figure out how are we going to get through the next few months?" says Alanna.

It was through the public health services

that Alanna first heard of ALHomecare – which stands for Affordable Live-in Homecare.

ALHomecare helped the family through the crisis. "When all of this happened there were lots of options out there for us as a family but no other solution," she says.

The family's carer, Sara, was from Portugal. "She was an angel. She slotted into our family unit like she was always there. Sara prepared nutritious meals and did general day to day things like laundry," says Alanna.

Thankfully, the point came last October when Alanna's mother was well enough to care for her husband, and Sara's time with the family came to an end.

"ALHomecare was the only solution for

us and I would highly recommend it to others. I've never seen compassion like it." Says Alanna.

Give ALHomecare a call and find out why more and more people are availing of this person-centred approach to home care

that's more affordable than a nursing home or private visiting care service.

If you'd like to find out more visit www.alhomecare.ie or call ALHomecare's nationwide inquiry lines: **087 991 6791** or **087 744 0729**.



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Alanna with her Dad and his grandson.

WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL

Wicklow Pride Festival makes history

On the 1st July 2023 the first ever Pride Parade took place in Wicklow Town thanks to the Wicklow Pride Festival.

A tsunami of colour from the original rainbow stripes on flags, tote bags, hats and more, and the blue, white and pink of the Trans Flags could be seen among the many people that attended the parade. Community groups from the garden county filled the car park at the Grand Hotel with many other groups and organisations from around Ireland also in attendance. Visitors from Boston also flew in for the event.

As the young and old had their faces painted with rainbows and love hearts, the atmosphere was electric with music pumping from the stage thanks to the DJ Oisín Molloy who also sang a few songs between tracks. However, all the tunes came to a pause at 1pm for the stunning performers from The Zoryanna dance troupe. Their movements are inspired from folkloric dances from exotic locations including India, the Middle East and Indonesia.

After a safety announcement and a 'thank you' to the many Wicklow Pride Festival sponsors by its Cofounder and Chair-person Dave Thomas, the committee that worked tirelessly on this vibrant festival were introduced to the crowd who showed their love and appreciation with a huge cheer and applause for Caroline, Conor, SL, Adam and Patrick. This was followed by a powerful and inspirational speech from the Grand Marshall Rebecca Tallon de Havilland, a stunning trans woman and a pioneer for equality and rights for all trans people.

We asked the festival's Chairperson what does Wicklow Pride Festival do?: "Wicklow Pride Festival creates a positive

awareness of the issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community. We create projects and a festival that is inclusive of all, and that is extremely important to us. And we continue to promote and work to create an environment whereby everyone is treated as an equal so that they can live their true authentic self. I think we have done a decent job this year looking at all those that turned up, and the amazing positive feedback we received."

The festival began as a very small event in Arklow in 2014. Dave, with his partner Patrick, personally funded and organised the first ever Pride event, and it was so well received they decided to broaden it out into a countywide event. "And from there it grew over the years", says Dave, "along with the interest from everyone to get involved and support this initiative. Then the pandemic happened. So with no physical events taking place, I kept the project alive by encouraging people to fly the Pride flag in June and July (Wicklow Pride month is July), and began the work at proposing permanent Pride Rainbow Crossings. The first one happened in Arklow in 2021, and this year Wicklow County Council accepted the motion to create a Pride crossing in each of the Municipal Districts, supported by Cllr. Lourda Scott and Cllr. Paul O'Brien and many others from Wicklow County Council. No other county has ever done this, and it's unique from a global perspective too. So County Wicklow really is breaking the mould and making amazing history. It's something to be very proud of."



Pictured is Muireann (Mike) Smith at the Wicklow Pride Festival in Wicklow Town



Pictured are Katie Connolly and Aimee Kirwan at the Wicklow Pride Festival in Wicklow Town.

Cllr. AOIFE FLYNN-KENNEDY FINE GAEL
Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council

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WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL

It was now time for the parade to start, and off it went through the town with whistles blaring, music bouncing off the buildings, cheering and calls of 'happy pride' as onlookers waved and joined in with the cheers as the parade passed by.

The first ever Pride Parade circled Wicklow Town taking everyone back to the Grand Hotel car park where it all started. History was now made, and was enjoyed by so many. However, the

day was far from over.

O'Shea's Corner, one of the festival sponsors, had a Pride Comedy show and a Drag Extravaganza Show evening ready to entertain everyone after their exciting walk.

There was also Pride themed entertainment happening throughout Wicklow Town. The exhausting and very full day came to an end for all the committee members, stewards, supporters and towns people, with many talking about Wicklow

Pride 2024! “I have been asked a lot about next year already. So that's a very good sign. All I can say is that the Committee will be looking at building on the success of this year's event, to reach out across the county throughout 2023 and 2024, so that we can bring aspects of the festival to communities that may not be able to get to the main events next July,” explains Dave. “We will gather in September to start all

over again, and we invite everyone interested in working on the 2024 events to reach out to us via our email, website or social media.”

