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Tuesday 5th September 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'HATCHET JOB' ON COUNTY WICKLOW

Last week's announcement that the current 5 seat constituency of Wicklow is to be broken into a 4 seat Wicklow constituency and a 3 seat south Wicklow/north Wexford constituency has been slammed by local TDs and would-be TDs.

It could result in Wicklow losing a TD if the new 3-seater goes to all Wexford candidates.

Wicklow Sinn Fein TD John Brady described the decision by the electoral commission to shear south Wicklow from the rest of the county in order to create a new constituency which would also comprise north Wexford as disappointing.

With seventeen other constituencies which are above the 1 TD to 30,000 ratio as

prescribed under the constitution - some even more so than Wicklow - he questioned as to whether Wicklow was the victim of a hatchet job designed to accommodate Wexford's needs at the expense of the Garden County.

Brady said: "The first thing that I want to do is to offer reassurance to the people of south Wicklow who learned that they will now form part of a new constituency alongside the north of Wexford,

that I will be continuing to represent them. As far as I am concerned nothing has changed in this regard. One of the objectives of the Electoral Commission was to reduce the number of 3 seaters. Instead, we see that the number of 3-seat constituencies has increased from nine to thirteen across the state.

"It is a fact that seventeen constituencies across the state will exceed the constitutional required of 1 TD per 30,000 voters. In a



Some of the new Junior Infants starting school at Scoil Náisiúnta Phádraig Naofa in Avoca; Maude Campion, Zoe Hayden Karwat, Ellie Cullen, Grace Lott and Evie O'Toole. Pic: Michael Kelly

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number of instances, the disparity is much greater than that in Wicklow.

"The question really needs to be asked was it really necessary to split the county with difficulties that that will entail. It is effectively a hatchet job on Wicklow. The fact is that the Boundary revision means that the Municipal Districts of Wicklow and Baltinglass will be split, which is not a good outcome, and has the potential to unnecessarily complicate the business of local government in the area.

"County Councillors in these areas will have to deal with seven TDs. While the TDs in the new Wicklow-Wexford constituency will also have to deal with two Councils with a total of sixty-six councillors.

"South Wicklow is an area that requires

national intervention and assistance. The big fear here now is that this decision will mean that the needs of the south of the county will be lost amidst the administrative confusion as officials attempt to navigate their way in this artificial constituency."

Former Fianna Fail TD, Senator Pat Casey said "The decision of the Dail Constituency Review Electoral Commission to split County Wicklow into a 4-seat North Wicklow and a 3-seat Wicklow/Wexford area is a bad day for fairness in representation for Wicklow. The result of the 2020 General Election confirmed that a significant electoral imbalance had occurred with all 5 TDs being resident in the Bray and Greystones LEA's of North Wicklow. This resulted

in East, South and West Wicklow, a vast geographic area with a

large population, having no resident TD.

"I contested the

Seanad Election and was successful in order to

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Ben Styles, Rev Ross Styles, Anna O'Toole and Siobhan O'Neill at Newcastle Parish's Hollywood themed fair, on the grounds of St. Francis National School.

Fundraising for Aughrim defibrillator

A GoFundMe campaign has been started to replace Aughrim's defibrillator after the village's defibrillator was decommissioned. The campaign was created by local paramedic Nate, who explains: "me and my family moved to Aughrim in 2022 from Australia. The village has had an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) outside John Burkes for a number of years which thankfully has never been used. This has recently been decommissioned because it was in need of replacement. As there is no Community First Responder group in the area we decided to fundraise to get another defibrillator to provide this essential service to our community. The funds raised will go towards replacing the AED, replace any consumable stores required and hopefully have enough left to keep it running for a number of years until a First Responder Group can be organised." The Gofundme page can be found at: gofundme.com/f/aughrim-village-defibrillator-replacement.

Fundraising for Kilcoole man's rehabilitation

A GoFundMe campaign has been started to raise funds for Kilcoole man Glenn's rehabilitation. The campaign has been started by Glenn's friends Michael Glennon and Alison Bowes, who say: "Our good friend Glenn unfortunately had a hemorrhagic stroke in July this year. Glenn is one of the most caring and

funniest person you could have the pleasure to ever meet his infectious smile and sense of humor make you want always be in his company. Glenn has a loving and devoted wife and they have three beautiful girls and like all of us have a mortgage and bills to be paid. With Glenn been the main source of income to the household to provide for his family now he needs to be looked after. Glenn's rehabilitation will be a lengthy and costly one. If you could make a donation it would help out massively and would ease a lot of pressure on Glenn's family."

The fundraising page can be found at gofundme.com/f/rehabilitation-for-glen

Casting for a young couple

Casting for a young couple who are currently saving to buy their first home is currently taking place for a short online series. The series' producer is looking for a real life couple and they must be first-time buyers. It's a paid job. Couples of all sexualities and ethnicities are welcome. If you fit this description please contact Milly at casting-calleire@gmail.com with your names, ages, a little about yourself and some photos.

Free counselling to Ukrainians

Turn2me, a national mental health charity, is offering all Ukrainians staying in Ireland up to 6 free one-to-one counselling sessions. The charity is also offering free online support groups for Ukrainians. Sessions will be conducted by a mental health professional, in English. Ukrainians will be connected to psychotherapists who have experience working with clients who have been through a traumatic event. To find out more go to www.turn2me.ie.

Newtownmountkennedy Male Voice Choir

Do you like to sing? Why not join a group of like-minded men! Newtownmountkennedy Choir sings a variety of styles: light classical, folk, Irish, jazz, popular. A bit of everything! Rehearsals take place in Ashford Community & Heritage Centre on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. No Auditions. New season beginning Wednesday 6th September. Contact: Pat at 0857371883.

Bray Toastmasters

Bray Toastmasters' first meeting of their new year takes place this week on Tuesday 5th September in Open Door Day Centre at 8pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Unwrap the magic of Christmas with Santa Under the Sugar Loaf

This December OutdoorLiving.ie are aiming to make it a Christmas to remember! They invite you to immerse yourself in the enchanting world of Christmas at their extraordinary festive event - Santa Under the Sugar Loaf. Nestled under the watchful eye of the majestic Sugar Loaf Mountain in Glen of the Downs, their Christmas Fair promises to be a delightful celebration of all things festive for the whole family to enjoy. So, mark your Calendars and don't miss out on the festive celebrations this December at OutdoorLiving.ie.

Meet & greet with Santa

"One of the most exciting highlights of this event is the chance to meet the jolly old couple themselves - Santa and Mrs. Claus. They've taken a break from their busy North Pole schedule to join the festivities at OutdoorLiving.ie. Children of all ages can share their Christmas wishes, enjoy a fun interaction with Santa and his elves (who are keeping a close eye on the naughty and nice lists), and even take home a complimentary family photo to cherish the festive memories forever. And as a special treat, Santa has a surprise gift up his red velvet sleeve. Tickets €15 per Child."

