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Tuesday 18th July 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

GREEN LIGHT FOR N11 BUS CORRIDOR

A major step towards alleviating the severe traffic congestion on the N11 is to be made with the green light now being given to begin work on the much-needed bus corridor. The full express bus priority scheme for the N11 will now proceed following the decision by Green Party Minister Eamon Ryan and TII to allow Wicklow County Council to complete the design.

Green Party TD for Wicklow Steven Matthews said "We have already seen a huge increase in rural bus services throughout all Wicklow areas, a new Wicklow to Bray bus and a new late evening service on the train line. Now we will have reliable journey times on the N11 for those who choose to take the bus, supported by Park and Ride options which I am working with the NTA to provide in tandem with this bus priority scheme. "I am determined to deliver more and better services for Wicklow residents. Public transport needs to be affordable, and we have slashed bus and rail fares to encourage greater use and assist with cost-of-living increases. Public transport must be comfortable, and we are delivering the largest ever order of new rail carriages including battery electric DARTs for the extension to Wicklow Town, new busses on the Wicklow, Arklow and West Wicklow routes and new busses for the local link services across the county. Services need to be frequent and reliable so increasing the fleet, recruiting more drivers and the provision of bus corridors such as the N11 scheme in Wicklow and Bus Connects for north Wicklow to Dublin ensures journeys times become reliable - far more so than car use in chaotic congestion every



Sean Dobson and Tyler Kavanagh at the East Coast Classic and Vintage Club Car Show in Arklow in aid of Wicklow Hospice

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morning on the N11.

"When the initial N11 upgrade scheme was announced with third lanes, tunnels, green field routes and road widening most politicians called for it be accelerated without a single thought for climate, air quality or the inevitable congestion through induced demand that would follow. I called for greater choices for commuters through investment in public transport, a DART extension to Wicklow Town, bus priority, park and ride and road and safety and drainage improvements and that is all being delivered. There will always be a need for the N11 and N81 to maintained and made safer, but the future is about public transport alternatives and relieving commuters from long, congested, expensive and car dependent commutes," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly also welcomed the decision to green light work on the bus corridor. Minister Donnelly said: "I'm delighted that the much needed N11 Bus Priority scheme is to proceed. This is an issue I have campaigned on before being elected to Government as it is of the utmost importance to enhancing the quality of life in our county. At the moment the N11 is carrying on average 70,000 vehicles a day which it simply wasn't designed to cope with.

"Getting the N11 moving is only going to happen if we have working bus corridors and park and ride facilities in place.. so having the proper design is an absolutely crucial step towards making that happen. We have already allocated €2million to fully cover the cost of the design work

for the entire length of the bus corridor which will run from Junction 9 at the

Glenview to the Loughlinstown Roundabout. I will continue to work with

WCC, TII and Minister Ryan to get the work Wicklow needs done"

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Robin and Rachel Tyrrell are pictured at the Shelton Abbey open day

JJ Jewellers expand

JJs on the square is brought to Wicklow Town by local business couple Aoife Synnott Doyle and Clifford Doyle, in the fantastic location of Fitzwilliam Square.

JJs on square is an extension of JJ Jewellers, Main Street. Over the past few years, Aoife and Clifford explain, they have seen a greater demand for piercings and fashion jewellery, so they decided to expand the JJ's brand with a second location.

"We will be offering our hugely popular 1st class piercing services now exclusively in JJs on the square, the ear system we use has been tried and tested by over 200+ million customers worldwide, the innersense system is over 45 years old, its safe and gentle instrument offers a fast

and simple piercing experience.

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"We are also so excited to be able to bring some amazing international brands to Wicklow Town, the exponential growth of the town and surrounding

areas has meant that demand for such brands has increased, we were delighted to be able to source and secure amazing brands, Dyrberg Kern (Copenhagen, Denmark), Pilgrim (Denmark), Rebeccaan (Italy), Coeur Di Lion (Germany), and the wonderful Irish-based brand Absolute Jewellery.

"Our piercing services are available to book via the resurva app, and by phone 0877019700, walk ins will be welcome but appointments with be given priority."

Awards handed out at Dargle Bridge Club's end of season dinner

Dargle Bridge club recently held their end of season dinner and Prize giving in Bray Golf Club.

"Once again thank you to the staff of Bray Golf Club in helping us put it all together and for the lovely food," they stated. "We were delighted to be able to play a full season of bridge and thank all our members for adhering to the restrictions that were still in place until recently. It has helped keep us all safe while playing bridge.

"We are open to non members on Wednesday nights from 7th June to the 30th August. Anyone interested in becoming a member in September please contact Michael on 087 9480151 or Anne on 087 2399457."

The winners of the various competitions are as follows:

- * *Winners of the President's Prize:*
Bridget Waters & Brian Driver
- * *Winner of The Player of the year Trophy:* Breda O'Driscoll
- * *Winner of the Championship Pairs Trophy:* Anne Murphy & Anne Stewart
- * *Winners of the Boland Trophy:*
Anne Stewart & Anne Murphy
- * *Winners of the Phil Furlong Trophy:* Des Tallon & Dermot Ward
- * *Winners of the O'Neill Trophy:*
Mary Carroll & Eithne Kane
- * *Winners of the Dargle Trophy:*
Teresa Boland & Joan Doyle



The player of the year trophy Breda O'Driscoll being presented with her prize by former winner Lily Noonan



Winners of the President's prize Bridget Waters and Brian Driver being presented their prize by former winner Marie Woods

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Mobile Library

A mobile comes to Laragh every second Thursday from 12.15 to 12.50pm and parks at the back of Lynhams Hotel. Phone on 087 9135229 or email library@wicklowcoco.ie. For people who have difficulty accessing their nearest public library, the Mobile Library Service gives them the opportunity to avail of a public library facility. The mobile library carries approximately 2,500 items with free access to many online resources including downloadable audio books, newspapers and more. Next date is 28th July.

Community policing clinic

The weekly Community Policing Clinic held in Kilcoole with Garda Mlly Corbett, before the Covid pandemic, has now resumed. It takes place every Monday 6pm to 8pm in the kilcoole community centre. It is for crime prevention advice, to get forms, like passports stamped and most garda station services.

My Little Library Book Bags

My Little Library Book Bags are now available for free for all children starting primary school in September, from libraries.

The books help the children to prepare for this big step in their lives. Each book bag contains: Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself; A story card on going to the library; A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher. Or give to their teacher of their first day at school; Their very own library card and special My Little Library cardholder.

Storynight in Annamoe Centre

The next Rambling House/Storynight in the Annamoe Centre will take place on September 8th. This popular night of music, songs and stories features participants from all over Wicklow as well as Dublin, Carlow and Wexford. Tea and cake/biscuits will be served. You don't have to take part just come and enjoy. Any queries call 086-8749092.

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'Plan B needed for firefighters'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady last week accused the government of once again letting down the Retained Fire Service and its members, while Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said the Government needs a plan B if retained firefighters reject the Labour Court proposals.

Deputy Brady was speaking following the announcement that SIPTU, who have been representing the Retained Fire Fighters in their dispute with the government at the Labour Court, is to recommend that its members reject proposals brought forward by the Labour Court.

Deputy Brady said: "I am extremely disappointed that the government continues to lack the political will to grasp the opportunity to address the core issues at the heart of the recruitment and retention crisis in the Retained Fire Service.

"Through my ongoing engagement with members of the National Retained Firefighters Association (NRFA), I am very aware that the core issues in this crisis centre around work-life balance, and that they are resolute on what needs to be done to address the recruitment and retention crisis.

"SIPTU has begun the process of balloting members in relation to industrial action. SIPTU have recommended that members of the Retained Fire Service reject the proposals, and likewise individual fire fighters have expressed dismay at the government's failure to address key issues.

"Retained Fire Fighters deserve more than 'respect' from this gov-

ernment - they need to be paid properly. Retained Fire Fighters should not be dependent on social welfare to make up their wages or put food on the table.

"Minister Darragh O'Brien, and Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe, have failed to step up to the plate and end this dispute with a credible offer genuinely designed to address the core pay issues in the Retained Fire Service.

"If the government continues to fail to act, it will be responsible for the likely recommencement of industrial action by fire fighters, who had previously voted in overwhelming numbers in favour of industrial and strike action but put that on hold pending the conclusion of the Labour Court hearing.

"Minister O'Brien must secure agreement with DPER to ensure that retained fire fighters receive the fair deal from this government that is long overdue."

Speaking last week, Deputy Whitmore said, "We deserve to have a functioning fire service - one that respects retained firefighters and the valuable work they do. The Government must outline what steps it will take to avert strike action by retained firefighters if Labour Court proposals to settle the dispute are rejected by

SIPTU members.

"While I do not wish to preempt the outcome of the ballot, all the indications are that retained firefighters will accept SIPTU's advice to reject the Labour Court recommendations. This could lead to a resumption of suspended strike action within days.

"The feedback I have received is that the firefighters are disappointed with the offer on the table, which they feel does not address the low retainer they are paid or the precarious elements of their working structure, such as call-out payments.

"We are talking about workers who provide a life and death service. In my Wicklow constituency, for instance, we would not have a fire service without the commitment and dedication of retained firefighters.

"We deserve to have a functioning fire service around the country - one that respects the role of retained firefighters and the valuable work they do. With the Dail about to go into recess for the next two months, the Government urgently needs a plan B. It must immediately re-engage with the industrial relations process if the Labour Court's recommendations are rejected by these essential workers."



Rachel Moore and Giorgio Oliviero are pictured at the celebrations for the 2nd anniversary of the opening of Distrikt by Mia, the home interiors and gift store at Wicklow Town South Quay

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Wicklow set to benefit from Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

County Wicklow is to receive €2.5m to assist in ending long-term vacancy and dereliction in the towns of Wicklow and Arklow. The Urban Regeneration Development Fund is available to eligible local authorities for towns and cities and was established to support more compact and sustainable development of urban centres. It will complement several existing schemes that tackle vacancy and dereliction.

The aim of this particular fund is to address vacancy and dereliction, thus promoting vibrant communities. The fund will be administered through the Wicklow County Council Town Regeneration Office and covers the entire cost of acquiring suitable properties identified within Arklow and Wicklow towns which can then be purchased and developed.

Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, welcomed the announcement saying: "I am absolutely delighted that Wicklow County Council has secured this funding to tackle what has been an affliction on our towns and villages. This fund will help to turn vacant and derelict properties

into homes or commercial premises, breathing new life into our urban centres."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, said: "Tackling vacancy and dereliction and bringing vibrancy back into our towns is a strategic priority for Wicklow County Council. The fund will help to transform key locations and promote vibrant communities in our urban centres."

Wicklow County Council will use the development fund to assess particular properties with specific criteria and work with property owners to bring vacant properties back into productive use.

Green TD Steven Matthews' legislation on

vacancy, dereliction and regeneration is well timed to support the large funding allocation of €2.5 million. Deputy Matthews' Bill will tighten up the Derelicts Site Act and make the regulatory process to refurbish an old building cheaper and easier while still maintaining high standards in renovation.

Under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund, (URDF) the Council has identified vacant sites and derelict buildings that could be purchased, refurbished, and repurposed to bring back to use for residential or community use or for reselling to fund further investment.

"I am delighted with the timing of this fund and my legislation," said

Matthews, "one of the keys to providing housing is the re-use of existing buildings to put quality homes in our town centres in unused empty buildings, over shops or in vacant homes that need refurbishment."

"Wicklow County Council received this allocation based on the size and number of towns in Wicklow and the level of vacancy and dereliction within the functional area. This sizable fund to Wicklow will now assist the council to actively pursue vacancy buildings to bring back to use. This funding is as a dedicated revolving fund within each local authority to address the financial barrier and risk faced by local authorities in seeking to tackle long term

vacant and derelict buildings and sites across Wicklow towns."

The fund will be available to cover the acquisition costs of a property or site and any civil or design works which may be required to de-risk or improve the site/building to make it more attractive for reuse, development by others or for onward sale. The intention is that the fund would be replenished from the proceeds received from the end use/user, thereby allowing the local authority to put in place a rolling programme to tackle long term vacancy and dereliction without recourse to borrowing and the associated financial risk.

There is already existing personal grant funding options of up to €70,000

if you want to do up a derelict building for a home, a Vacant Homes Officer in every Council to manage vacancy and dereliction, we have introduced a Vacant Homes Tax, mandated local authorities to CPO buildings and increased the value of the Repair and Lease Scheme.

"These initiatives are a vital part of our action to provide homes, bring life and living back to our towns and villages, to ensure local services remain viable; support new local business and to ensure public open spaces are attractive for pedestrians, cyclists, children and for wider community use," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey stated that the funding, saying "I'm delighted that my party colleague, Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien, has allocated €2.5 million to tackle vacancy and

dereliction in Wicklow. This will allow vacant properties to be brought back into use and create new homes. It's hugely positive, as not only will it remove derelict properties that are eyesores in our towns and villages, but it will also give people the opportunity to live and participate in their local communities, making them more vibrant in the process."

Minister O'Brien issued the call last January for local authorities to outline their proposals for the URDF funding.

Minister O'Brien last week said, "Today we are announcing details of a fund to specifically tackle long term vacancy and dereliction within towns and cities. This fund will help restore the urban heart of many of our communities, including those in Wicklow. It will also provide more homes in urban centres where people can live close to

local services, amenities and employment and, indeed, has the potential to be truly transformative.

"This Government has consistently said we will use every tool in our armoury to get to grips with our housing challenges and that is exactly what we are doing. Through this fund we will increase the pace at which vacant and derelict buildings are brought back into productive use as new homes for people. This fund complements a number of measures to tackle vacancy within Housing for All, the Government's housing plan for Ireland which is available at www.gov.ie/housing-forall. The plan's overall objective is: 'Everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life'."

Good news for businesses as solar business grants are extended

Green Party TD for Wicklow Deputy Steven Matthews has welcomed the Green Party's move to extend energy supports to a wider range of businesses and non-domestic applicants.

Deputy Matthews said, "The interest from business owners in County Wicklow in switching to renewable energy is huge,

and they should be supported in making the change. These grants will do just that, typically covering between 20 and

30% of a changeover investment, meaning the average investment will be paid off in just five years. The grants will offer up to

€162,000 for the installation of smart energy infrastructure and solar panels on commercial buildings.

"The new range of installation sizes will cover a significant variety of businesses, from small local shops up to large manufacturing facilities. It will also be available for public buildings, sports clubs and community organisations. An installation size of 1000 kWp equates to approximately 2,500 solar PV panels, which could be accommodated on a large factory or warehouse rooftop.


"This is the latest measure to support homeowners and business owners in making the move to renewable energy. A wide range of supports has already been rolled out including the abolition of VAT on the supply and installation of solar panels on homes and public buildings, free PV panels for schools and the removal of the need for planning permission for panels on houses, farm buildings, schools and community centres.

"Not only will these measures help towards our climate goals, they will reduce energy bills for homes and businesses and excess energy can be sold back to the grid."

For more information contact Deputy Matthews or your local SEAI.



Deputy Matthews



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LLP


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Cathaoirleach discusses important Wicklow issues with An Taoiseach

Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy met with An Taoiseach and Fine Gael Party Leader, Leo Varadkar, in Government Buildings earlier this month. The Taoiseach, along with all of his senior Ministers, met with the 13 Fine Gael Councillors who have recently been elected as the first citizen of their county.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said: "I had a good two-hour meeting with Councillor Flynn-Kennedy in Government Buildings on Tuesday evening to discuss the issues that matter to the people of Wicklow. The meeting gave Councillor Flynn-Kennedy the opportunity to raise these issues directly with me. I committed to Councillor Flynn-

Kennedy to work on these issues.

"The need for more funding this year for local and regional road maintenance, a top up allocation for the Local Improvement Scheme and, in the coming years, funding to advance new road projects that are delayed, the urgent need to service much more land for housing were raised at the meeting. On

energy security and climate, they impressed on me the need to increase aid to farmers, schools, community buildings and businesses to install solar panels and become energy efficient.

"I look forward to working with Councillor Flynn Kennedy and visiting Wicklow during her term as Cathaoirleach."



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

Former Wicklow TD speaks out following death of Ukrainian novelist



Photographed at the Russian Embassy are members of the Board of Irish PEN who formed the delegation including Chairperson Catherine Dunne, Board members, Lia Mills, June Considine, Lia McManus, and Sean Love representing Fighting Words.

Former Co. Wicklow Minister and TD and current author Liz McManus was one of a delegation from Irish PEN/Pen na hÉireann who attempted to deliver a letter to the Russian Ambassador at the Consulate on Orwell Road condemning the recent killing of their 'friend and colleague', Ukrainian novelist Victoria Amelina, 37, who died from injuries sustained during a Russian missile attack on a restaurant in Kramatorsk on 1st July.

The letter was drafted by members of Irish PEN/PEN na hÉireann, Fighting Words and Ukrainian Action Ireland. Speaking afterwards they said the letter wasn't accepted by the official present from the Chair of Irish PEN, Catherine Dunne.

"We are determined to ensure that the Russian Ambassador is made aware of the extent of sorrow and anger among the writing community in Ireland at the killing of renowned Ukrainian writer, Victoria Amelina," said Liz McManus. "Victoria visited Dublin last October at our invitation and spoke at a number of events, including a major concert at Vickers Street. A young woman of great talent, she was a fine writer and human rights activist. In our letter we expressed the shock and horror that her death has caused to her Irish friends.

"The incident has only served to strengthen the resolve of us in Irish PEN/ PEN na hÉireann to promote the cause of Victoria Amelina. We are now embarking on a campaign in her memory."

Amelina was engaged in investigating and recording war crimes when she lost her life as a result of the missile strike. She won the Joseph Conrad Literary Prize in 2021.

'I would not be in favour of making July 12th a public holiday'

Green Party councillor for Bray, Erika Doyle, has responded to recent comments made by Green TD Patrick Costello about making July 12th a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland.

Deputy Costello, a Dublin South Central TD, called on the Irish Government to legislate for the new public holiday which would mark the victory of Protestant King William of Orange over Catholic King James II in the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. It is a holiday in Northern Ireland.

"This day is an extremely important one historically for the island, and culturally for many people who live here," he said. "In Northern Ireland both the 12th and St. Patrick's Day are designated as public holidays, this too should be replicated here. Aside from the symbolic effects this would also bring benefits for the tourism industry [...] For too long the Irish State sought to portry a single narrative of the Irish history, one that was isolationist, militant,



Cllr Erika Doyle

nationalist and catholic. We know that history is not black and white, we know that there are numerous traditions on this island. If the Irish State truly aspires to unite all the peoples of this island, then all those people need to feel represented and included. Designating the 12th as a public holiday would be a major step for that process."

Speaking to Wicklow

Times, Cllr Doyle said "The suggestion to make July 12th into a public holiday came from an individual Green Party TD and not from the party itself. Members were not made aware of the statement ahead of its release. While there is much to be done in terms of bridge building between communities in the future, my personal opinion is that I would not support July 12th, a date many of us associate with division and violence, being made into a public holiday.

"I was proud of the work the Green Party did in securing St. Brigid's Day as an additional public holiday, Brigid being viewed as the 'mother saint of Ireland' and the subject of many myths and legends in her different forms. Any proposed future public holidays should have similar broad association."



Abbie and Maurice Dempsey at the Shelton Abbey open day in Arklow



Outgoing Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Gerry Walsh hands over the chain to the new Cathaoirleach, Social Democrats councillor Mark Barry

'Visual impact of wind farms must be addressed'

Cllr Derek Mitchell has asked Wicklow County Council to get experts to do a Seaview Visual Impact Assessment on the detailed plans of the windfarm operators.

"The proposers will have to do one when they apply for permission to Bord Pleanala. However the visual impact will be worse in Greystones than any other place in Ireland because it will cover most of the horizon," Cllr Mitchell said. "An independent assessment, on behalf of the public, is vital with suggestions of how to reduce the impact while still generating carbon free electricity." This was supported by councillors Gerry Walsh and Stephen Stokes but opposed by councillors Lourda Scott and Tom Fortune. Cllr Mitchell recently met with Codling Wind Farm Staff and asked for visual impact to be reduced. "I am concerned that the Codling and Wind farms meeting off Greystones mean that this will have the biggest visual imposition of any place in Ireland and almost any place in the UK," he said. "Currently the plans are for turbines, taller than Bray Head, from Dun Laoghaire to Wicklow Town close to the coast. "I recently met with the Senior management of Codling wind farm and stated that a substantial gap should be left between the two wind farms to reduce the visual impact. They are now working on the plan of where to place the turbines but gave no commitment to leave a substantial gap. I will be asking Bord Pleanala to insist on a gap when they apply for permission."