The Wicklow Pride Festival was an explosion of colour, music, laughter and fun. However, it can't be ignored that the essence of the festival was to bring the entire community together to celebrate as one, and that it did with pride and with flying colours...all six of them!

Esri map celebrates the history of Pride

Esri Ireland, the market leader in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), has created an LGBTQ+ Pride Month digital StoryMap. The map highlights 'The History of Pride in Ireland' and features a full schedule of Pride celebrations across the country.

Using the interactive map, developed with Esri's ArcGIS digital mapping system, embark on a captivating journey that follows the story of the LGBTQ+ community in Ireland. Discover pivotal historical moments, significant locations, and transformative events that sparked a profound societal shift towards a more diverse and inclusive Ireland. The map also features LGBTQ+ Resource Centres that offer support, guidance, and meetups across the island of Ireland.

The Map covers events from the early 70s, starting with the Annual Picnic in Merrion Square and the first Pride March (1974) and first Pride Week (1979), to more recent events such as the legalising of same sex marriage in Ireland (2015) and Northern Ireland (2020).

The Summer of Pride Map is your guide to the vibrant tapestry of Pride festivals and parades that are happening around Ireland. This year, the iconic Dublin Pride Festival (19th - 25th June) celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first Dublin Pride Parade. From Belfast to Galway to Cork there has been theatre, live music, quiz nights, rock & roll bingo, parades, and more.

To top it all off, this year Laois is making history with its first-ever Pride Festival on September 14-17th.




Pictured are members of the Wicklow RNLI at the Wicklow Pride Festival in Wicklow Town.



There was a hugh turnout for the Wicklow Pride Festival in Wicklow Town.



 **Wicklow County Council,
promoting positive inclusion
and working to create a better
understanding and acceptance
of diversity in our community.**



St. Fergal's students turn an idea into a business

4th class students from St. Fergal's in Bray learnt at first-hand what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur during the Junior Achievement 'It's My Business' programme sponsored by AIB.



St Fergal's 4th class students participating in the Junior Achievement 'It's My Business' programme in association with AIB. Pic: Shayne Phelan

4th class students from St. Fergal's National School had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Achievement 'It's My Business' programme sponsored by AIB, which was facilitated by business volunteer Ellen McHugh, from AIB.

Over five modules, students aged 9-10, learned the steps involved in launching a business. Through identifying their very own entrepreneurial characteristics, they worked in teams to develop business ideas, innovation, and market research to develop a business start-up, culminating with an opportunity to pitch their new business to potential "investors". There were ideas for minding your pets, handmade bracelets and personalised football cards.

AIB volunteer Ellen visited the local classroom over five weeks and helped the students identify their very own entrepreneurial characteristics. Encouraged by their AIB volunteers working alongside their teachers the students formed teams to develop business ideas, practice innovating and

conducted market research to develop a business start-up. All their work culminated in an opportunity to pitch their new business to potential 'investors'.

The excitement as the students presented their ideas was palpable and every student contributed to a most enjoyable morning. The panel of investors, Jonathan Hovenden and Amy MacNamara from AIB local branch in Bray heard some fantastic ideas and were most impressed with the way the students presented their plans. The Q & As which followed each presentation were fantastic and the teams handled the negotiations brilliantly as investors quizzed the young entrepreneurs about their businesses. While having a great deal of fun, the students got some invaluable practice in making a presentation and got the chance to demonstrate that they had acquired the fundamental business concepts having completed their five module programme with their AIB volunteers.

Over five modules, students aged 9-10, learned the steps involved in

launching a business. Through identifying their very own entrepreneurial characteristics, they worked in teams to develop business ideas, innovation, and market research to develop a business start-up, culminating with an opportunity to pitch their new business to potential "investors". There were detachable hair braids, charm bracelets, football fact cards and surprise jewellery bags.

It's My Business, is now in its second year, will enable more than 6,000 students in 250 classrooms schools nationwide to acquire and practice key entrepreneurial skills such as team-working, adaptability and critical decision-making, which are identified as fundamental to future success.

Jonathan Hovenden, Branch Manager, AIB Bray, said "It was a real pleasure to take part in today's event, it was brilliant to see such young entrepreneurs with really brilliant business ideas. I think we can definitely say that the future of commerce is safe with such great young minds coming through. The

event was really well organised, and we could see that a lot of work has gone into preparing everything in the background so a big well done must go to the Teachers as well. The students were so good at talking and putting their pitch across, no nerves and really confident. A big well done to all involved and long may it continue."

St. Fergal's teacher Bernadette Keyes said "The students really enjoyed coming up with their own business ideas. They loved working together and working on their pitches. Most of them are selling their products already saving up to buy more materials to continue production. They all grew in confidence through practicing their pitches. I am very proud of how they organised and conducted themselves".

4th class student



St Fergal's 4th class students celebrate completing the 'It's My Business' programme. Pic: Shayne Phelan

Ophelia Lynn said "I think the Junior Achievement programme was helpful to prepare us for our future jobs", and 4th class student Abigail Martin said "It was creative, making our own business and promoting it. Thank you to Ellen for visiting the class".