A Puppet Show

"We're kicking off the event with a bang, with a FREE puppet show by the fantastic McCormack Puppet Shows at the first weekend of the Christmas Fair."

Enchanting Christmas Market

"Take a stroll through our enchanting Christmas market, which will be brimming with unique treasures. Local craft makers, talented artists, and skilled photographers have come together to offer a diverse array of bespoke gifts that perfectly capture the essence of the season. With over 70 stalls spread across the first three weekends of December, get ready to be amazed. From handcrafted ornaments to personalized keep-

sakes, this market is a treasure trove of Christmas wonders just waiting to be explored. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram where we will announce our amazing stall holders in the run up of Christmas!"

Calling all Festive Foodies

"Have we got a treat for you! Indulge your taste buds in a culinary adventure at our food market bursting with flavour. From sweet treats to savoury delights, the food market is a haven for foodies and those looking to savour the taste of the season. Discover traditional festive flavours and innovative creations that are sure to ignite your taste buds."

Christmas Colouring and Crafts

"Let the children join the festive fun and enjoy Christmas colouring and crafts. They can create their very own, one-of-a-kind Christmas masterpieces to take home and cherish for years to come. From crafting Christmas decorations to cards, there's a world of creative possibilities waiting. And that's not all - make sure not to miss the opportunity to participate in our colouring competition. By joining, you could seize the chance to win some exciting spot prizes!"

Wreath-Making Workshop

"Get creative and add a personal touch to your holiday decor by joining our wreath-making work-

shop. Learn the art of crafting stunning wreaths and take home a masterpiece that will add a touch of festive elegance to your home. This hands-on experience is a fantastic way to infuse your surroundings with the warmth and beauty of the season. (Adults only - Booking is essential: €20 per adult, includes wreath). Book your space here by contacting christmasfair@outdoorliving.ie."

Christmas Tree Shop

"For those in search of the perfect Christmas tree, OutdoorLiving.ie has you covered. Whether you're drawn to the authenticity of a real tree or the convenience of an artificial one, the event features a pop-up real tree shop and a stunning display of artificial trees. Unbeatable offers and a wide range of options ensure that every tree preference is catered to. Shop our range online."

Wrap Up the Magic

"As December draws near, the excitement for 'Santa Under the Sugar Loaf' at OutdoorLiving.ie is building up. This event promises a festive journey filled with wonder, joy, and heartwarming moments for the entire family. So, mark your calendars, dust off your Santa hats, and get ready to unwrap the magic of Christmas like never before. Join OutdoorLiving.ie this December for an unforgettable celebration of the season under the Sugar Loaf!"



The Arklow United Under 10s at the Doran Soccer Blitz in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support

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Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

Sales / General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

School bus fiasco leaves students high and dry

As schools started back, many students were left stranded as school busses were cancelled at the last minute. Families have been left not knowing whether their child will have access to a school bus this year as there were indications from some transport operators that they would not be able to provide a school transport service.

Minister Simon Harris stated last Wednesday that he is "currently pursuing the recent issues with school transport in County Wicklow with Bus Eireann and the Minister for Education.

"After some school transport operators indicated to the Department of Education that they would not be able to provide a service late last week, I have been pursuing this with Bus Eireann and the Minister for Education to seek a resolution to this issue," he said.

"Bus Eireann have confirmed to me that they are working intensively to ensure that transport arrangements are put in place as soon as possible. Should this issue not be resolved by this Friday the 1st of September, Bus Eireann will further contact the families affected to ensure that an interim arrangement to assist with the cost of alternative arrangements is available for those in need.

"Work still needs to be done on this and I will remain in constant contact with Bus Eireann and the families involved until we see real progress made and these affected bus routes re-established. Bus Eireann has put in place a dedicated customer care call centre to assist families specifically with School Transport queries. Families that have

queries can contact the call centre on: LoCall 0818 919 910. Operating hours are usually 09.00 - 17.00 Monday to Friday.

"This has caused significant concern and stress for a number of families in our county and many others across the country. I understand how important this issue is and I will continue to keep in very close contact with the Minister for Education, Bus Eireann and families impacted. Bus Eireann must be able to provide for every child that has secured a ticket for their services, and I will continue to work closely with them until these services have been re-established."

Also speaking last week on the matter, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "Despite qualifying for the School Transport Scheme, parents and students in parts of my Wicklow constituency have been left high and dry this week due to the last-minute cancellation of some routes. It is completely unacceptable that they received such late notice just days before the new school term was due to begin.

"As a result, parents have been scrambling this morning to make alternative arrangements for getting their children to and from school. In some cases, this includes runs to multi-

ple schools.

"Speaking on RTE radio, the chief executive of Bus Eireann blamed the issue on driver shortages. We now need clarity on the number of routes impacted, the number of students affected and a realistic timescale for resolution. Ultimately, we need to see the rollout of a nationwide school bus programme so that every student who needs transport can get it. This would tackle the cost-of-living crisis, eliminate gridlock and help in meeting our climate action targets by reducing the number of cars on our roads.

"Bus Eireann has also indicated that grants will be made available for families who will be left without a school bus service in the coming weeks. We need to hear full details about how much these payments will be, what exactly they will cover and who will qualify."

Green TD Steven Matthews has proposed that the school bus service be transferred from the Department of Education to Transport.

Discussing the issue, Deputy Matthews said: "My office is currently dealing with dozens of families with children who either can't qualify for a school bus due to the lack of flexibility in the qualifying criteria or who do qualify but for various opera-

tional reasons, can't get a seat. I understand that the management of this system is complicated but Bus Eireann and the Department of Education has had the whole summer to work through any difficulties, so to have students returning to school without this resolved is ridiculous and puts huge stress on parents and families.

"Following my intervention last year, I welcomed Minister Norma Foley's agreement to conduct a review of the school bus service but it is clear that whatever findings came from this review, they have not had the positive practical impact that families needed. As a direct result of the fiasco, we had hundreds of additional cars on the roads, parents needing to take time off work, and none of this had to happen if proper planning and communication systems had been put in place.

"I am proposing that the entire school bus service should be transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Transport. It needs a full review and a new system put in place that builds on the existing service but can be expanded to provide improved customer service and reliability. The Department of Transport has the expertise and experience in dealing with all bus service

providers, both private and public transport and can bring that expertise to provide a modern, flexible and reliable school bus system. The children and parents who rely on the school bus deserve far better than the stress and pressure of this annual lucky dip overseen by the Department of Education.

"I will continue to work with Bus Eireann to try and resolve as many of the remaining issues as possible but if my email inbox is any indication, this year has been a complete mess, not only in terms of providing the school bus service but also in terms of not communicating with families and providing regular updates so that in the case where school transport wasn't available for the start of school, they had the chance to make alternative arrangements in advance.

"The failings of the school transport system this year are a clear indication that a wholesale review and significant change is required in how we manage this service on an annual basis," concluded Deputy Matthews.