Cllr Derek Mitchell

'Wicklow National Park needs better protections'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called for better protections for Wicklow National Park. Deputy Whitmore made this call during a debate in Dail Eireann for statements on the Progress of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Deputy Whitmore, who is an ecologist, said: "Wicklow's national park is a beautiful and valuable resource that we have in Wicklow. However, like every other National Park in Ireland, it needs greater protection. We need a considerable gear shift in the enforcement of biodiversity protection and nature protection enforcement in our parks if we want to keep them and expand them in the years to come. "Our national parks do not have management plans. We need to put those in place, and within them, we need to specify that biodiversity is the key priority for those management plans. It has to be prioritised above tourism, recreation or farming that may happen in National Parks. "Recently, I went out with the Prosilva team in Wicklow to look at ways to better manage our forestry, and I was so distressed to hear from forestry experts that there is not a single native forest in the county of Wicklow that will be there in the future if we continue as we have been when it comes to their management. This is a result of non-native deer stripping out new saplings. These are the kinds of issues that we need to address in the form of National Park Management plans." Danny Alvey, chairperson of ReWild Wicklow and Social Democrats local election candidate for Wicklow, said "National Park coverage in this country is one of the lowest in the EU at just 0.9% of total land area, far lower than our nearest neighbour the UK at 8.2%. And within this none of these National Parks have comprehensive plans for protecting and improving the habitats they offer to wildlife. That's not to say the NPWS rangers themselves don't do terrific work on a variety of projects with limited resources. But we can also see just how much work there is to do to improve biodiversity in National Parks such as the Wicklow Mountains one. Over-grazing from sika deer, sheep and encroachment of sitka spruce from surrounding plantations are real problems and will only be solved with more resources and comprehensive management plans."



Deputy Whitmore with Danny Alvey, chairperson of ReWild Wicklow

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The 200-acre estate of Belmont Demesne offers amazing off-road bike trails and walking trails through woodlands and unspoilt countryside including Bray Head Loop trail overlooking the Irish sea. The trails are perfect for bike enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. Visit Fatbike Adventures on site for bike sales, servicing, rentals & guided tours.

"Located within our beautiful Walled Garden is The Barn@Belmont café & restaurant serving delicious food, coffee & sweet treats. Catering for events of all types. We also have unlimited parking at a nominal fee. Dogs are very welcome but must be kept on leads at all times as we are also a working farm. All our trails are free of charge to use. For all information, please go to www.belmontdemesne.ie."

K2Alpacas

Looking for something quirky and pleasant to do this summer? Check out the local company K2Alpacas.

They are based just outside Newtown and Alpacas are their passion. They have a 45 minute Kids Alpaca Experience for small kids 7 and under (also suitable for people with mobility issues). You will be with the free roaming alpacas who will come up to you for a feed and photo, then you get to visit AlpacaJoes' 'all things alpaca' Farm Shop - a must for unique alpaca gifts. (Coming shortly in August is a magical Fairy Walk for the little ones).

The 2-hour Alpaca Trek Experience is suitable for all aged 8 and upwards. Hear about the adventures that the alpacas go on, learn about alpacas and their history.



You will get your own alpaca and can feed it and afterwards you finish off with a nice refreshing glass of Prosecco or Juice.

K2Alpacas also provide 121 experiences and attend outside events such as birthday parties, weddings, corporate and promotional events. To book logon to www.K2alpacas.ie

Killruddery Yard

There's something for everyone to enjoy in Killruddery Yard this summer. Nestled between the mountains and the sea, Killruddery is a great historic house of Ireland.

Home to three generations of the Brabazon family, this magnificent 800-acre estate, south of Bray includes a heritage house, formal 17th century gardens, a Walled Garden, and Killruddery Yard.

Located outside the entrance to the House & Gardens, Killruddery Yard, is an ever-evolving food and shopping space with no entry fee, where you will find The Grain Store, Pizza Shed, Coffee Shop, Farm Shop and Saturday Farm Market. With a buzzing environment, Killruddery Yard's focus is on homegrown and sustainable produce, creating a unique and varied experience for all who visit. Whether it's breakfast, lunch, or a Seasonal Supper Club in The Grain Store, catching up over a sourdough pizza in Pizza Shed, a coffee and light bite in the Coffee Shop, purchasing Walled Garden and farm produce in the Farm Shop, or chat-

ting to the stall holders at the Saturday Farm Market - there's something for everyone to enjoy in Killruddery Yard.

Open daily with no entry fee, visit Killruddery Yard this summer, catch up and maybe wander into the heritage gardens with a treat filled hamper for lunch - what better way to while away the summer days? For more information on Killruddery Yard visit www.killruddery.com



The 51st Kilmacanogue Show

The Kilmacanogue Show is holding its 51st show on Saturday 22d July with even more fun and activities for all the family. The annual show which starts at 10 am will be held in its usual location at Enniskerry Horse Farm in in Monastery, Enniskerry, A98 AK16 by kind permission of Mary and Syl Fenelon Bourke.

Over the last 51 years, the show which is run exclusively by volunteers, has raised over €500,000 to support local charities - none of this would have been possible without the support from local businesses and individuals who provide support and sponsorship to keep the show on the road year after year. This year's show is shaping up to be another fantastic day and the committee looks forward to welcoming everyone to the field.

The Kilmacanogue show continues to have all its favourite classes, like the horse and pony classes that accommodate all ages. Last year the show committee added a number of new activities and classes to the show, many of which proved to be so successful they are back this year, these include children's baking classes, adult baking classes and the interactive free children's cookie decorating workshop. The committee have also added a 'buzzbar' game for adults and anyone 'game' enough to take up the buzzbar challenge can test their skill. There will also be a showcase of local food selling delicious produce.

Some of the exciting new classes this year include the addition of vintage car classes with a class for both pre war and post war cars. There is also a new craft class for any creative kids out there. Other new activities this year include a mobile farm and everyone is invite to come and meet some farmyard friends such as pigs, ducks, hens, a calf and a goat.

Further information on the show and all the activities along with the full 2023 schedule, is available at www.kilmacanogueshow.com



K2ALPACAS

- Alpaca Trek Experiences
- Kids Alpaca Experiences
- Alpaca Therapeutic Services
- Alpaca Gift Shop
- 7 Self-catering Cottages
- For ages 1 to 100 enjoy a family or friends day out with our 85 alpacas

Only 50 minutes from Dublin City Centre

www.k2alpacas.ie

Callow Hill Upper, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow. A63 DX08

BELMONT DEMESNE

- Bike and Walking trails
- Fatbike Adventures
- Barn Restaurant & Café
- Forest Club

Welcome to Belmont Demesne. Our 200-acre estate offers amazing off-road bike & walking trails through woodlands & unspoilt countryside including Bray Head Loop trail overlooking the Irish sea. The trails are perfect for bike enthusiasts of all ages & skill levels. Dogs are very welcome but must be kept on leads at all times

Only 30 minutes from Dublin city centre and 15 minutes from the M50.

And don't forget to visit the **Barn Restaurant** run by chefs Oran Colhoun and Darryl Haynes providing lunches, grab & go menu, coffee & sweets. Available for corporate events, weddings etc. Contact: thebarnweb@gmail.com

www.belmontdemesne.ie

Lower Windgates, Greystones, A63 FX34. Tel: 083 3822003. Email: info@belmontdemesne.ie

KILMACANOGUE SHOW

22nd July in Enniskerry A98 AK16

Kids Game Zone

Free Pony Rides

Dog, Sheep & Horse Show

Mobile Farm

Baking & Craft Tent

Entertainment

Vintage Cars

Local Craft Stalls



Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, and CllrAoife Flynn-Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council

Hidden Disability spaces to be provided in Bray at last

A motion by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Cllr Melanie Corrigan back in April 2022 called for Wicklow County council in all new Council facilities to add a Hidden disability Parking space to acknowledge, support, and make more accessible parking for individuals with a hidden disability.

At last Tuesday's Municipal district meeting they were both delighted to receive the news from the District Engineer that specifications have been sought and received from Hidden disabilities Sunflower scheme LTD, in relation to hidden disability parking spaces. Signing and lining has been ordered for three spaces to be provided in Bray at Eglinton Road, Novara Avenue and Herbert road Car park.

The car park spaces will be outlined in white completely in filled, with a green road surface colouring.. A sign, provided by Hidden disabilities Sunflower stores will be adjacent to each space.

Both Councillors want to thank Bray Advocate Bernadette Nolan, for her support. Bernadette has

been working for many years on awareness as well as practical solutions for people with Hidden Disabilities.

Both Councillors have also said they will continue to work as members of the Disability and Inclusion Committee in Wicklow County Council DISC and Wicklow County council to see their other previous motions are progressed, which include a space finder app being rolled out in County Wicklow, to alert anyone requiring a Disability parking space to where there is a free space, and Communication Boards in all playgrounds in the County, for children with sensory and other disabilities to be able to express themselves and communicate.

'Bray eBike scheme showing signs of success'

The rollout of the Bolt eBike scheme in Bray is already showing signs of success with over 1000 unique users and demand for journeys now resulting in new bikes and stands being added around the town, Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle said.

"I anticipated that the scheme would be a success given the amount of people that contacted me in advance of the launch, but it has exceeded expectations, said Cllr Doyle. "So far almost 3000 bike trips have taken place since the scheme launched on June 18th. Almost 7,000 km has been cycled using the Bolt eBikes.

"I have been speaking to people who are using the bikes for fun, to go to the supermarket, for some exercise, to get to and from work, or to get to public transport. Many of these are car users who are using the bikes as an alternative and each one of those takes a town centre car journey off the road.

"This is a pilot scheme but instead of waiting until the end of a defined time period

to make changes and react to demand, the live data means that Bolt can monitor areas of high and low demand, and the types of journey made, and adapt the scheme accordingly. This is done with the co-operation of Bray Municipal District who assist in providing the infrastructure.

"Already this week, new stands and bike are being provided around the town. The Herbert Road for example has shown itself to be an area of high demand and new stands are now being installed there. Every time you log on to the app and seek a bike close to you, that request is logged.

"If a large number of people are looking to pick up a bike in a location that doesn't have any, that information is fed back and shows up as an area that could use a stand.