CEO of Junior Achievement Ireland, Helen Raftery, said:

"Educators refer to school communities (not just schools) because the involvement of families and the wider community is inherent to the achievement of positive educational outcomes for all children. Students who have adult involvement in their schooling generally have better grades, better attendance, and higher graduation rates. Getting

the opportunity to work with positive role models from the world of work makes a significant impact on young people. Our 25+ years of industry-education collaboration with organisations like AIB has had a direct positive impact on the lives of nearly 1,000,000 young people in Ireland and we are grateful to all our partners in business

and education for their willingness to work with us to ensure students can enjoy the benefits of being involved in JA educational programmes."

Junior Achievement programmes delivered by business volunteers support the Department of Education's action plan, Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS).



St Fergal's 4th class students celebrate completing the 'It's My Business' programme. Pic: Shayne Phelan

Wicklow students invited to apply for 2023/24 Gerard Byrne Bursary

NCBI is now accepting applications from students who are blind or vision impaired for our annual Gerard Byrne Bursary. The NCBI Gerard Byrne Bursary honours the contribution of Gerard Byrne, who was a lifelong advocate for education.

The bursary consists of annual grants for undergraduate students who are blind or vision impaired studying on a full-time basis at a recognised educational institution in the Republic of Ireland.

The value of each scholarship is set at €2,000 per year and continues for the duration of the undergraduate programme chosen by the Bursary winners.

Toni O'Dwyer, National Services Manager for NCBI's Children and Young Persons (CYP) team, said: "The Gerard Byrne Bursary is one of the most important tools that NCBI has in supporting young people to progress into and complete third level studies. It provides support to students who are blind or vision impaired to lift some of

the financial burden of post-secondary study so they can fully focus on completing their studies within an education system that can often leave them behind. This, along with our other education resources, like Bookshare Ireland and individualised support from the CYP team, continue to help break down barriers to education for people who are blind or vision impaired and who wish to progress beyond college and into the workforce.

"We would encourage students to read our accessible awarding criteria document, which is available on the NCBI website, and to apply if you are eligible. We can't wait to meet our eventual 2023/24 Gerard Byrne Bursary award winners

and to see how far they have and will come in their education goals."

Deadline for applications is 21st July 2023. Students who

wish to submit queries about the bursary can do so at bursary@ncbi.ie. All details are available on NCBI's Gerard Byrne Bursary webpage.



Gerard Byrne Bursary 2022/23 recipients Maya Flynn, Rafiat Agbana and Jack Spillane alongside John Kearney, CEO of the National Council for Special Education.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public road.

Road to be closed
RR766 – Albert Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Period of closure
From 23:00 pm Friday 7th July, 2023 to 05:00 am Saturday 8th July 2023.

Alternative Routes
Via Adelaide Road, Quinsborough Road Road across railway level crossing and Strand Road.

Reason for Closure
This closure is to facilitate repairs of height restriction signage on railway bridge UBR142 Albert Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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Flying Fionn takes home 3rd Place in Spanish Mir Racing Cup Moto 5

Fionn Stephens from Roundwood took the big step up to the Mir racing Moto 5 Championship in Spain. This championship is the breeding ground for many past and future MotoGP and world superbike stars and is a prestigious event that attracts top riders from around the world.

It was a huge challenge considering the heat, riding a new bike on a track he had never seen and the overwhelming professionalism of the organization.

Fionn tackled this challenge in his normal calm manner, easing into the first couple of practice sessions, and despite some minor technical difficulties, managed to qualify 6th in the group 2 final.

Come race day, in challenging wet conditions, Fionn managed to finish 10th in his first race, on his first attempt.

However, in race two Fionn had finished acclimatising himself, getting a storming start and holding a nail-biting race long position 3, over the finish line despite massive pressure being applied from behind with a gap of less than 1 second. Fionn took 3rd place in the high-

ly competitive race, demonstrating his skill and determination on the track.

Delighted with a podium finish in his first ever Spanish championship race, Fionn's performance in the race is a testament to his talent and hard work.

Fionn has been making a name for himself in the world of motorcycle racing. He started racing at the age of 5 and has been racking up wins ever since. His success in the Spanish Mir Racing Cup is just the latest in a string of impressive achievements.

Fionn is now looking forward to the next round in at the Navarra circuit in Spain, on the 16th July.

A wholehearted thank you to Team 109 the Irish talent team, gammon racing and all those who are helping make it happen.



From left Alan o'Conor, Fionn Stephens, and Mike Healy from Irish Talent Team 109.

Vintage Day Raises €3,000 for Mater Hospital Family Heart Screening Clinic

An impressive collection of veteran, vintage and classic cars gathered in Barndarrig for the inaugural Fr. Joseph Doran, Memorial Car Run on Sunday the 18th June to raise funds for the Mater Hospital's Family Heart Screening Clinic which tests at-risk families for potentially life-threatening cardiac conditions.