The new Junior Infants at Scoil San Eoin, Redcross, on their first day of school, with teacher Ms Nuzum.

Last Thursday, Sinn Féin TD John Brady called on the Department of Education, and Bus Eireann to act immediately to address the current situation impacting on students at Avondale Community College in Rathdrum where up to sixty pupils who have been issued with eligible school bus tickets for this year have no transport available to take them to school.

Deputy Brady said: "On the week where pupils all

over Wicklow are returning to school, we have a situation that has been allowed to develop in relation to students at Avondale Community College in Rathdrum, where up to sixty students, some of whom paid for their bus tickets last May have found out that there is no bus available to take them to school. This is simply unacceptable. Bus Eireann and the Department of Education had all summer to sort this out. My office

has been contacted by large numbers of parents locally who are desperate to get this situation sorted and to ensure that there is school transport available locally to take their children to school.

"Sinn Féin has repeatedly called for 10,000 additional places on School Bus Transport to meet the demand across the state, however the government failed to deliver that and now families are paying the price for these shortages.

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Brittas Bay improves in IBAL litter survey

The annual survey of coasts and inland waterways by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) shows both Bray and Brittas Bay deemed clean, the latter improving on last year, when it was 'moderately littered'.

The study of 33 areas nationwide revealed our most littered areas to have cleaned up but the majority of beaches falling short of clean status, despite the unsettled summer meaning lower visitor numbers.

Beaches, harbours, rivers and their immediate environs were monitored by An Taisce in June and July. While there was a 50% rise in clean sites overall, the survey again found our coastal areas to be more littered than our towns, which IBAL researches as part of its Anti-Litter League programme.

The An Taisce report for Bray seafront stated: "Bray Beach / Promenade / Environs scored very well in last summer's survey and things were no different this time around. It was exceptionally clean, with the beach spotless. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the remainder of the survey area - small accumulation of cigarette butts in one car park and minor food related items along the promenade. The promenade, bicycle paths, playground, seating areas, planting, band-stand etc. were all very well presented and maintained. There were ample bins throughout the extensive survey area, albeit limited opportunity for recycling. Increasingly we are seeing the opportunity to 'separate' waste right beside regular street bins and not

just dedicated recycle areas - with such a heavily used and extensive area, this seems like a missed opportunity at Bray seafront. The 'Water Refill' station is a great addition. Signage in the area was generally in good order but graffiti was very much a feature on the dedicated dog fouling bins. A nice feature is the tie-in with 'Tidy Towns' with the planter boxes towards the end of the promenade."

The An Taisce report for Brittas Bay stated: "Brittas Bay Beach and the associated car parks and Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South were very much deserving of the top litter grade. There were plenty of litter bins at the pedestrian access to the beach and another series of bins at a separate access from South Beach Car Park. Litter bins were freshly presented, in good order and not overflowing. There were no litter issues in the area surrounding the Recycle Facility at South Beach Car Park. Life-belts / visitor information signage were in good order and there was minimal graffiti. Apart from a very occasional bucket and spade buried / sticking out of the sand and some cigarette butts at the base of the picnic tables there were no obvious litter issues. The number of visitors to the beach at the time of surveys was low due to poor weather."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, joined with Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach, Bray Municipal District, in welcoming the results of the survey and noted that the maintenance of Bray Seafront as a litter free area was all our responsibility and encouraged all users to dispose of their litter in a responsible and environmentally friendly manner.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, welcomed the report and expressed her appreciation to Bray Tidy Towns, Bray Coast Care group, Bray Municipal District staff and all the volunteers who work to keep Bray Seafront free from litter and the fabulous amenity which we can all enjoy.

The popular beaches at Portmarnock and Lahinch deteriorated to 'littered' status, as did Dog's Bay in Galway, while those at Bundoran, Ballybunion, Skerries and Strandhill were deemed 'moderately littered'. Clean beaches included Killiney, Salthill and Tramore, as well as Brittas Bay, which improved on last year.

"Over an unsettled summer, where our beaches attracted far fewer numbers than normal, one might have expected the majority to be virtually free of litter," says



Brittas Bay

Conor Horgan of IBAL. "Unfortunately, this does not reflect the state of our coastal environment. There is much 'long lie' litter and waste coming in from the sea, and this is compounded by litter from those who continue to frequent our coastline despite the inclement weather."

For the first time since IBAL commenced its coastal surveys in 2017, no area was deemed a litter blackspot.

Disposable vapes were revealed

as an emerging form of litter, encountered in 1 in 7 of all visits, making them significantly more common on our beaches than on our streets.

"This time last year we were not seeing this form of litter at all, so its rapid emergence is worrying. So, too, is its impact on our environment," warns Conor Horgan. IBAL favours the banning of disposable vapes, which, it contends, run counter to the notion of a circular economy. Research shows the num-

ber of disposable vapes sold each year in the

US would stretch for over 7,000 miles. IBAL credits the Clean Coasts programme, which supports over 2,000 volunteer groups, as a major force in ridding our coasts of litter throughout the year. Its annual 'Big Beach Clean' takes place nationwide each September. The continued rise in volunteers, now in excess of 40,000, reflects the growing public concern around the marine environment.

World Cleanup Day event to take place in Greystones

Cllr Stephen Stokes has announced that a World Cleanup Day event is taking place in the Dr. Ryan Park, Greystones on Saturday, September 16th. It will take place from 11am - 12.30pm. The event follows a successful Spring Clean, which saw an estimated 150kg of waste collected in the area.

Cllr Stokes stated: "The Dr. Ryan Park is an important community asset. We would love to have a great community turnout again. Even if people can only come for 30 minutes, every bit of help is a boost to the local environment."

Cllr Stephen Stokes has further advised that a limited supply of equipment is being supplied. However anyone with gloves or pickers is encouraged to bring these along. A previous Spring Clean of the Dr. Ryan Park attracted volunteers from all over Greystones. Cllr Stokes is hoping that this World Cleanup Day event will be a springboard for positive initiatives in the Dr. Ryan Park.

Cllr Stephen Stokes added: "We want to bring the community together to ensure that the Dr. Ryan Park is a family friendly place. By removing trash we are also seeking to enhance biodiversity. Additionally I would like to thank all of those who regularly litter pick in the area."

World Cleanup Day was first established in 2018. It is billed as one of the biggest civic movements globally, uniting 191 countries across the world for a cleaner planet. In 2022, an estimated 14.9 million people took part. Anyone seeking further event information can contact Cllr Stephen Stokes on stephen-stokes101@gmail.com to get further details.



Cllr Stephen Stokes with volunteers at the National Spring Clean in the Dr. Ryan Park.