An added boon for pushbike users is that Bray council will be installing additional bike parking stands around the town that can cater for regular bikes as well. Many of us will continue to use our pushbikes most of the time while taking the occasional spin on a Bolt bike and the infrastructure is beneficial to us too. Needless to say, I am still pushing for more full active travel schemes around the town, that will make cycling safer for not just cyclists but pedestrians and drivers too.

"It is hoped over time that stands will be introduced to more private commercial spaces, expanding the usability of the scheme for people living in the town. If anybody has any questions about the scheme feel free to contact me," concluded Cllr Doyle



Cllr Doyle using one of Bray's new eBikes

BRAY GOSPEL HALL 27 FLORENCE ROAD

Sunday Morning 10.45 to 12 Noon
Breaking of Bread (Lord's Supper)

A Time of Worship, Praise and Remembrance.

Dear Friend,

As you know, the Lord gives each one of us Twenty Four Hours in a Day to live our Lives.

We would like to invite you to Give Back to him Just one Hour out of the Twenty Four he has given you.

We are a small Group of nondenominational Christians who meet for prayer and short bible study for one hour in the Bray Gospel Hall .

We simply pray and read The Holy Bible every Wednesday from 8pm to 9pm.

You are warmly invited to come and Hear what The Lord our God wants you to know about himself through his word, The Bible.

Corrigan calls for urgent repair works in Enniskerry



Cllr Melanie Corrigan on the Ballyman Road, Enniskerry

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Melanie Corrigan has called for urgent repair works to the Ballyman road, Enniskerry.

At last Tuesday night's Municipal District Meeting Cllr Corrigan raised the issue that now the Ballyman Road has been reopened after several months of it being closed by dunlaoirghe /Rathdown Council and Irish /Water for essential works, she has been alerted by Residents on the Road about the heavy amounts of traffic and trucks using the road again.

The Road is in a bad state of repair and local residents are unable to walk safely on this road as there is no footpath on the road. Residents have said that when the road was closed to traffic they were able to walk safely and allow their children to walk and cycle it safely. Now that it is reopened it has become unsafe to walk on due to there being no footpath. Cllr Corrigan asked the District engineer under the roads report about this and expressed her feelings that before any development started in the Fassaroe area that this road be improved for public use and safety.

The District engineer stated that to upgrade this section it would cost millions, as the road would need to be realigned which would involve land acquisition and lighting provided. He would refer the request to the Roads section in Wicklow County council.

FOR SEPTEMBER '23 COURSES:

- ALL TUITION FEES • ALL EXAM FEES
- ALL COURSE MATERIAL FEES

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MJ Music Production
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NEW HT Dog Obedience & Training - Start Your Own Business
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HF Supervision in Early Learning & Care / Childcare
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- HG** Holistic & Wellbeing Studies
FJ Professional Make Up & Hairstyling
FF Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
FG Hairdressing - Senior Stylist
FH Barbering
FD Nail Technician & Salon Administration
FC Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up

SCIENCE

- HS** Forensic Science - Pre-University
HK Science - Pre-University
HZ Food Science with Dietetics - Pre-University
JF Pharmacy Assistant
JJ Pharmacy Technician
HU Applied Ecology and Biodiversity Studies
LJ Brewing and Distilling Technology

BUSINESS

- JA** Business Management & Administration
JC Business Management - Advanced Certificate
JD Accounting Technician
LD Business Tourism Advanced Certificate
SD Legal Administration Pre-University Law
SF Medical Administration (Mornings Only)
SE IT & Office Administration (Mornings Only)
EE Security & Pre-Garda
NEW JJ Payroll & Office Administration

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LB Tourism with Airline Studies
LH Restaurant & Bar Management
LC Culinary Arts 80 LG Pastry, Baking & Barista
LE Culinary Arts Advanced
LI Hospitality & Business Management Advanced

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- RB** Adult Leaving Certificate

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Major animal welfare breaches for Irish Dairy Calves

Secret filming of Irish calves' true export journey across Europe leaving from Co. Wickow

Broadcast on 10th July, RTE Investigates - Milking It: Dairy's Dirty Secret revealed that the poor treatment of bull calves, often regarded as worthless, reflects their lowly status in the Irish dairy industry.

Made by is by RTE Prime Time presenter and former Agricultural Correspondent Fran McNulty and producer/director Frank Shouldice, it was filmed by Matt Naughton. The award-winning journalists spent over five months investigating the story, filming through calving season and interviewed a wide range of contributors.

Munster grasslands are home to over a quarter of the national herd. A big push on milk production means that one and a half million dairy calves are born in Ireland every year. They are born so that the cows continue to produce milk.

Around half a million of the calves born are male, many of lower grade quality aren't suitable to be reared for beef, so they are virtually valueless and end up being slaugh-

tered on farm, in meat factories or being exported as veal to mainland Europe.

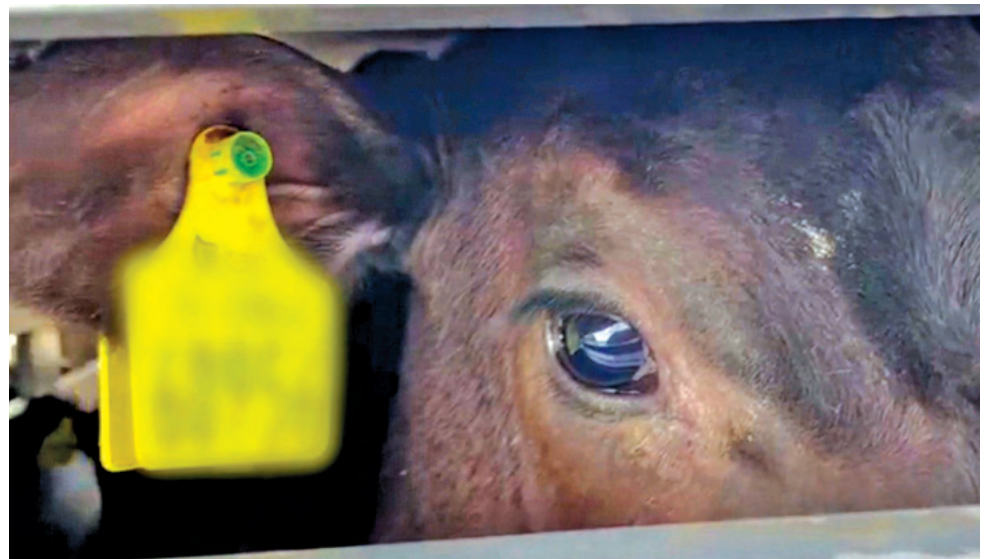
The investigation shows how at some Irish mart sales animals couldn't even be given away free of charge such is the oversupply of calves at peak points in the calving season, which is for a short six-eight week period in spring and also in autumn.

Over a number of weeks RTE Investigates filmed at several Irish marts including Cahir in Co. Tipperary, and saw some handlers treat young calves capably and with respect. But others, including mart workers, farmers and transporters, showed a blatant disregard for animal welfare. RTE Investigates found that the poor treatment of bull calves, often regarded as worthless,

reflects their lowly status in the Irish dairy industry.

Over a number of weeks RTE Investigates filmed at several Irish marts and saw some handlers treat young calves capably and with respect. But others, including mart workers, farmers and transporters, showed a blatant disregard for animal welfare.

Undercover filming captured what appeared to be serious breaches of animal welfare. The documentary showed examples of slapping, striking and kicking of animals, all prohibited by law, as well as throwing them mid-air which is regarded as a serious breach of animal welfare. Under EU regulations, sticks are not permitted for use on young calves and a calf's ears or tail, which is sensitive and can break, should



not be twisted or pulled yet undercover footage shows occurrences of these by mart staff, by farmers and by transporters in Ireland.

The programme also featured a recent sharp increase in baby calves being delivered for slaughter to meat processing plants. Over a seven-day period, RTE Investigates observed dozens of trucks deliver calves for slaughter to a meat plant in Co Limerick. Most were just a few weeks old. Both farmers delivering there, and the factory itself confirmed to RTE Investigates there would be no payment for the animals. According to the Department of Agriculture's own figures, close to 30,000, mostly young bull calves, were slaughtered at meat factories in Ireland so far this year.

The programme also investigates the journey taken by some of the 200,000 bull calves exported from Ireland every year to be fattened on veal farms in mainland Europe. The team visits farms in Spain, Holland and Poland, where several dead calves with Irish identification tags were found by the investigation team. The export of calves to the continent is a €170 million industry which see some ferries out of Irish ports carrying up to 3,000 calves in one sailing.

RTE Investigates sets out to see how the export system works. Following a truck with Irish calves from Wicklow late afternoon, first on to Rosslare Port where with other calf transporters, some with trailers board the 9pm ferry for

Cherbourg. The animals must remain inside the trucks for the entire journey. Aboard the trucks they have no access to milk. RTE Investigates filmed below deck, where most of the calves were about three-to-four weeks old. On arrival in Cherbourg the calves are unloaded, will be fed milk replacer and taken in for the night. Having made the mandatory 12-hour rest overnight the truck fills up and the driver heads south, crosses the border into Spain before arriving into a veal farm near Barcelona. At 4.57 am the calves, which left Wicklow, two and a half days ago, are unloaded. They and the RTE Investigates team had been on the road for 18 and a half hours continuously, with only short breaks.

Whitmore calls for suspension of coursing licences over concerns for pregnant hares

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Heritage not to issue any licences for the upcoming coursing season after raising concerns about the welfare of pregnant hares.

Deputy Whitmore, who is the party's spokesperson on climate action and biodiversity, said: "One of the conditions of the licence issued to coursing clubs for the capture of hares is that any injured or pregnant hare must be immediately released back into the wild.

"However, coursing clubs have no way of determining if hares are pregnant upon capture. As things stand, I do not believe that it is pos-

sible for coursing clubs to adhere to the licence conditions as they are written.

"The Irish Coursing Club's own guidelines state that any hare that is obviously pregnant shall be released back into the wild and not coursed. But the relevant licence condition does not say obviously pregnant - it just says pregnant. It is highly unlikely that clubs have the ability to ascertain early pregnancy and

therefore would be at risk of operating outside the terms of the licence.

"I have looked at the reports of several coursing clubs and can find no records of any captured hares being released on the basis that they are pregnant. From an animal welfare and biodiversity perspective, I am strongly opposed to hare coursing - an archaic and cruel activity that does not enjoy popular support. In fact, a Red C poll conducted a few years ago found that only nine per cent of Irish people agreed with it.