Over thirty cars took part in the lineup, departing from Saint Mary's Church Barndarrig at 1pm they then proceeded via Rathdrum and Avoca on a loop journey back to Barndarrig for an alfresco picnic lunch with the community.

"We had a brilliant day and the weather was kind, Fr. Joseph must have been looking after us because we didn't know what to expect weather-wise given the country wide warnings" said Kevin Lott

Fr. Joseph's family and friends were delighted to be able to donate €3,000 to the Mater Hospital's Heart Screening Clinic in his honour and would like thank all who participated and contributed to this very worthwhile cause.



Vintage cars on display in Barndarrig

Wicklow hike part of challenge to honour late sister-in-law

A hospital consultant aims to climb the highest peak in every county in Ireland in a week in memory of his sister-in-law. Cork-based consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Richard Horgan, is training intensely for this month's mammoth challenge, five years after the tragic death of his wife's youngest sister, Orla Gosnell, 38.



Orla Gosnell

And he plans to sweep into Wicklow on day six to scale Lugnaquilla Mountain, Leinster's highest peak.

The funds he raises for Cork University Maternity Hospital through CUH Charity will be used to create dedicated spaces for patients and staff and a permanent reminder of the social care worker's life.

Orla died in December 2018, five months after delivering her fifth child at CUMH.

Richard's '32 County Peaks in a Week' challenge kicks off on July 16th with a minimum E10,000 target and the daunting task of scaling summits in four-five counties each day, concluding with 918m Galtymore on the Limerick/Tipperary border.

"Failure is not an option," said the determined Cork city dad-of-three and avid hill walker, who conquered Africa's highest peak, Kilimanjaro, in 2011. During the expedition, supported by a colleague, he will camp overnight at the base of his next peak and climb a combined altitude

of 16,000m, almost twice that of Mount Everest.

He hopes to be joined by Orla's husband Robert and other family members on the final ascent on July 22. Richard's family was plunged into grief when his sister-in-law passed away. He was based in Dublin's Rotunda Hospital at the time but was appointed to CUMH in early 2020. A long-held ambition to mark her life came to fruition earlier this year when - inspired by an idea from his nine-year-old son - he decided to grasp the 32-county peak challenge.

It will be a highly-emotional undertaking as he carries treasured memories of drama and singing enthusiast Orla with him.

"She was so dynamic, it was always about the solution rather than the problem with her," he recalls. "She was never one to leave things slide, she would ask about things and was never one to avoid sensitive conversations if something needed to be said - and I admire that. She loved

kids, was brilliant with them, loved being pregnant but always wanted to be involved and to know everything about her care. This lives on in her five fabulous kids.

"What has always been to the forefront in my work is the patient's experience, the mother's experience, even in bad outcomes and to make the experience as positive as we can. When I walk into the maternity hospital, there are magnificent glass corridors and there's an opportunity to install benches or seats, we have three floors to work with and could do it on all floors. It is simply somewhere patients, their partners and staff can go and sit, take a moment, have a chat, take a phonecall, have those few minutes."

The new space will include a symbol specifically remembering Orla and her many journeys in CUMH.

Richard's fundraiser can be supported until August 6 at: www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/DrRichardHorgan32CountyPeaks



Richard Horgan

Éire Óg Greystones wins county Feile and gets new sponsor

Codling Wind Park has announced its sponsorship of Éire Óg Greystones U15 Feile hurling team. The sponsorship follows the team's fantastic achievement in winning the county Feile competition and ahead of their trip to Kilcotton Borris GAA club in Laois for a Regional FÉile where they will represent Wicklow against clubs from other counties such as Kerry, Westmeath, and host county Laois in the group stages.

Éire Óg Greystones, which can trace its roots back over 100 years to 1920, has approximately 1,500 members and around 35 different teams competing in hurling, camogie, gaelic football and ladies football in Wicklow league and championship competitions. The club, which also acts as a vital community hub for children with disabilities as well as older members, was one of the first in the country to adopt the one club initiative, which combines camogie, GAA and LGFA under the one club model.

Codling Wind Park is the new sponsor of the U15 hurling team's Feile gear, which includes track suits,

training tops and kit bags and which the players will continue to use throughout the GAA season.

Grainne Fennell, Community Engagement Manager with Codling Wind Park said the project was delighted to support this vibrant and growing GAA club.

"It is a real honour for Codling to partner with a leading sporting and community organisation such as Éire Óg Greystones. The club, just like the wider GAA family in Wicklow and beyond, provides a wonderfully inclusive environment for young people of all ages and abilities to enjoy themselves while pursuing a healthy lifestyle and developing

their sporting skills."

Jim Darcy, Head Coach of the U15 hurlers described the sponsorship as a wonderful boost to the players and the club in general.

"The boys have had a great year - this was actually our first year entering Feile as a standalone club - but we want to build on that success for the club's future. Obviously, that comes with costs, and we wouldn't be able to provide the supports they or other teams in the club need without the backing of partners such as Codling Wind Park. We're catering for boys and girls of all ages across different levels and the numbers are growing massively."