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'HATCHET JOB' ON COUNTY WICKLOW

Continued from page 1

ensure that this large area of Wicklow with towns such as Arklow, Blessington, Rathdrum, Roundwood, Newtown, Aughrim, Tinahely, Shillelagh, Carnew, Dunlavin and Donard had access to a National Representative. Working with my colleagues in Government I have been successful in achieving important progress on issues with visits from the then Taoiseach Michael Martin, Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue, the then Minister for Sport Jack Chambers, Minister for Education Norma Foley along with Minister for Finance Michael McGrath and Minister for Housing Dara O'Brien. This work has resulted in important delivery on Housing, Sport and Community Facilities, Agri-Business interests and the development of a vibrant and sustainable economy for our area.

"East, South and West Wicklow remain at risk of having no resident TD following the poor decision of the Electoral Commission to split County Wicklow unevenly and allow South Wicklow to be in a minority position with regard to the larger North Wexford element. The figures would suggest that at least 2 TD's would be based in Wexford and as County and area identities matter there is a significant risk that large areas of County Wicklow will have no resident TD.

"This decision is urban centric and anti-rural in character and as such I will be consulting with my Cllr and Dail colleagues before I take any view as to where I will be

running in the next election."

Social Democrat TD Jennifer Whitmore said "I'll be sorry to lose Arklow and South Wicklow from the constituency. Over the last few years, I've been proud to represent this area and the many fantastic community groups, schools, and individuals in the Dail. Arklow and South Wicklow have such tremendous potential, and I hope this constituency change is a positive one. However, I do have reservations about three-seater constituencies. Three-seaters do not allow for the breadth of choice in representation that voters want.

"Three seaters tend to be dominated by the older larger parties of Fine Gael and Fianna Fail. We know Arklow and the south of the county have been left behind by the major parties in the past, and I hope we don't see a repeat of that trend into the future with this new constituency."

Green Party TD Steven Mathews said "Ideally I would have liked to see a six seater in Wicklow, keeping the county boundary intact. It appears most political parties would have welcomed this and it would have futureproofed against inevitable population growth. However, that wasn't in the Commission's terms of reference so we knew it wouldn't happen.

"The problem with breaking up counties and creating smaller constituencies is that it benefits the bigger parties to the detriment of the smaller ones, and that's bad for representation.

"If you look at how Wicklow is represented at the moment - we

have three TDs from the larger parties, and they are the ones with huge money and resources behind them to fight elections, and two TDs from smaller parties. That's a good balance for Wicklow citizens. In smaller constituencies, and particularly three seaters, you're going to see a system that's almost like the first past the post voting system in the UK, where the biggest parties will get in first and the smaller ones will be left behind. That's bad for women candidates and bad for the interests of those who vote for smaller parties.

"I'm aware that I will go into this election the same way I went into the others - as the underdog. I worked hard for 15 years as a Green Party representative to earn my position as a TD. I've worked hard for the people of Wicklow in Dail Eireann since 2020. And it is the people of Wicklow who will decide if I get returned."

Minister Simon Harris said "The constituency boundary changes in Wicklow are certainly extensive and I think have created very mixed views across our county. Speaking as a Wicklow resident, I would have preferred to see our county remain as one constituency as I do believe county identity matters. On the flip side, this change is a recognition of the fact our population has grown so significantly in the county and the entitlement of the people of Wicklow to a greater number of TDs overall, between the two constituencies.

"Regardless of views though, the reality is the electoral commission is independent and they have now



The Blue Moon over Greystones last week. Pic: Andres Poveda

made the call and for me, my absolute priority is to continue to work as hard as I possibly can to serve our community and to represent you in Dail Eireann and in Government and to work with communities and groups across Wicklow to make progress and deliver on key projects.

"It is my intention to seek re-election in the Wicklow constituency which will run from Bray to Wicklow Town, across to Baltinglass and up to Blessington. I never ever take the electorate of this county for granted and will work hard every day to continue to garner their support for my work on their behalf."

Minister for Health, Fianna Fail TD Stephen Donnelly said: "Earlier this year I wrote to the Boundary Commission, to make it clear that I believed the people of Wicklow are

best served by keeping the constituency as the whole county. There's a coherence to that, including the work TDs do with Wicklow County Council on local issues such as roads, housing and community facilities.

"It's been my great honour to serve the south of Wicklow, including Arklow. There has been great progress made in Arklow during this Government's time including the waste water plant and job creation. However, boundaries regularly change and this is just the latest change. In time we may, I hope, see the whole of Wicklow back again as one constituency."

Former TD and Independent councillor Joe Behan concluded by stating "Some of the citizens of County Wicklow may have opinions on the new constituency arrangements, but I believe most people

have more important concerns on their minds, such as the drastic shortage of housing, the savage increases in the cost of living, the terrible state of the health services, increasing mortgage interest rates, the almost impossible challenges of childcare, the shortages of teachers, nurses, doctors, and Gardai as well as the soul destroying commutes on the N11 and the N81 for those who must work outside of the county.

"My advice to the current crop of TDs and Senators is to stop obsessing about their own career prospects and start obsessing about the real life problems their constituents are dealing with every day. The people's needs must come first each and every day until the next election and when that day comes the people, who have suffered for so long, will finally have their say. In my opinion, that day can't come quick enough."

MINISTER Simon

HARRIS_{TD}

Keeping in Touch

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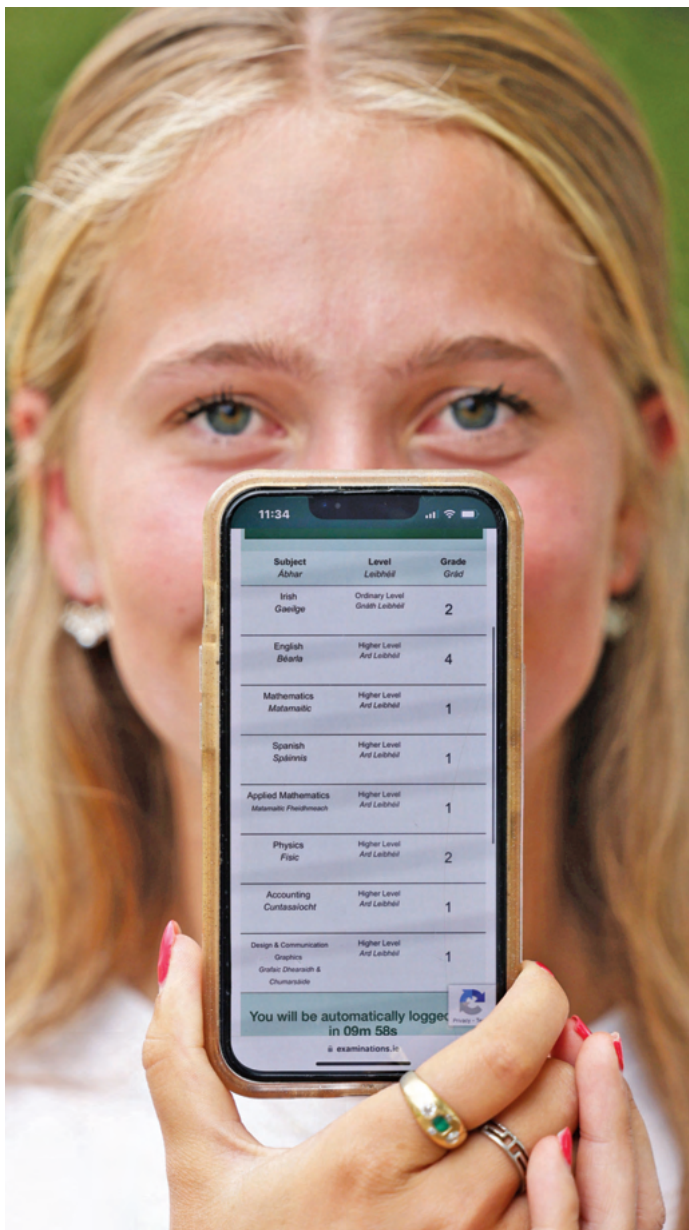
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DeputySimonHarris