"In Ireland, the importance of hares is recognised in primary legis-

lation by defining them as a protected species under the Wildlife Act 1976. Incredibly, in the same piece of legislation that is supposed to protect hares, the Minister for Heritage is permitted to issue licences for their capture for the purpose of live coursing.

"I recently introduced a Bill in the Dail that, if passed, would remove the ability of the Minister to issue these licences. In the meantime, he must immediately suspend the granting of licences for the 2023/24 coursing season until there is a full examination of the issues I have raised regarding pregnant hares."



Jennifer Whitmore TD

The Joy of Bats: citizen science project in Delgany & Greystones

Understory, an environmental education and zero-waste organisation, has announced the launch of the 'Joy of Bats' project. It is an acoustic survey of Irish bats and a bat tree roost potential survey in Delgany and Greystones, led by Alex Konieczka (BSc Environmental Science) from Understory in partnership with Greystones TidyTowns and Delgany TidyTowns.



Local residents are invited to join for the opportunity to:

- Learn bat surveying and fieldwork skills
- Explore the bat roost potential of trees
- Contribute to science
- Influence decision-making in Delgany and Greystones

This milestone is a major positive step for Wicklow-based Understory on its mission to promote nature connection and encourage greater engagement by society in biodiversity action.

"This is a brilliant opportunity for all of us to better understand just how much bat diversity we have around us. I'm ecstatic to have been selected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to lead this project and raise awareness about these fascinating animals", says Alex Konieczka, Understory founder.

"We're so thrilled to support the Joy of Bats Project, it matches the aims of Greystones TidyTowns to deliver awareness raising and educational activities, encourage con-

servation of heritage and promote active citizenship. It's a great opportunity for people to engage in citizen science and help shape the future for biodiversity in the area," says Adam Calihman, Greystones TidyTowns Vice-Chair and Biodiversity lead.

It's hoped that the project will provide up to date information on the presence and diversity of bats in Delgany and Greystones.

These areas are highly attractive to investors and developers with several planning applications being submitted annually.

Both Delgany and Greystones are heritage towns with Architectural Conservation Areas and multiple historical and biodiversity sites that are likely to be of significance to bats, modification to local heritage may result in knock-on impacts on bat roosting and overall ecosystem health.

The Joy of bats project aims to provide this vital information, which will help to inform decision making, conservation and mitiga-

tion strategies such as creation of feeding and roosting sites and could lead to targeted surveying of specific locations identified as significant.

Whether you hate midges (which bats eat), care about local heritage, find bats cute or simply care about ecosystem health and biodiversity, consider joining the project as a citizen scientist. To learn more and sign up to The Joy of Bats project, visit www.understory.ie/projects or come along to Understory's info stand at the Plaza market on Sunday 16th July 2023 at the community section.

Please note volunteers will be required to attend a free mandatory in-person training session on either Wednesday 26th (www.eventbrite.ie/e/joy-of-bats-training-in-greystones-tickets-677006-603977) or Saturday 29th July 2023 (www.eventbrite.ie/e/joy-of-bats-training-in-delgany-tickets-677047-476227) to take part in the project.

Book your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Fianna Fáil select Dunne for 2024 Local Elections



Senator Pat Casey with Cllr Gail Dunne

Cllr. Gail Dunne will be seeking re-election to Wicklow County Council following a Fianna Fáil selection convention last Monday evening.

The convention was chaired by Minister James Browne TD and in the presence of Senator Pat Casey, Minister Stephen Donnelly, Senator Malcolm Byrne, Cllr. Tommy Annesley as well as many of Cllr. Dunne's family and supporters. Speaking after being officially selected Cllr. Dunne addressed all in attendance: "It has been a huge honour to be selected to contest the local elections once again. It has been a privilege to represent the people of the Wicklow LEA and I look forward to continuing that representation."

Cllr. Dunne added about the work that has taken place during his term and his plans for the future "We have achieved so much around the area, the new library, redevelopment of Fitzwilliam Square, the footpath from Ashford to Ballinahinch Woods and the footpath from Glenealy to Rathnew but we still have so much to achieve. Housing is the big issue and I want to see a continued supply of social, affordable and private housing so people can once again aspire to own their own home." Cllr. Dunne concluded with a look forward to



Wicklow Fianna Fáil members at the selection convention last week

the campaign ahead: "We will have a lot of work to do between now and June but we are looking forward to knocking doors and putting in a good campaign."

Voters and potential voters advised to check the Electoral Register

Voters and potential voters across County Wicklow are being asked to check to Register of Elector to make sure they are included and their details are correct.

The call comes part of a new nationwide campaign to encourage everyone, including those already registered to vote, to go to checktheregister.ie and either confirm or update their details. This is important with Local and European Elections due to take place next year.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy encouraged people to get involved saying "the Council is actively calling on new and existing electors to engage with the elector registration process, even if you are already registered to vote, by going on www.checktheregister.ie to either confirm or update your details or register for the first time."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, added: "Wicklow County Council welcomes this nationwide campaign, staff of the Council are on hand to assist the public in the registration process which has never been easier."

The new campaign was launched by Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral

Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD, who called on electors and potential electors to engage with the latest Check the Register initiative.

Encouraging everyone to ensure their information is correct, he stated: "Local authorities around the country are gearing up for a substantial body of work over the summer months to update the electoral register and further improve its accuracy but they can't do it on their own. Even if we're already on the register, we all have a part to play and we can do this by checking and either confirming or updating our information. Adding details including date of birth and PPSN allows local authorities to cross-check and confirm the information provided by each person, adding to the integrity of the process."

"We can also let local authorities know about other changes needed, for example in relation to family members who are deceased and still on the register, I think we all know that it can be upsetting for a loved one to receive a polling card for someone no longer with us."

This campaign will see a national campaign roll out on broadcast, outdoor and digital channels. Local authorities will also undertake activities in their local area to encourage people to get their details up to date in advance of the opportunities to vote taking place in the year ahead.

"Voters across the country now have a simple and straightforward way of engaging with their local authority on the electoral register through checktheregister.ie. Those in the Dublin region can also use Voter.ie."

The ability to engage online has been a game-changer in the registration process both for registration authorities and for the wider public. These changes give us a more accessible, flexible and modern system that's simple and straightforward to use. It has never been easier or quicker for people to register to vote or update their details, or simply let the local authority know that their details are current and correct by adding their PPSN and date of birth, so that's what we're encouraging everyone to do today," said Minister Noonan.



At the Irish Wheelchair Association Arklow branch Open Day were Eve Dalton, Paul McBride, Fiona Harris, Thomas Kelly, Maria Nugent, Patricia Shortt, Brendan O'Callaghan, Michelle O'Toole, Tina Ward and Patrick Keegan.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow County
Development Plan 2022 - 2028

PREPARATION OF THE WICKLOW TOWN –
RATHNEW LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024

Consultations under Section 20 of the Planning &
Development Act 2000
(as amended)

Wicklow County Council intends to review the existing plan and prepare a new Local Area Plan for the settlement of 'Wicklow Town – Rathnew'. An online consultation portal has been created, which makes reference to the significant planning topics that the Local Area Plan will address. The portal can be accessed through www.wicklow.ie and is accepting submissions from 19 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Development Plan 2013 – 2019 is the current land use plan for the settlement and is available to view at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew-Local-Area-Plan-2024>

INFORMATION DAY

A public information day will be held in Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town in September 2023. Further details will follow with regard to the date and times for this public information day.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions or observations regarding the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new Local Area Plan are hereby invited from the public and interested bodies, between the period 19 July 2023 to 28 September 2023. Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations.

Submissions may be made in either of the following ways:

1. Write to: 'Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP', Administrative Officer, Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow.
2. Through the online consultation portal at www.wicklow.ie

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew-Local-Area-Plan-2024>

NOTE

All submissions should include your name and an email address/contact address 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. hard copy or through the portal. The planning process is an open and public one. In that context, all submissions/ observations are a matter of public record, and may also be placed on the County Council's website.



Dip in the Nip in aid of Wicklow Hospice returns

The popular and important fundraiser makes a return to a new location at Greystones South Beach. Supported by Codling Wind Park and launched by Wicklow Hospice ambassador Shane Byrne

Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services (OLH&CS), Wicklow, is calling on the brave men of Wicklow and surrounds to bare all and take part in its male-only Dip in the Nip, at 10.00am, on Sunday 8th October 2023 on Greystones South Beach. The event is being sponsored by the Wicklow based offshore renewable energy project, Codling Wind Park.



Wicklow Hospice volunteer Steve Blount launching the male only Dip in the Nip which takes place on Sunday 8th October.

The inaugural Dip in the Nip took place in 2019 and was a great community success but was since postponed because of the pandemic. This year, Dip in Nip is back and is kindly supported by Codling Wind Park, along with the help of former Irish Rugby player and Wicklow Hospice ambassador, Shane Byrne. Wicklow Hospice hopes that men will line out on the Greystone South Beach to take part in this important fundraising event.

To take part, men, groups, clubs and workplaces are asked to raise at least €100 for Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Wicklow, all of which will go towards supporting the delivery of services and care in Wicklow Hospice.

Codling Wind Park Project Director, Scott Sutherland, said: "We recently became a corporate partner of Wicklow Hospice and are looking forward to supporting its excellent care and attention to people across our



Wicklow Hospice volunteer Steve Blount, lifeguard Luca Spurling, and former Irish Rugby player and Wicklow Hospice ambassador Shane Byrne launching this year's male only Dip in the Nip.

community here in Wicklow. We've seen first-hand the amazing work done within Magheramore and throughout the community.

"As well as being an important fundraiser for OLH&CS, Dip in the Nip stokes great excitement among participants, so we are really looking forward to getting behind the event and some of us will be participating too!", he added.

Karen Gallagher,

Interim Director of Fundraising & Communications at OLH&CS said: "We are very excited to see the return of Dip in the Nip and are delighted to continue our partnership with Codling Wind Park with them coming on board as sponsor of this campaign. Community fundraising was vitally important to ensure we were able to open the doors of Magheramore in 2020, the first dedicated palliative care facility in Wicklow.