Community Engagement Manager with Codling Wind Park Grainne Fennell presents a new set of jerseys to Jim Darcy, Head coach of the U15 Éire Óg Greystones team, and Feile hurlers Patrick O'Boyle, Cian Donnelly, Fiachra Hynes, Ciaran Darcy (captain), Deaglan O'Neill, Tom Merriman and Elijah Pegman.

Join Paul McGrath to support Acquired Brain Injury Ireland

Football legend Paul McGrath wants you to join him for the 2023 Paul McGrath Golf Classic in support of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland.

The Golf Classic will take place on August 26 at Rathaspeck Manor, Co. Wexford and by taking part people can meet Paul and make a life-changing difference to thousands impacted by brain injury.

The 2022 Golf Classic was a sell out and a memorable day. This year's event will be your chance to win great prizes, enjoy a beautiful golf course and meet a sporting hero.

Jackie's army legend Paul McGrath said: "9,000 people in Ireland acquire a brain injury every year - people whose lives are turned upside down overnight and who need the right support, at the right time to get

things back on track. My Golf Classic is a chance for us all to make a real difference to the future of brain injury survivors and their families. This will be fourth Paul McGrath Golf Classic in support of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland. I want 2023 to be the most successful event yet. So, get involved, register to take part, and join me on the course."

The entry fee is only €90 for a team of three with all funds going towards the work of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland. Tee times are limited, so golfers are advised book early to get a preferred time. People can register now on: <https://www.abiireland.ie/events/paul-mcgrath-golf-classic-2023>

If you can't be there but would like to sponsor a tee or a hole, please get in contact with Matt Powell Community Fundraising Coordinator at mpowell@abiireland.ie or call (086) 410 3681. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people in Ireland are living with a disability as the result of an acquired brain injury. Each euro raised will benefit those impacted, as well as their families and carers.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is the country's leading provider of specialised, community-based brain injury rehabilitation services. The organisation's mission is to empower and support people with a brain injury to live their fullest and most independent life, with confidence. This is made possible by vital donations, including events like the Paul McGrath Golf Classic.

New playground for Kilbride GAA

Kilbride GAA Club recently opened their new playground. Deirdre McCormack, Social Democrats local area representative for West Wicklow, said "The opening of the playground at Kilbride GAA Club is a huge achievement for the club and a fantastic amenity for the community here. I'd like to congratulate the Club Chairman Diarmuid Haughian and the committee and wider community on all their hard work over the last three years to develop the facilities here at the club grounds."

"It's clear that a lot of thought went into the inclusive design with slides, swings and climbing frames to suit all ages. This combined with the walking track, picnic benches and newly opened Manor Kilbride Coffee and Tea Shop onsite means that there really is something here for everyone in the community."

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow, Jennifer Whitmore commented "The opening of the Kilbride GAA playground is wonderful news for both the club and local area. Deirdre and I met with Diarmuid at the club grounds last summer and he told us about his vision for a community playground and coffee shop. I am delighted that this vision has become a reality and it is down to the determination and hard work of both Diarmuid, the club committee and the local community. I hope that the success of this project will encourage the development of similar community facilities across the county. The Kilbride GAA playground really shows what can be achieved by a community with the support of LEADER funding."



Alex and Giacomo Mastromario at the official opening of the Wicklow Rovers sensory garden on Station Road, Wicklow Town.

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Gerhard Bekker and Niamh Smith

Two Wicklow artists to perform at South African gathering

Two artists from Wicklow, Niamh Smith and Gerhard Bekker, have been invited to perform at The South African Gathering IRELAND on 8th July 2023 at Ballykilcavan Farm.

12-year-old Niamh who did Wicklow proud when she represented Ireland at the Oscar Hammerstein International Musical Theatre Solo Finals last year, says she will be performing an Afrikaans song from a favourite South African band, Die Heuwels Fantasties (The Hills Fantastic), who will be touring to Ireland later this year. She will however include some Irish picks too! Gerhard will sing some of his own songs, as well as covers. Tickets for this family-friendly event available at Ticketor.com | For more on the artists visit Instagram @niamhbeatrix and @honeygravel