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WORKING FOR WICKLOW

FINE GAEL



Pictured is Sophie Poole getting her Leaving Cert results at Rathdown School

Super new Virtual Film Production Degree at BIFE / IADT

Many modern films and television, like Star Wars and Avatar, use new film making techniques called ‘virtual film production’. This is a mixture of traditional film making and computer game technology. This year BIFE and IADT have joined forces to create a new (Hons) Degree programme for students in Immersive Media Production, to teach these new and exciting methods of storytelling.

This new degree programme, launched by the minister of education in July, is free for students in BIFE, and does not require CAO points. It is a new pathway into higher education that allows students to use more practical and vocational skills while achieving a level 8 honors degree.

Film techniques have always changed, from old black and white car chases using back-projections, to painting large canvases to make film sets look bigger. These techniques have now evolved to use game engine technology, creating 3D worlds for actors to interact in.

The new course will start at the end of September in BIFE. Students will study hands-on virtual film making in BIFE for two years. This will include using state-of-the-art equipment, such as motion capture suits, virtual cameras, video walls, professional cameras, and lighting gear. Students will experiment with storytelling using these new technologies that will soon dominate the film and television industries.

The final two years of the degree programme will be delivered in IADT. Students will get to work in the national film school in IADT.

Graduates will be fully versed in this future of filmmaking / storytelling and ready for employment in this new, exciting and fast-growing industry.

To sign up to this new Virtual Film Production course, simply go to www.BIFE.ie and click on “apply”. The Immersive Media Production Degree will help create the next generation of Irish Film Makers.



CAO points not a barrier with Blackrock Further Education Institute

Leaving Certificate grade inflation means that college places are out of reach for many students. With Psychology and Law courses requiring 500+ CAO points, many potential students will be left behind.

Thankfully, colleges such as Blackrock Further Education Institute, BFEI, stepped in to assist those who did not get their CAO choice. For fifteen years BFEI has successfully taught a Level 5 course in Psychology, and this has facilitated many students to progress from Level 5 to degree and masters level courses in DCU, UCD, SETU, DLIADT, Maynooth to name but a few. Their Pre-University Law course has been running for seven years now and has seen students progressing to the likes of NUI Galway, UCD and Maynooth.

According to their statistics, BFEI has an 80% CAO success rate. As a result of these successes BFEI has expanded their programme and now run a Pre-University Arts and Social Studies course, a Pre-University Design course and a Pre-



University UX/UI Design course. With no tuition fees for 2023, BFEI are hoping to reach a wider range of students and facilitate their access to third level. Diversity and inclusion are goals of BFEI, and they want to ensure that the CAO is not a barrier to any

student fulfilling their career potential.

Like many FE colleges, BFEI also offer a range of one-year courses such as Make-up Artistry and Pharmacy Assistant that have a proven track record in job placement, with BFEI boasting proudly of a

90% employment success rate for such courses.

While there tends to be only one discussion in Ireland around this time of year about CAO and degree places, it is time to think outside the box and clearly the people in BFEI have been doing that.

OPEN DAYS

Monday 4th September 2023
1pm to 4pm

Wednesday 17th Jan 2024
10am to 4pm



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DI Furniture Design & Carpentry/Joinery
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MJ Music Production
MK Music Performance
MF Sound Engineering

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NC Computer Networks and Cyber Security
HV Engineering Pre-University

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EC Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning
ED Soccer Coaching & Sports Management
EF Sports Injury & Massage Therapy / Pre-University Physiotherapy

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HD Early Learning & Care / Childcare
HE Social Studies & Community Care

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FF Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
FH Barbering
FD Nail Technician & Salon Administration

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)

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

- LA** Tourism, Reception & Event Management
LB Tourism with Airline Studies
LH Restaurant & Bar Management
LC Culinary Arts
LG Pastry, Baking & Barista
LE Culinary Arts Advanced
LI Hospitality & Business Management Advanced

ADULT LEAVING CERT

- RB** Adult Leaving Certificate

HEALTH

- HB** Nursing and Midwifery Studies - Pre-University
HH Healthcare Assistant & Activity Coordinator
HP Occupational Therapy Assistant
JK Emergency Care Studies (Pre-paramedic, Fire & Ambulance)
HL Applied Psychology

FILM & COMPUTER GAMING

- MA** TV & Film Production
MB TV & Film Production - Advanced
MC Immersive Media Production Degree
NEW ME 3D Game Design
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Naoise Farrell and Martin Hayes at the Newcastle Parish Summer Fair on the grounds of St. Francis National School. This year's fair was Hollywood themed.

Works to commence on former Bray Courthouse

Phase 1 of the works on the former Bray District Courthouse are to commence, it's been announced. The initial works will involve the internal stripping of the old building. The old heating system, existing wiring throughout the courthouse, the suspended ceilings and existing furnishings.

In May it was announced that the project was to receive funding of €340,000 for refurbishment works, through the Community Recognition Fund, following a long running Sinn Féin campaign to secure the transfer of the building for community use.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has reiterated his belief that the next step should be to hold a comprehensive consultation process which would invite submissions as to the future use of the former courthouse from members of the public, and community and sports groups.

Deputy Brady said: "Myself and my Sinn Féin colleagues councillors Grace MacManus, and Dermot O'Brien have led out on a long running campaign over quite a number of years, to first off have the former Bray District Courthouse transferred to community use. I am glad to see that following the securing of funding, that work has begun to bring it back up to a usable standard. It is welcome to see Phase 1 of the refurbishment commencing.

"The former Courthouse building on the Boghall Road in Bray has been vacant since 2006, when court sittings and services were relocated to alternative accommodation. In October 2020 the Courts Service informed me that



Deputy John Brady and councillors Dermot O'Brien and Grace MacManus at the old Bray courthouse on the Boghall Road.

the old Bray Court House was surplus to their requirements and that they were willing to transfer it to Wicklow County Council.