"Fundraising and community support continue to be the life blood of our work at Wicklow Hospice, whether that's in our in-patient facility which cared for 196 inpatients last year or through our Community Palliative Care Team, which made 3,285 visits to people's homes. Initiatives like Dip in the Nip help to ensure the continued provision and development of our services, so we urge the people of Wicklow and

surrounds to come out and support, whether that be through participation or sponsoring one of the brave participants," she added.

This year's event takes place on Sunday 8th October at 10.00am. The women of Wicklow are also asked to show their support by supporting friends or family taking part. For more information and to register, please go to: www.olh.ie/dip-in-the-nip/

Ecotrail Wicklow trail running festival gets support from Failte Ireland

EcoTrail Wicklow running festival has secured the support of Failte Ireland for the next edition of EcoTrail Wicklow set to take place from the 28th to the 30th of September.

The support is dedicated to growing the festival atmosphere of the event and increase its awareness abroad and encourage international participation.

EcoTrail Wicklow race day is scheduled for Saturday the 30th of September in Bray with start and finish on the Seafront. The event offers participants four distances to choose from, all going through stunning Wicklow scenery.

The 19k is a fantastic race for anyone who wants to have a go at Trail Running. The route takes runners over Bray Head, Killruddery, the Little Sugarloaf and Belmont Demesne.

The 30km offers an added challenge and includes a loop around the iconic Big Sugarloaf. There are two Ultra Running distance options, with the 46km extending to Powerscourt Waterfall and the Wicklow Way.

80km runners will follow the Wicklow Way to Lough Tay (or Guinness Lake) and a loop around the Vartry Reservoir, before working their way back to Bray.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, said: "EcoTrail Wicklow has found a lasting home in Bray. The incredible setting by the Irish Sea and the net-

work of trail leading to Wicklow National Park and beyond make Bray a perfect year-round gateway to Wicklow's outstanding outdoor playground."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, added: "EcoTrail Wicklow provides our county with an excellent opportunity to showcase Wicklow as a fantastic playground for outdoor activities. With the backing of Failte Ireland, the event and destination will reach a larger audience both within Ireland and abroad."

Fred Verdier, Tourism Officer at Wicklow Council, stated: "We are absolutely delighted to get Failte

Ireland's support and are busy planning for the event in September. After three editions, EcoTrail Wicklow is growing from strength to strength attracting participants from 40 different nationalities as far as Singapore, South Africa and Mexico."

Ciara Sugrue, Head of Festivals and Events at Failte Ireland, said: "Festivals and events are a key element of the tourism offering in Ireland, and Failte Ireland is pleased to support this year's EcoTrail Wicklow which will showcase

Ireland's fantastic outdoor activity offering to domestic and international visitors.

"Developing unique visitor events like EcoTrail Wicklow plays an important role in the recovery of the tourism sector for Wicklow and the wider Ireland's Ancient East region. Participative festivals like EcoTrail Wicklow create new and compelling reasons for visitors to explore Ireland and experience first-hand our world-class outdoor activity offering. Events like this have the ability to drive footfall for local businesses, which in turn generates revenue and supports jobs in communities and revenue generation."

Trail running has experienced a huge growth over the past decade, attracting people of all ages who are looking to get in shape while enjoying the outdoors. There are numerous trail running events worldwide, appealing to visitors looking to discover new locations and experiences. Ireland, especially Wicklow, with its strong network of trails, stunning scenery, and favourable climate year-round is an ideal destination for this sport.

For more information about EcoTrail Wicklow, visit their website on <http://wicklow.ecotrail.com>



Pictured are Nicola Cleary from EcoTrail Wicklow; Nicola Fitzgerald, Failte Ireland, and Fred Verdier, Wicklow County Council, pictured on Bray Head to launch EcoTrail Wicklow Trail Running Festival set to take place on September 30th.

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Whitmore calls for swift delivery of additional classrooms for Blessington Community College

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore is calling on the Department of Education to ensure the swift delivery of six additional classrooms needed by Blessington Community College. This follows confirmation at a recent KWETB board meeting that the classrooms will not be in place for the beginning of the new school year due to a worldwide shortage in modular classrooms.

The KWETB Executive informed members of the board that they had been working with the Blessington Community College School Principal and teaching staff rearranging timetables and they guaranteed that every child who had been offered a place at the school would be accommodated for the new school year.

"While I welcome the news from the KWETB that all Blessington Community College students will be accommodated when school starts

back in late August, I am also calling on the Department of Education to ensure that these six additional classrooms are delivered and ready to be used as early in the school year as possible," commented Deputy Whitmore.

Deputy Whitmore continued, "I would like to acknowledge all the hard work that has been carried out by the team at Blessington Community College, in particular their Principal Kieran Burke and the Parents Association led by Triona



Jennifer Whitmore TD and Social Democrats Local Area Representative Deirdre McCormack with Blessington Community College Principal Kieran Burke and members of the Parents Association

Mills and Charlotte O'Connor. They have worked tirelessly for their school community over the last year to highlight the urgent accommodation needs for the school."

Social Democrats Local Area Representative for West Wicklow, Deirdre McCormack, said

"The uncertainty around the additional classrooms has been a source of stress and worry in our community with many parents raising the issue

with me on the doorsteps. The guarantee that every child who has been offered a place will be accommodated is good news and will help to

reassure parents and students ahead of the new school year."

Deputy Whitmore concluded: "We will continue to work with the

Blessington Community College school community to support them in the development and much needed expansion of their school."

'Families need urgent help with unaffordable back-to-school costs'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady and Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore have called on the Government to address the high cost for schoolbooks and back-to-school costs which families are struggling to meet.

A recent survey by the Irish League of Credit Unions revealed the financial pressures parents are facing over their children's education.

Deputy Brady said, "Back-to-school costs are putting huge pressure on families across Wicklow. School transport, books, uniforms and voluntary contributions can add up to hundreds or even thousands of Euros for families."

"These costs are unaffordable, and this is particularly the case as families face the cost-of-living crisis. Every day, parents in Wicklow have shared their concerns with me about meeting these costs."

"This survey by the Irish League of Credit Unions highlights the huge pressures families are under here in Wicklow and across the state."

"The results find that a third of families are unable to buy new shoes for their children when they go back to school in September. The figures also show that 72 per cent of parents are finding back to school costs to be a financial burden this year compared to 66 per cent in 2022."

"Families in Wicklow need a break from back-to-school costs now. Government must act to ensure that families get this support urgently, as September is approaching quickly."

"Sinn Féin have a plan to cut back-to-school costs and to end this financial pressure on families. We would introduce affordable school uniforms, expand the school transport scheme, ensure every child has access to a hot meal in school and stop families being pressured into paying voluntary contributions. Sinn Féin would ensure families get a break from back-to-school costs now. This would help families in Wicklow by ensuring that they get the support they need."

Deputy Whitmore raised this issue with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in the Dail on behalf of parents in the constituency who are facing daunting book bills this summer ahead of the return to school.

Deputy Whitmore said: "I know I speak for many parents of children in secondary school when I say we are sick and tired of forking out large sums of money every year for schoolbooks. It is particularly galling that parents have to recycle perfectly good books at the end of each school term and that siblings are unable to transfer e-codes to each other."

"The League of Credit Unions published the results of its annual School Costs survey this week and of their respondents 80% of parents have seen an increase to their back to school costs this year. The sur-

vey found parents are spending on average €1,288 per secondary school child, and books account for a significant proportion of these costs."

"Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of schoolbooks are thrown out each year just because there are minor changes made to new editions. This is both costly and wasteful. I know of families in Wicklow who are buying multiples of the same books, for two and three years in a row simply because they cannot share the e-codes with their siblings coming up behind them. This is a waste of money and waste of hard copy books, which come with each e-book purchase."

"Ideally, I would like to see free schoolbooks extended to secondary schools, as will be the case at primary level from September. Until this happens, the Department of Education needs to bring in the publishing companies and discuss how costs can be reduced for hard-pressed parents. There needs to be a mechanism for families to share e-books, either through parent emails or the schools themselves."

"This has been going on for far too long. Given that we are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, such needless waste of money and resources should no longer be tolerated."

Yoga Teacher Training Course at SCFE now offered free of charge!

If you've been dreaming of becoming a certified yoga teacher but financial constraints have held you back, then you'll be pleased to learn that starting from September 2023, Sallynoggin College of Further Education (SCFE) is offering its renowned Yoga Teacher Training course completely free of charge.

SCFE is conveniently located within walking distance of Dún Laoghaire and is well served by public transport. Students can also avail of our free secure car park.

The SCFE Yoga Teacher Training course, combined with Wellbeing and Holistic Studies, has graduated over 100 students since its development in 2018. The course is designed to support students to go deeper into their exploration of yoga and develop the skills necessary to teach. To support all learners the course is run in a part time and full time capacity and now with the removal of all course charges, aspiring yoga teachers can pursue their dreams without worrying about the financial burden. Allowing graduates to share the transformative power of yoga with others.

Aoife Driver, the Course Coordinator, expresses her excitement about this new development: "We believe that everyone should have access to quality education and the opportunity to follow their passions. By removing the course charges, we are opening doors for aspiring yoga teachers who may have faced financial barriers in the past. We want to empower individuals to embrace a fulfilling career in yoga."

"Many of our past stu-



that it is very important to have a knowledge of why the poses are done and the history behind them. Aoife really helped me feel so much more aware of what Yoga truly means."

Upon successful completion of the 200+hr ITEC Yoga Teaching Award, you will be equipped to start your own yoga teaching business and embark on a fulfilling career as a holistic practitioner. Moreover, SCFE offers further study opportunities, such as a Pilates Teacher Training course, allowing you to expand your skill set and broaden your career prospects.

Funding is also available for Social Welfare recipients through the Vocational Training Opportunities scheme (VTOS and the Back to Education Allowance scheme (BTEA). Mature applicants are very welcome, and applicants may also be accepted without meeting formal entry requirements. Through the BTEI scheme this course is also available on a part-time basis.

To seize this incredible opportunity and embark on a journey of self-discovery and professional growth, visit SCFE's website at www.scfe.ie or contact (01) 2852997 for more information. Applications for the September 2023 intake are open now.

students have gone on to work for themselves in an industry that is flexible and fits in with other careers and family life. There are many paths available, and this course focuses on giving students the skills and qualifications necessary to deepen their own practice in a supportive environment and to share their knowledge with others."