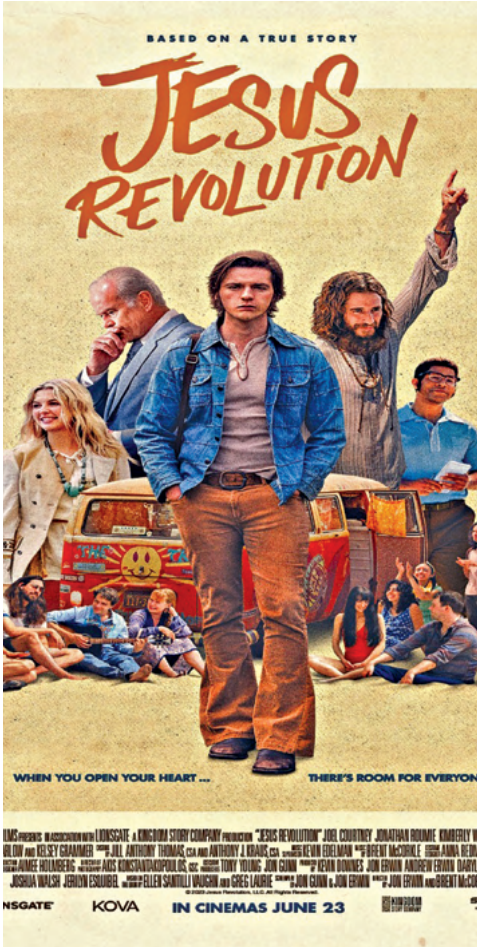
The Jesus Revolution at Whale Theatre

Saturday 8th July, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets are €12 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to register on the waiting list.

When you open your heart, there's room for everyone.

In the 1970s, young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) is searching for all the right things in all the wrong places: until he meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher. Together with Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer), they open the doors of Smith's languishing church to an unexpected revival of radical and newfound love, leading to what TIME Magazine dubbed a JESUS REVOLUTION.

JESUS REVOLUTION is a historical telling, bringing to life The Jesus Movement that swept the country in the late 60's and early 70s.



CAST:

Joel Courtney (Greg Laurie)

Jonathan Roumie (Lonnie Frisbee)

Kimberly Williams Paisley (Charlene Laurie)

Anna Grace Barlow (Cathie Laurie)

Kelsey Grammer (Chuck Smith)

WRITTEN BY: Jon Erwin and Jon Gunn

DIRECTED BY: Jon Erwin and Brent McCorkle

PRODUCED BY: Kevin Downes, Jon and Andrew

Erwin, along with Josh Walsh and Daryl Lefever

RUNTIME: 120 mins

Jason Byrne - LIVE in Greystones

Whale Theatre, Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th July, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets SOLD OUT but register a at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 for waiting list.

Jason Byrne has had an upgrade. In his latest show you an evening of pure unadulterated old fashioned fun. This is the ultimate celebration of life and never heart surgery. The Six Million Dollar Byrne has giving up brought to you by "The Outright King of Live Comedy" cleared his arteries, his mind and his schedule to bring

'Full on, doubled up, gasping for oxygen, hilarious' - *Chortle*.

"There is nobody else on the planet who makes me laugh like that. Your world will be a better place after seeing Jason live" - *The Newcastle Chronicle*.

Show Duration: 90 minutes approx.



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Nissan Juke - an innovative hybrid

In 2012 I was lucky enough to be brought to see the first European production line of an all electric car - the Nissan Leaf, - in Sunderland, North East England. It was a huge pioneering investment by Nissan and as a trailblazer, Nissan deserve a lot of credit. In the decade since, the firm's motto is 'let the customer decide' - so they make all the options from all electric to conventional petrol and diesel powered cars - and variants of hybrids from mild to full hybrid.

By Martin McCarthy



The Nissan Juke

Last week I drove the second-generation Juke - a smaller SUV - that comes with either petrol power or hybrid. It has a lot to recommend it - starting with the price tags of €26,995 for the 1 litre turbo powered version and €34,600 for the higher spec'd, SV Premium grade, hybrid.

The first generation Juke was very funky looking whereas the new model is smoothed out and refined and looks really smart. Of course, the high driving position, getting more in favour every day, is retained and enhanced. Where traditional hybrids offer an uninspiring experience because of the complex amalgamation of ICE and battery power, the Juke Hybrid's intelligent drive system has been tuned to maximise the amount of time Juke spends in EV mode, giving drivers what they appreciate the most.

While the system will automatically maximise EV usage, the Juke Hybrid is also equipped with a dedicated EV mode switch which can be used when drivers do not want to leave the engine running, such as in traffic jams, in residential areas, in built up areas around schools or in car parks.

The Juke Hybrid powertrain consists of a

new generation, state-of-the-art combustion engine specifically developed for working in a hybrid powertrain application. It produces 69 kW (94hp) and 148Nm of torque. The main electric motor produces 36kW (49hp) and 205Nm of torque.

The net result is a powertrain providing 25% more power than the current petrol engine option, with a fuel consumption reduction up to 40% in urban cycle, and up to 20% over the combined cycle. (Figures subject to homologation).