"I'm delighted that following our successful campaign to secure the transfer of the building for community use that funding has now been secured for the renovation of the old Courthouse. I believe that the next step which can be undertaken right away is to hold a comprehensive consultation process as was conducted

around the old Bray Heritage site, which received 149 submissions, containing many exciting ideas. It is essential that community, sporting groups and individuals are given the opportunity to put forward submission concerning the future use of the building."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien added, "we must match the population growth in the town with the development of community facilities. There are currently not enough and it's frustrating for

groups who are competing for limited space. A proactive approach which responds to emerging needs and is sustainable into the future should be our priority in Wicklow County Council."

Brady concluded by stating that: "This should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity, particularly as work has now commenced in order to transfer the building to community use in a timely manner."

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Baltinglass Town Centre Urban Renewal Scheme goes to tender

The Baltinglass Town Centre Urban Renewal Scheme is now going out to tender and works are expected to begin on the scheme in mid-October, it's been announced.

Minister Simon Harris said, "This is fantastic news for Baltinglass, as these works will be a great benefit to the local community. The focus of this scheme is to invest in our town centres, to fight dereliction and to make town centre living more attrac-

tive by investing in local amenities.

"It is so important that we continue to support our town and village centres, ensuring that dereliction does not creep into our communities and investing in our public spaces. I cannot wait to see this scheme begin to break ground and look forward to continuing to advocate and support our local towns and villages in my work as both a local TD for County Wicklow and as Minister for Further and Higher Education."

New Youth Diversion Project for South and West Wicklow

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has announced that County Wicklow has been selected for the establishment of a New Youth Diversion Project (YDP) across the west and south of the county.

Minister Harris said, "I am delighted to announce that County Wicklow has been chosen to receive at least €1.5 million towards the creation of a new Youth Diversion Project across the west and south of the county.

"This new project will work to divert young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour and direct them towards better opportunities.

"Offering young people better opportunities is one of my top priorities as Minister for Further and Higher Education and additional supports for young people need to be put in place all over County Wicklow, not just in our classrooms

and educational institutions.

"The Youth Diversion Project will not only help to provide better outcomes for many young people, but also strengthen our communities. I am dedicated to building stronger and safer communities across County Wicklow and this new funding will do just that. I will always welcome any measure that helps build stronger communities and also any measure that invests in our people, especially our youth.

"It is great to see County Wicklow being allocated at least €1.5 million in funding for this initiative, and I will continue to do my utmost when advocating for even further supports and

projects for our county."

YDPs are community based, multi-agency, youth crime prevention initiatives which primarily seek to divert young people involved or at risk of becoming involved in criminal/anti-social behaviour away from the criminal justice system by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal development, promote civic responsibility and improve long-term employability prospects.

The projects are primarily targeted at 12-17 year olds 'at risk' young people in communities where a specific need has been identified and where there is a risk of them coming into contact with or remaining within the justice system. By doing so, the projects contribute to improving the quality of life within communities and enhancing Garda and Community relationships.

Casey slams Sinn Féin housing policy

Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey has criticised Deputy John Brady's recent press statements on the housing issues in Wicklow as "cheap soundbites designed to prolong the housing crisis while ignoring the real progress on the ground in all areas of Wicklow since Fianna Fáil entered Government in 2020. I would challenge Deputy Brady to debate Housing in Wicklow with me if he wants to provide solutions rather than press releases."

He continued: "Since Fianna Fail entered government just three years ago and in the middle of a Covid lockdown our resolute focus on housing as the top priority for families has gone unnoticed amidst all the noise and spin of Sinn Féin. Since 2020, important strides have been achieved, serving as factual evidence of my party's commitment to delivery. The housing shortage, while persisting, is being met with determined progress under the leadership of Fianna Fáil.

"Key achievements Nationally include: 30,000 New Homes built in 2022, 14,069 Homes completed in the First 6 months of 2023; 15,561 New Homes Commenced in the First 6 months of 2023; 12,918 First Time Buyers Mortgages Approved since January; Over 7,500 Directly Built Social Houses in 2022 the largest delivery of Social Housing in decades, representing a 30% increase since under Fianna Fail Leadership; Currently 19,000 Social Homes in various stages of construction.

"In Wicklow, evidence



Senator Pat Casey

of real progress continues, encompassing both social and private housing. An impressive milestone has been reached, with the construction of over 3,500 new homes since 2020. The delivery of social housing in Wicklow has surpassed previous records, marking a watershed moment: Construction of 1,389 new social homes since 2022; Wicklow has delivered the largest no of Social Houses in 2022 outside of Dublin at 574; Families on waiting list in Wicklow have witnessed a commendable reduction of over 24%; Families enduring wait times of over 5 years have experienced a

remarkable decrease of over 40%, and those facing wait times exceeding 7 years have seen a 30% reduction.

"Fianna Fail, in government, has increased the family income limits, thereby expanding eligibility criteria for families, representing the first instance of such revision in 11 years. Restorations of the legitimate aspiration of owning your own home has always and will always be a priority of Fianna Fail. Delivery on this includes: Introduced the most comprehensive piece of affordable housing legislation in Irish history. This legislation which was enacted in 2021 provides clear pathways to unlocking the door of Home Ownership and the result are becoming more evident now..

"First Time Buyers Mortgage approval in 2022 over 25,000 and increase over nearly 20% since 2020. Furthermore, more than 1,700 Wicklow families have availed of the Help to Buy scheme, with a remarkable increase of 53% participation rate over the past three years

alone. Wicklow has the third-highest availing of the Fianna Fail's innovative First Home Scheme, attracting 8% of the overall total to date in its first year.

"In the scenic landscapes of Wicklow, a remarkable transformation is unfolding as vacant houses are being leveraged back into homes. Since 2020, more than 100 vacant/derelict houses are being reclaimed and revitalised yearly, effectively increasing the stock of house while reducing the number of vacant homes. Wicklow's vacancy rate now stands at an impressive 5.6%, a statistic that gains even more significance when compared to Dublin's 5.07% and Kildare's 5.08% the lowest in the country. The current changes to the Vacant Home Scheme, of €50,000 for a vacant property and €70,000 for a derelict property will assist in reducing this further. Experts have long indicated that a 5% vacancy rate is crucial for maintaining a well-functioning property market, highlighting Wicklow's achievement."

'Wicklow people being locked out of home ownership'

Over 17,000 adults still living at home

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has criticised government housing strategy in light of CSO data released last Thursday. In Wicklow, 17,090 adults, or 15% of all those aged 18 and over in the county, were still living with their parents as of April 2022. This was an increase of over 2000 people since 2016. The CSO also found Bray West has the highest rate in the county, with one in five adults stuck living in their parents' homes.

Deputy Whitmore said: "We have an entire generation of young Wicklow residents locked out of home ownership and unable to afford rent. Census results released today show that the number of adults still living with their parents has skyrocketed across Ireland, and Wicklow has some of the highest rates of adult children returning to the family home.