Former students strongly recommend the course: "The yoga and holistic studies course in SCFE is excellent. The quality of teaching and the depth of content are probably of the highest standard I have encountered over my time

spent as a student. The college has a lovely vibe. Life changing," said Fedelma.

Goshia said, "I was hesitant to start studying again at the age of 40, but I found many people on my course were in the exact position as me. It was an amazing year - probably one of the best of my life."

Former student Niamh said "I love how this course made us dive deep into the history of Yoga and not just the physical practice. There was a great balance of theory and practice. I have witnessed how other courses work and they seem to focus a lot on the physical. I feel

KWETB's Carnew Further Education and Training Centre Graduation

There were great celebrations recently at KWETB's Carnew Further Education and Training Centre , when students received their full award in Healthcare Support at QQI level 5.

KWETB Chief Executive, Dr. Deirdre Keyes congratulated all the students, acknowledged the commitment it takes for adults to return to education and encouraged those present to continue on their learning journey.

Karin Walker, ALO/Co-ordinator of South-Wicklow ABE Service welcomed the students, their family and friends to the award ceremony. She thanked the Service's partners including, Mr. Pearse Egan, CNM2 ñ Rehab Team with HSE Community

Healthcare East, Mr. David Murray Supervisor and Mr. Pat Power from Tinahely Community Employment Scheme for their continued support and looks forward to collaborating with them in the year ahead.

All those who graduated in Healthcare Support are now working in the healthcare sector in community/homecare, nursing home and residential care home settings.

Carnew Further Education & Training Centre is based at Newline, Carnew and

offers a large range of part-time courses both accredited and non-accredited, including: Healthcare Support, Office Skills, Digital Skills, Employability Skills, English as a Second Language, Family Learning and many more. Adult Guidance is another service available at Carnew Further Education & Training Centre.

Why not take that first step back into education? Contact the Centre on 087 9176508 or 087 3761381 or call in person on Monday and Wednesdays from 10am - 12.30pm.



Elaine Byrne and Dean Webster at the KWETB's Carnew Further Education and Training Centre



Ina and Leiona Mayers at the KWETB's Carnew Further Education and Training Centre for graduation awards



Amber and Aisling Walsh with Martha Cullen at the KWETB's Carnew Further Education and Training Centre



Graduation students at the KWETB's Carnew Further Education and Training Centre graduation awards

Artists needed to tackle climate and health

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland launches open call for visual art projects



The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is looking for Wicklow artists to submit visual artworks tackling the pressing issue of climate and health. Photo: Kenneth O'Halloran.

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) has launched an art competition inviting artists to submit a piece of visual art exploring the theme of Climate and Health for an exhibition at No. 6 Kildare Street, Dublin, to be held in October 2023.

The winning entry will receive a prize of €2,000, with two additional artists receiving a prize of €300 each. The judging panel will be chaired by James Hanley RHA, one of Ireland's most prominent painters and a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts (RHA).

"I would strongly encourage any artist to enter this fantastic competition," says Mr Hanley. "It is a wonderful piece of patronage by one of the most venerable institutions in the city, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, who occupy this wonderful building on Kildare Street. It gives artists a chance to try for the prize money and for the exposure and is another great competition in the broad landscape of patronage for the arts community and it is very, very, welcomed."

The competition is part of RCPI's commitment to advocacy

around the huge challenges triggered by climate change and its impact on the world's population.

Concerns about climate change and public health were raised by hospital doctors across Ireland according to RCPI's Head of Healthcare Leadership, Professor Trevor Duffy.

"Climate change arose as a significant and pressing issue for our Trainees, Members and Fellows," said Professor Duffy.

"The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland wants to provide a space to discuss the challenges of climate breakdown. We believe art is one way of articulating the personal and collective feelings and stories around this challenge, and for envisioning shared solutions that protect our health and our planet."

Artists who are established,

emerging, or enjoy creating art as a hobby, are invited to submit a piece of art in any medium including painting, photography, sculpture, and video.

- Work must be either completed within the last three years OR new work created in response to the theme

- Submissions are welcome from artists resident in Ireland at all stages of their career.

- Selected works will be exhibited at our historic home in No 6 Kildare St from 16 to 20 October 2023. We will provide transport for artwork.

- We will not charge commission on sale of work.

- AI-created works are not eligible.

The Deadline for submissions is Monday, 28th August 2023. Submission Guidelines and Information can be found at rcpi.ie

Glimpses gives a view into another world

Invitation

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF OUR ANTHOLOGY:

Glimpses

new writing from the writer's room
arklow library

Tuesday 25th July
7.00pm
Arklow Library
Y14 PY61

RSVP
by July 22
foleysjandn@outlook.com

With Support from In Support of

The Writers Room are a writers group based in Arklow. They are bringing out new book on 25 July. Comprising of new short stories and poems from its members it proves to be a feast for anyone who loves a good story. The members of The Writers Room are a diverse group, with members drawn from South Africa, the UK, France and Northern Ireland as well as natives of Arklow. All of the members have come together to celebrate the art of writing, to encourage each other and to enjoy the adventure of publishing a book. The writings are diverse and provide entertainment for all readers, they include a tale of a farmer who has a date with a vegan, a time travel tale and a piece about the regeneration of Arklow. Entitled *Glimpses*, the book will be launched on Tuesday 25 July, at 7.00pm at a reception in Arklow Library. The book will be for sale at the launch, at a cost of €10 and all proceeds are going to the Arklow Lifeboat Station. The Writers Room would not have been able to publish this book without the support and generous funding from Arklow Library and SSE Renewables. Copies of *Glimpses* will also be available from the Lifeboat shop during the Maritime Festival weekend, from Paul Doyle's shop, Main Street, Burkes Spar shop Lower Main Street and Kavanaghs on the Wexford Road.

Garden as Gallery: An immersive outdoor performance

Mermaid Arts Centre, 14th July - 17th September, 10:00 am - 4:00pm, €25

Anything can emerge as dancers, musicians and audience co-create in the freshness of the present moment. Authentic, passionate, and engaging with the miracle of our bodies and the earth. Breathing, feeling, moving, responding, aliveness.

GARDEN AS GALLERY is a wonderful day-long event of dance and sound, inspired by the present moment, the inter-connections of the performers and the powerful presence of the natural world.

Conceived by Joan Davis, four dancers, one musician and two hosts create an offering which is heartfelt and vibrant, expressing the world inside themselves in relationship with the outside world.

Set among four acres of gardens overlooking the Irish sea, GARDEN AS GALLERY is a visual delight for the senses. The audience impacts the creation through their presence making each performance unique.

Garden as Gallery 2023

July 14th, 15th, 16th, 28th, 29th, 30th
August 4th, 5th, 6th

immersive outdoor performances
10am - 4pm

arts council
dance
Conceived by Joan Davis
www.gardenasgallery.com
dance
mermaid

'When I Close my Eyes': an exhibition by Iseult McCormack

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 18th September to Sunday 1st October

Intuitive abstract artist Iseult McCormack presents her first solo show 'When I Close my Eyes' which promises to be an immersive experience, inviting viewers to explore the landscapes of the artist's dreams. This collection invites us to embark on a journey of color, form, and inner reflection.

This exhibition encapsulates Iseult's intuitive and abstract approach to her work, an enchanting infusion of colour and form, translating her innermost visions onto canvas, using mixed media, largely acrylic and even some collage - creating work that dances between the realms of dreams and imagination.

A Bray local, Iseult has delved into numerous mediums and traversed many creative paths over the years leading her to here in a place of peace and fulfilment and it is here she thrives, translating her innermost visions onto canvas.

All Welcome! Opening Reception: Friday
22nd September 2023, 7pm to 9pm



Caoi de Barra scooting to Bray

Caoi de Barra, an up-and-coming Irish singer/songwriter from Bray (currently based in Berlin), has been making waves in the music industry after leaving her mark as a member of the acclaimed alternative-pop trio Wyvern Lingo. As part of her national tour this summer she'll be playing the Harbour Bar in Bray on August 17th. On this tour de Barra will be travelling by scooter.



Caoi de Barra

With her unparalleled talent and unique style, de Barra is quickly becoming a notable presence in the music world.

With an artistic style influenced by the likes of Jeff Buckley and Joni Mitchell, de Barra released her highly anticipated debut EP 'Thicket' in August 2022.

De Barra's latest single 'Treehouse' came out last month - a captivating disillusioned-summer-bop, where the Irish housing crisis leaves de Barra feeling trapped in a perpetual state of adolescence, and the concept of being a self-sufficient artist seems as lofty as building a dwelling up a tree - "It's really letting my petulant inner child do the problem solving", de Barra says.

She now shares the official video for 'Treehouse', directed and edited by Katie Freney.

Speaking on the video, Caoi says: "Katie and I wanted to make something lush, playful and bittersweet. It's a kind of cartoonish take on the idea of not knowing 'how-to-adult'."

De Barra has just wrapped up touring as drummer for Grammy-nominated singer songwriter Allison Russell, (which included an appearance at Glastonbury), and this week embarks on her own solo tour of Ireland, over July and August, traveling from town to town on a trusty 125cc scooter. New dates have been added since the initial announcement.

Speaking about the tour, Caoi says "Exploring the backroads, towns and villages of Ireland on my 125 cc scooter feels extremely peaceful and enriching to me. Less practical than a car, but low on fuel usage, and almost as romantic as travelling on horseback. On top of that I have the privilege of performing my songs for people in the places I go to, immediately immersed in the local arts scene. The scooter tour for me is the perfect solo quest."



Young festival goers at the recent 2023 Kaleidoscope Festival at Russborough House, Ireland's family focussed festival.

Chaos/Order

23rd June to 3rd September
Municipal Gallery, dlr LexIcon, Dún Laoghaire

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is delighted to present the 2023 dlr Open Exhibition of visual art by artists who have studied in, are originally from, or are living or working in the County. This work was selected by Ann Mulrooney, Cartoon Saloon through an open-submission process.



Artist Gaby Browett with her work 'Right Side Dominant'

Artists were invited to submit work on the theme of Chaos/Order.

Mulrooney commented 'The artists selected for this open exhibition responded to the theme of Chaos/Order, and their work gives us glimpses into how they see the world, the relationship between humans and nature, and the many ways in which the artistic process helps to make sense of the messy business of life'.