On a combination route down our coastal highway (M11) towards

Arklow and inland to the steeper hills but is whisper quiet when in towns in electric mode. The only problem was that our country is distractingly beautiful at this time of the year - in full bloom. Is it no wonder European car companies choose Wicklow as a preferred location for global car launches.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Brenda Massyn seek a retention planning permission for the following 1. The conversion of existing garden storage building to a dwelling unit circa 45 msq, and ancillary lean-to structures. 2. The retention of a new garden outbuilding containing a domestic shed/storage room and washroom circa 31 Msq, both connections to the existing septic tank/percolation system, and all site development works at Elbren Cottage, Ashtown Lane, 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

I Ellen Conalty seek a retention planning permission for a new garden outbuilding containing the following 1. A domestic shed/storage room circa 15 Msq, 2. The retention of a Dog Grooming area circa 16 Msq. All together with a connection to the existing septic tank/percolation system and associated site development works at ATHAS Bawn, Ashtown Lane, 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

Robert Kinsella seeks permission for works to existing main house, including an attic conversion, with new rooflights and 1st floor windows to the front and rear of house, and new glazing to ground floor of the house to accommodate a re-working of the internal plans. Also, to include a conversion of the existing garage to office space with new glazing, rooflight and entrance door. All works to house to fall within the existing building i.e.. no new extension. Development also to include removal of a small portion of the front garden wall to accommodate a new larger driveway. Proposed works at 2 Mountain View, Greystones, 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

I Padraig Murphy wish to apply to Wicklow County Council for permission for the construction of a two-storey dwelling, domestic garage, bored well, secondary treatment system & soil polishing filter, new entrance and all associated site works at Garyhoe, Tinahely, 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. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission. Signed James Kealy, Planning & Design Services 085 1002200.

Rentokil issues warning for flies this summer

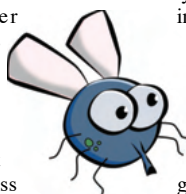
Rentokil is warning the public of the increased threat of flies this summer as it lists the top five counties accounting for fly callouts to date in 2023.

Flies are traditionally a warm-weather pest so during the summer months when temperatures typically rise, they will breed and spread. Flies pose the threat of spreading bacteria such as E. coli and Campylobacter spp. to humans when they come into contact with food. Rentokil recommends that home or business owners who suspect that they have a fly infestation to identify the source of the infestation by checking around areas such as doors, windows, electrical outlets, eaves, pipes, cable openings, and vents.

People can find out more about fly infestations by visiting the Rentokil website.

Colm Moore, Area Technical Manager for Rentokil said: "Flies can pose the threat of contaminating food so it is important to ensure that all food in your premises is covered and stored correctly and not left out in the open. More flies equates to an increased risk of exposure to harmful microbes and chance of getting ill. Their presence can pose the threat of violating food or hygiene regulations for businesses.

"In terms of guarding against these pests, the most effective methods to employ are fitting fly screens to doors and windows, and utilising an LED fly killer unit, such as the Lumnia LED fly killer."



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RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

PERMANENT & TEMPORARY PART TIME CLEANER

Salary: €15.54 – €17.58 gross per hour.

REF: 37/2023

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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST, 2023 SHARP.

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

Phone: 0404 20159
Fax: 0404 20112
e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

INTEGRATION SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR (GRADE VII)

Salary: €55,022.00 – €71,529.00 per annum gross (Includes 2nd LSI)

REF: 40/2023

INTEGRATION SUPPORT WORKER (GRADE VI)

Salary: €52,557.00 – €64,209.00 per annum gross (Includes 2nd LSI)

REF: 41/2023

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

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Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Wicklow.

Phone: 0404 20159
Fax: 0404 20112
e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

RECRUITMENT

RECRUITMENT

RECRUITMENT



St. Patrick's Missionary Society
Human Resources Department
St. Patrick's, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow, W91 Y022, Ireland
Telephone: 059 647 3600 Email: hrmanager@spms.ie

DIRECTOR OF CARE
FULLTIME PERMANENT POSITION

St Patrick's Missionary Society have a 24 bedded nurse-led unit located in Kiltegan which is fully integrated in the St Patrick's community. It offers a friendly and relaxed environment for its members and staff, all of whom are highly valued and respected.

Caring services include both long term and respite care within the Care Unit. Recent developments include an evolving social care service for independent living for the greater retired Society Membership.

We are recruiting for a Director of Care to lead our care team with the following requirements:

ESSENTIAL:

- Be registered with the General/Midwifery Division of NMBI or be entitled to be so registered.
- Minimum of 5 years post graduate experience with a minimum of 2 years previous experience in Care of the Older Person within the previous 6 years.
- Have not less than 3 years' experience in a management capacity in the health and social area.

DESIRABLE:


- Postgraduate in Gerontology
- Previous experience in care of the elderly in a formal setting
- Management qualifications in a health-related field
- Gerontology experience.

Excellent terms and conditions of employment for the right candidate.

Closing Date for Application: 7th July 2023

Log onto our website www.spms.org/vacancies for a detailed job description and details how to apply. For informal queries please contact Dearbhail McKee, HR Manager at 059 6484434 or email hrmanager@spms.ie
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**We're
Hiring** 

School Completion Programme Coordinator

The School Completion Programme (SCP) is a targeted programme which aims to increase the numbers of children and young people staying in primary and post primary school. The SCP is funded by Tusla Education Support Service. The Arklow Dunlavin Rathdrum School Completion Programme operates in four primary schools and two post primary school in the Arklow, Dunlavin and Rathdrum areas of Co. Wicklow. Foróige has been contracted by the Local Management Committee.