"In April 2022 in Wicklow, 17,090 adults, or 15% of all those aged 18 and over in the county, lived with their parents. This is the second highest rate by county in Ireland. Bray has the highest rates

in the county, with one in five adults living in their parents' home.

"My office has been inundated in recent years with pleas from people in their twenties and thirties looking for assistance with housing. Most are working and want to buy a home to start a family. However, major life decisions, such as when to have children, are being put on hold by people who cannot afford to leave their parents' homes.

"Being stuck in a childhood bedroom can profoundly negatively impact mental health, self-esteem, and the ability to form and maintain relationships.

This situation can strain familial relationships, too, with multiple generations of adults living in one home.

"Other European countries that provide significant levels of affordable housing do not have this problem. Countries like Sweden, Denmark, and Finland do not have this problem because they

invest in public housing on a large scale.

"Wicklow needs an ambitious plan for housing. That kind of ambition will not come from the current government parties of Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party, who pay lip service to affordable housing but continue to let the situation deteriorate."



Jennifer Whitmore TD

CULTURE
NIGHT



CULTURE
NIGHT



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One Night For All Friday 22 Sept 2023

A Magical Evening With Aisling Ennis

Dunlavin Library - 7pm

B Music

A Night With Music In Calary

Calary Church - 8pm

Music

Arklow Culture Crawl 2023

Various locations around Arklow - 6:50pm

Arts | Crafts | Traditional Skills, Music, Visual Arts

Baltinglass Culture Night Extravaganza

Various locations around

Baltinglass - 5pm **B** Arts | Crafts | Traditional Skills, Food | Gastronomy, Music, Visual Arts

Bray Jazz Festival Present Roamer

St Saviour's Church, Rathdrum - 8pm

Music

Carnew Library Present Harp And Song

Carnew Library - 7pm

B Music

Courthouse Arts Centre Present All Together

Shillelagh Courthouse - 4pm

Music

Tinahely St Vincent De Paul Resource Centre - 8pm

Music

Musical Moments With The Barn Ensemble

Carnew Community Centre - 4pm

Music

Music Under The Mountains Present

Megan O'Neill

St. Kevin's Church, Hollywood - 8pm

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Rathdrum Library Present From the Shoulders Down

Rathdrum Library - 7pm

B Theatre | Drama

RTÉ 2FM Live At Mermaid Arts Centre

Mermaid Arts Centre - 7:30pm

B Music

The Whale Theatre Present Classical Cabaret

The Whale Theatre - 8pm

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Threading Place Launch

Wicklow Town Library - 6pm

B Visual Arts

Threading Place Outdoor Exhibition

Various locations in Wicklow Town - 4pm

Visual Arts

Twenty One - Extended Gallery Hours

Mermaid Arts Centre - 4pm

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INTERNATIONAL SHEEPDOG TRIAL 2023

Blessington, Co. Wicklow

September 8th - 10th

Prepare to be amazed by the teamwork of dogs and handlers at the International Sheepdog Trials 2023 in Blessington from September 8th to 10th. This special event brings dogs and handlers together, offering an exciting display of skill and tradition, with 60 finalists getting ready to compete from Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales.

These 60 dogs will consist of the top 15 dogs selected from each nation's National Trial, which takes place throughout July and August.

The International Sheep Dog Trial is the pinnacle in the sheep dog trialling calendar, with some of the world's best sheepdogs and handlers demonstrating their

skills. With their incredible intelligence and training, the sheepdogs are guaranteed to impress audiences of all ages.

The International Sheepdog Trial takes turns between nations each year. In 2023, the spotlight is on Ireland, welcoming thousands of spectators over the three-day event. This year marks 150 years since the very first International Sheepdog Trials in 1873. Enthusiasts, competitors, and supporters will come together, alongside excited locals and the farming community. Beyond the captivating Sheepdog Trial, attendees can enjoy live music and dance performances, explore trade stands, and take part in various activities and entertainment suitable for all ages; vintage car and tractor show, K2 Alpacas, Pony Rides, Archery, Fun Fair, Puppet Shows, Magician and more.

In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and LEADER, the International Sheepdog Trials are making history this year by holding the event in the scenic surroundings of Wicklow for the very first time. With the strong support of LEADER, Wicklow proudly joins the list of respected hosts, marking it an important moment in the county's history. FBD Insurance has also come on board as the event title sponsor. This renowned event, held annually in rotation across the United Kingdom and Ireland, designates Ireland as the host every four years.

Chairman of the Wicklow Sheep Dog Trials, Eamonn Connell said: "We are exceptionally proud to be taking on bringing this event to the garden county this year. The Irish Sheep Dog Society has been actively working with and for the promotion of



sheepdogs since 1906 and with the first Irish International trial only being held in Thurles racecourse in 1997, seeing this event come to County Wicklow in 2023 is indeed a huge honour and the excitement in the committee is indeed infectious.

"We are a community led voluntary committee and while the task we are undertaking is certainly challenging, we are fully committed to making this an event not to be missed in this year's calendar. The competition trials will obviously be very much cantered around showcasing the agility & intelligence of the sheepdog, but equally the essence of the show in 2023 is community and family focused, with plenty on offer to see and do."



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INTERNATIONAL SHEEPDOG TRIAL 2023

Blessington, Co. Wicklow

While sheepdog trials might be unfamiliar to some, the International Sheepdog Trial is a symbol of tradition and unity worldwide. As one of the major events in the sheepdog calendar, it's expected to attract an international audience, boosting the local economy with energy and prosperity.

Designed to test dogs'

skills in conditions resembling real work settings, the International Sheepdog Trials 2023 will shine a light on the abilities of 60 exceptional dogs from Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. These top dogs earned their spots through rigorous selection during their nations' National Trials held

in July and August.

Experience tradition, skill, and the strong bond between dogs and their handlers at the International Sheepdog Trials 2023. This event showcases heritage, celebrates rural life, and presents the exceptional talents that have been cherished for generations.

The International

Sheepdog Trials also offers a platform for exhibitors to showcase their products and services related to the world of sheepdog handling and training. Exhibitors from a range of industries such as dog food and treats, training equipment and veterinary care will be there, as well as traders from industries not con-



Krisztina Rozanich's 16x20" framed artwork depicting three Wicklow Cheviot Sheep which will be raffled off. It will be on display at the International Sheepdog Society's tent for the duration of the event.



necting to the world of sheepdogs, such as artisan food, cloths and crafts.

Kilkenny artist Krisztina Rozanich has donated a piece of art specifically created for this event. Krisztina, in addition to being an artist, is an avid sheepdog trialist and sheepdog trainer.

She says "It is pure magic to work alongside your dog. The communication and partnership between you and your dog is unbelievable."