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council said "I'm proud that dlr Council provides an open exhibition opportunity to visual artists in the county at the Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon. In this exhibition artists respond to themes of chaos and order, advancing our shared



Artist Dianne Whyte (left) with her award-winning work 'Fragmented Space: Complete', talking with selector Ann Mulrooney of Cartoon Saloon, Frank Curran (Chief Executive DLR County Council) and Carolyn Brown, Assistant Arts Officer at DLR County Council

understanding of the complex world we live in both locally and globally through the lens of contemporary art".

The exhibition includes approximately 50 artists from early career to established artists with a broad range of media including painting, sculpture, photography,

print and mixed media ... including Gerry Blake, Claire Halpin, Conor Horgan, Laura Kelly, Eleanor Phillips, Linda Quinlan, Mary O'Connor, Dianne Whyte and Lee Welch.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Denis O'Callaghan said "The theme Chaos /Order has given artists a

wide scope to work within.

It's interesting to see nature feature strongly across the pieces and how the artistic process itself is a way of imposing order and meaning on a world that can feel increasingly chaotic. There are many wonderful local perspectives of Dún Laoghaire evident in the selected work."

The exhibition opens on Friday 23 June and runs until Sunday 3 September 2023 at the Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire.

Closed Bank Holiday 5-7 August inclusive. For details of the Gallery Learning Programme go to www.dlrcoco.ie/dlrrts for further information.

Irish Planning Institute survey finds resourcing of planning system is a significant challenge

A new survey from the Irish Planning Institute (IPI), the all-island professional membership body for spatial planners, has revealed that both public organisations/local authorities (62%) as well as private/semi-state organisations (60%) are facing significant challenges with retaining and recruiting new staff.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Fintan & Andrea O'Reilly intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site: 6A New Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.
The development will consist of a single storey flat roof extension to front elevation (west). Flat roof to extend over and replace existing porch roof and all associated site work. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Victoria Kelly seek planning permission for the construction of 12 No. 3 Bed semi-detached dwellings, a new vehicular entrance/exit to R752 a connection to public services and all together with associated site development works at Ballyfree East, Glenealy, 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
Gary and Caroline Brady seek permission for the construction of (1) a first floor extension to the side, (2) a single-storey extension to the front of the existing dwelling and (3) widening of the existing driveway entrance to an overall width of 3.5 metres at 42 Fairhill, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 FP48. 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
Significant Information/Revised Plans
I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 22/1269 for Lusra Teo who are applying for permission at Ballinabarny, Rathnew, Co Wicklow. Significant further information/revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
GFPE Consulting Limited seeks Change of Use Permission & Permission for: the change of use and refurbishment of existing farm outbuildings to tourist accommodation cottages, with the extension of 1 existing outbuilding to provide a total of 3 new self-catering tourist accommodation cottages, two number 2 bedroom units and one number 1 bed unit, with new roofs and revised fenestration, carparking for 3 cars, new hedge and fence at boundary, removal of trees and hedges at road junction to achieve sightlines, and the demolition of existing lean to extension and partial demolition of one larger existing agricultural shed, new septic tank, wastewater treatment system, percolation area, soakaways, bored well and all associated site works at Bahana Farm, Bahana, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, A98PN70. 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, Peter Corrigan intend to apply for permission for development on lands at Rathattin, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow. The proposed development is the restoration of an existing quarry through the importation of 120,500 tonnes of clean, inert soil and stones over an area of 2.26 hectares to restore the land to an agricultural end use. Permission is also sought for the continued use of a portable wheel wash, temporary staff welfare facilities and other site ancillary works. 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.

Many respondents highlighted the perceived difficulties in attracting new talent to the workforce and the lack of understanding that the public has of the profession as a career choice. The survey, which was conducted by KPMG Future Analytics on behalf of the IPI, found that the role of planning in climate action and Marine Spatial Planning are viewed as major issues in the profession.

Greater emphasis on engagement at the plan making stage and further collaboration between public and private sector planners were highlighted as key requirements over the coming years. This initiative would ensure better outcomes for developments.

The extent of legislative change is also an issue facing the planning profession. The legal system being seen as the final arbiter in planning decisions and

the need to ensure the expertise and planning judgement of planners is respected were highlighted as serious challenges. The reconstitution of An Bord Pleanála, third party objections, judicial reviews and regular changes to the legislative framework were also among the top topics presenting concerns for practising planners. Many respondents feel that the planning profession is poorly understood by the public and that the system, and by association the profession, is portrayed negatively in the press.

The backlog of planning applications pending determination by An Bord Pleanála, remains a major concern for the planning sector. This is exacerbating the housing crisis and demand for development more widely thereby undermining the function, role, and public perception of the planning profession.

Mary Mac Mahon, President of the Irish Planning Institute said: "As a professional body representing planners engaged in physical and

environmental planning, it is imperative that the IPI engages with members to gauge any industry issues or concerns. Across all sectors, recruitment and staff retention is a common theme, this is also the case for the planning sector. It is important to recognise that an efficient and effective planning process is reliant on a well-resourced and informed profession."

Stephen M. Purcell, Director and Co-Head of KPMG Future Analytics, said: "At KPMG Future Analytics we were delighted to have had the opportunity to support the Irish Planning Institute in the delivery of this project. With a heightened focus on the environment, on the quality of development-delivery and on decision making processes, it is important that we collectively consider the future of the profession. The surveys are intended to provide the Irish Planning Institute with a snapshot of feedback and experiences from across the professional planning community on an all-island basis."

Hybrid working has become a common practice in most planning workplaces with 71% of the private/semi-state organisations that responded to survey stating they have a 'Hybrid/Remote' workplace, while local authorities and public organisations reported 73%. This contributes to more than 80% of respondents stating that they are satisfied in their current role, with factors such as work life balance and sense of purpose also important.

Other key findings include:

- Nearly 82% of planners have additional qualifications, showing it is a very wide ranging, diverse, highly trained, and motivated profession.
- Marine Spatial Planning will be a significant area of activity for planning in the future but only around 2% of the respondents identify Marine Spatial Planning as an additional qualification, confirming the need for urgent capacity building in this area.
- Lack of entry level planners and fewer graduate planner opportunities in public authorities.
- Professional planners in Local Authorities are also working in a wider range of areas compared to previous years.
- Nearly 52% of the respondents were female, and this level of female participation surpasses the norm in the construction and built environment professions.

Founded in 1975, the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) is the all-island professional body representing professional planners engaged in physical, spatial and environmental planning in Ireland and Irish planners practicing overseas. Representing over 1,000 planners across the public and private sector, members of the Irish Planning Institute work in Local Authorities, An Bord Pleanála, Central Government, Regional Assemblies, Academia, in Private Practice as Consultants, for large Developers and for semi state organisations.

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Jack and Michaela Byrne at the Shelton Abbey Open Day in Arklow

Input of Wicklow retirees wanted to inform new policies

Fine Gael is seeking the input of Wicklow retirees for new policies to promote positive ageing, local Minister Simon Harris has said.

Minister Harris said the party is holding a Policy Lab on Positive Ageing to reach as wide an audience as possible so that the lived experience of families and those with direct experience in the area can throw up new insights for policy makers.

"We are proposing a survey to seek general views on the importance of particular issues around positive ageing, the perception of existing arrangements and barriers, the priorities for improvement, and examples of good practice they have experienced," Minister Harris explained.

"The survey will offer the chance for people to take part in facilitated 'Policy Kitchens' where policy innovations can be developed and teased out. These sessions will examine a wide range of issues, including how do we build diverse policies needed at different stages to support a fulfilling retirement; what policies are needed to plan the funding, the accommodation and the resources for changing needs in retirement years and what policies are needed to understand the fears, and to protect the interests, the health and the relationships of citizens as needs change and problems arise in these advancing years.

"We want to promote wide participation and to value all suggestions and

experiences from people in Wicklow. Too often it is only a small range of voices who are heard when policies are formed. This is a chance to do things differently. We want to reach individuals along with active retirement groups and local service providers across Wicklow," Minister Harris said.

Anyone wishing to take part in the survey can give their views at europa.eu



Minister Simon Harris



Miriam Alcorn, Jennifer Parsons, Mark Meakin, Barbara Garbor and Mia Parsons are pictured at the 2nd anniversary of the opening of Distrikt By Mia, the home interiors and gift store at Wicklow Town South Quay

1 in 10 Wicklow people believe AI will replace their jobs

1 in 10 people in Wicklow (9%) believe artificial intelligence (AI) will impact or replace their jobs in the future, according to a new survey conducted by FRS Recruitment.

This is significantly below the national average of 26% of people who hold the same view.

The survey also found that 4 out of 5 people in Wicklow (79%) would move jobs for a salary increase of 25% or less, while 6 out of 10 (61%) feel their salary does not fairly reflect their current position. A significant majority of people in Wicklow (67%) also expect to receive a pay rise

in the next 12 months.

6 out of 10 people across the county (61%) believe they are more likely to progress in their career by changing jobs than by staying with their employer and 3 out of 4 (75%) believe they could secure a new job in 3 months or less.

3 out of 10 people in Wicklow (30%) also believe there are more job opportunities available in

2023. 30% of people in Wicklow fear for their job security, while the same number would consider a pay cut if their job was at risk.

The rising cost of living has also affected the employment market in Wicklow, with half the local employers (50%) saying it has impacted on their recruitment outlook. Additionally, almost 3 out of 10 employees (28%) say they are trying to work more at home to keep their travel costs down.

There are also some other notable statistics concerning

employers based in Wicklow. 2 out of 3 (67%) say they have seen an increase in workforce attrition this year and 25% believe salary is the main driver of that attrition.

Half the employers in the county (50%) have been pressing their employees to spend more time in the office this year and 67% say they have noticed a decrease in job applications in 2023. When it comes to considering new positions, 86% of people in Wicklow noted that the lack of salary information on a

job ad had put them off from applying for a role.

Speaking about the survey, Lynne McCormack, General Manager of FRS Recruitment said, "This survey provides a wide-ranging picture of the main trends across the employment market in Wicklow and around the rest of the country. It shows how a number of issues are impacting the local market, from technology to cost of living and from job security to salary concerns.

"The data highlights the role

cost of living concerns are playing in recruitment in Wicklow and how this is putting pressure on salary expectations. A lot of people in Wicklow expect to receive a wage increase in the next 12 months, which is important information for employers. Of even greater concern to local businesses will be the significant numbers who are prepared to move jobs for a salary increase of 25% or less, as well as the portion of the local workforce who believe they are not receiving the salaries they deserve."

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