**Full job spec and Foróige application form are available at
www.foroige.ie/careers Email applications to:
recruitment@foroige.ie**

Deadline: 7th July 2023

Foróige is committed to a policy of Equality of Opportunity in its employment practices.



**We're
Hiring** 

Project Worker Arklow

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recruitment@foroige.ie**

Deadline: 7th July 2023

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Skills Strategy for Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has engaged KPMG Future Analytics to conduct a survey of both employers and residents in Wicklow to feed into research that will inform the development of a new Skills Strategy for the county.

In order to build up a detailed picture of the employment landscape in County Wicklow, the Council wants to hear from the county's employers to understand key skills gaps - as well as the major drivers of change across sectoral employment.

The views of anyone working or living in County Wicklow, or commuting out of the county to work, are being also sought to help the Council gain a thorough understanding of the skills we already have in the county, as well as future skills needs.

Welcoming the launch, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, said: "I am delighted to see Wicklow County Council take the initiative in working towards ensuring the future skills needs of the county are met. This is especially relevant given that this is the official European Year of Skills."

She continued: "County Wicklow is a great place to live, work, visit and do business in. Ultimately, this study - and the Strategy stemming from it - seeks to ensure that Wicklow continues to have the skills necessary to capitalise on emerging employment opportunities."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive,

Wicklow County Council, also welcomed the initiative stating: "As one of the most rapidly growing counties in Ireland, Wicklow has unlimited business potential, some of which can be seen through the significant expansion and development the County has undergone in recent years. Yet, it must be acknowledged that the availability of skilled workers is key to maintaining competitiveness and attracting investment to the county."

She added: "This project will work towards ensuring that there will be an adequate supply of sufficiently skilled labour available in Wicklow over the coming years to maximise potential growth across a number of key sectors. In doing so, it will seek to identify existing skills gaps that are not being met at present, and also provide an analysis of available skills that are currently commuting out of County Wicklow."

The Skills Surveys can be found on Wicklow County Council website at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Online-Consultation-Hub/County-Wicklow-Skills-Survey>, and also on Wicklow County Council's Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter feeds. Submissions to the strategy are also welcome.



Fianait and Mila Duffy at the Taste of Wicklow at Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School in Wicklow Town

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. **B.H.**

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. **L.H.**

Tidy Towns Awards open for applications

Wicklow County Council's Tidy Towns, Estates and Sustainable Development Awards 2023 are now open for applications. The awards are an opportunity to recognise the work done across the county to protect our environment, use resources with more care and develop sustainable communities.

They are open to a wide range of community sectors including schools, businesses, residents' associations, local environmental campaigns as well as the Tidy Town groups. Any group can apply and people can also nominate a local group or project.

The awards originated as the Tidy Towns Main Street and Estates competition and this is still a core part of the awards. The work of these groups ensures our towns and communities are always presented at their very best while protecting bio-

diversity and heritage.

The Sustainable Development Awards recognise the innovative work being done in our communities to deliver on Climate Action and protection of our Biodiversity. The awards recognise the diverse range of projects and actions delivered whether by local groups, our schools and the business community.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, said: "The Tidy Town groups around the county have long been valued and dynamic contributors to

the wellbeing of the communities they are embedded within, and we have been delighted to see these awards expand over recent years to encompass other groups seeking to implement actions which improve the environment in which we live and on which we depend."

Topics covered include waste, energy, biodiversity

and water. Groups are also able to nominate a local champion.

Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, stated: "Environmental action led by community groups, and through schools and local businesses play a crucial role in addressing the issues surrounding climate

change and biodiversity loss. We want to continue to recognise and encourage this grass-roots response to these challenges."

Applications are available from the Environmental Awareness Office by emailing eo@wicklowcoco.ie or download form on at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/News->

Events/wicklow-county-councils-tidy-towns-and-sustainable-development-awards-2023.

The closing date for all entries is Sunday July the 16th, except for schools, which have an extension until Friday the 8th of September. Contact the Environmental Awareness Office for further information.

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Talbot Group

Dignity Respect Kindness Engagement

 Talbot Group

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 Talbot Group-
Healthcare Recruitment

At the **Talbot Group**, we are leading providers of adult and children's intellectual disability services in North County Dublin, Meath, Louth, Cavan and Kildare. We are now expanding our services to Wicklow. To support our new Community Disability Services in Wicklow Town, we are currently recruiting for

- **STAFF NURSES**
- **SOCIAL CARE WORKERS**
- **SENIOR SOCIAL CARE WORKERS**
- **DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS**

If you would like to work with the **Talbot Group** and make a difference to the lives of our residents, please come along to our Walk-in Interview Day in

Tinakilly Country House, Rathnew, Wicklow

on Wednesday 12th July 2023 from 9.30am – 4.00pm.

Please bring an up to date copy of your CV with you.

Further details can be obtained on the careers tab on our website www.talbotgroup.ie or by email to recruitment@talbotgroup.ie or elainehr@talbotgroup.ie.