Krisztina is raffling off this drawing with all proceeds going to the International organisation. It is an online raffle, hosted by idonate. The drawing is framed and ready to hang. It depicts three Wicklow Cheviot sheep which is the breed of sheep used in the competition this year. It will be on display at the International Sheepdog Societies tent for the duration of the event. Tickets for this online raffle can be purchased at <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/WicklowCheviotsInternationalSheepdogTrials2023>

There will be activities for the whole family, including vintage cars, face painting, live music and more. To find out more and get your tickets for the event, see www.international-sheepdogtrials.ie

Jennifer Working for Wicklow
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Councillor Edward Timmins
Best Wishes to all involved
with the International
Sheepdog Trials 2023

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FINE GAEL

Arklow man receives Hospice Hero Award

Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services recently awarded a 'Hospice Hero Community Fundraising Award' to Arklow man Fabian Doyle for his fundraising efforts.

Now in its second year, the Awards acknowledge the significant contribution of community fundraising events in supporting Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services' delivery of vital care across the communities it serves in Wicklow, Harold's Cross and Blackrock.

Fabian was recognised for establishing the Glen to Glen Hike in 2013 to raise funds for the building of Wicklow Hospice on a green space, donated by the Columban Sisters in Magheramore. That dream was realised in 2020, when Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services Wicklow officially opened on the site and has since been providing specialised palliative care for patients and families for almost three years.

Karen Gallagher, Interim Director of Fundraising and Communications at Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services said: "These special awards which recognise events organised by people in the community who show their support for our work by coming up with ideas that

capture the hearts and minds of their friends, families and neighbours. We thank all of those who support us in this way and appreciate all the time and effort put in. We rely heavily on donations from the community to support our services and develop our facilities.

"Having reached and exceeded the target milestone of €100,000, Fabian is now handing the event over to Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services to run but has been playing a critical role in ensuring a smooth transition. Without committed and dedicated community leaders like Fabian, along with the support of the wider community, Wicklow Hospice could not have been built. Today, we could not continue to provide the much-needed services to patients and families without such support," she added.

Fabian said: "Way back in 2013, when discussion about the possibility of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services coming to Wicklow was being realised, we knew we had to

support these incredible services and rally our friends, family and community to get behind the cause. Glen to Glen has grown beyond what we ever imagined, and we are looking forward to seeing it grow further in the future, as well as provide important fundraising for the continuation and development of the vital work of Wicklow Hospice," he added.

Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services is also currently preparing for this year's Glen to Glen Hike, taking place on Sunday, 22nd October, through the Glendalough and Glendassan Valleys. Last year, the event raised almost €24,000 and with the support of participants and generous friends and family, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services is hoping to surpass that amount this year. While spaces are limited, registration is open, and all participants will receive a free t-shirt on the day.

For more information: <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/>



Pictured receiving his Hospice Hero Community Fundraising Award from Mary Flanagan, Interim CEO, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, is Fabian Doyle from Arklow, who initiated and ran the annual Glen to Glen Hike in aid of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services since 2013.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1



Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Wicklow County Council, being the planning authority for the area, proposes to **VARY** the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 in respect of the following:

PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1

Rezone 0.81ha of land at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, from 'RN – New Residential' to 'OS2 – Passive Open Space' and amend the written text of the Rathdrum Town Plan to reflect the changes consequent from the rezoning.

Reason for Proposed Variation:

- (a) Having regard to Section 653 (1) (a) and (b) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended) (Residential Zoned Land Tax), following receipt of a submission to the draft map, seeking a rezoning.
- (b) Having considered the guidance set out in Circular Letter NRUP 07/2022, the Chief Executive is satisfied that:
 - The removal of the 'residential' zoning of these lands would not undermine the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including the core strategy and housing supply targets for Rathdrum, having particular regard to the quantum of residential land zoned in Rathdrum in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.
 - While these lands are located close to the core of Rathdrum, the removal of the 'residential' zoning of these lands would not conflict with the goals of compact growth and the 'sequential approach to zoning' set out in the Development Plan Guidelines. The purpose of the 'sequential approach' is to avoid development and zoning 'leapfrogging' to less centrally located areas; this would not arise in this case as (a) no alternative, more peripheral lands are proposed or are necessary for rezoning on foot of this potential rezoning, (b) the lands beyond this site are already under development and (c) the recently adopted Rathdrum Town Plan provides for carefully calibrated residential zoning provisions that accord with the sequential approach.
 - The removal of the 'residential' zoning of these lands would not conflict with town centre regeneration aims. In order to achieve these aims, it is not essential that every piece of undeveloped land in a town be zoned for intensive / development use – towns require a range of uses and services, including open lands, in order to be sustainable.
 - An alternative 'biodiversity' related zoning would benefit the environment and the residents of Rathdrum and would contribute towards the achievement of the County's biodiversity and climate action goals.

A copy of the Proposed Variation, together with the respective SEA and AA screening reports, will be available to view at the following locations, during their normal opening hours, from **WEDNESDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO TUESDAY 03 OCTOBER 2023 (5.00pm)** inclusive:

- Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town.
- All Wicklow County Council Municipal District offices.
- The Council's website: www.wicklow.ie/living (consultation hub) (or scan the QR code above).

MAKING A SUBMISSION

Submissions or observations regarding the Proposed Variation and the associated reports are hereby invited from the public and interested bodies. Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations. Written submissions or observations made on or before **5.00pm 03 OCTOBER 2023** will be taken into consideration before the making of the Proposed Variation.

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

1. **Write to:** Administrative Officer, Planning Section, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town.
2. **Email to:** planreview@wicklowcoco.ie

NOTE

- YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
- All submissions are to be clearly marked with **'VARIATION 1 TO WICKLOW CDP'**.
- All submissions should include your name and a contact address, a map (where appropriate) and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent.
- Please make your submission by one medium only, i.e. hard copy or e-mail.
- All valid submissions will form a part of the statutory Chief Executive's report to be presented to the elected members of Wicklow County Council.
- The planning process is an open and public one, therefore all submissions/observations are a matter of public record and will be available for public viewing, they may also be placed on the County Council's website. Please include your name and contact details on a separate sheet to the content of your submission.
- LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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

19th year of 'Two Marys' raises over €8,000

The 'Two Marys' memorial golf classic has now become one of the largest participating charity golfing events in Leinster.

This event was set up by family and friends due to the tragic death of the 'Two Marys', namely, Mary Nolan and her daughter, Mary Bradshaw in 2003. They both suffered from Cancer and died within one week of each other.

An entry of 47 teams topped off an outstanding day at the 19th annual golf charity event, known as the Two Marys, which took place in Greystones Golf Club on Friday 23rd June 2023.

The format of the competition for this year was two shotgun starts with a four-person scramble team event and the day proved to be an outstanding success with 188 people representing 47 teams taking part.

The winning team were Anto Byrne, Karl Holmes, John Byrne and Dylan Holmes.

The total amount raised on the day was €8,250 with the proceeds going to Greystones and District Cancer Support. The Two Marys has now raised over €96,250 for Greystones Cancer Support since starting the event.

"We would like to thank all our Sponsors, especially, Greystones Nursing Home and Greystones Golf Club for their generosity and support," said organisers. "The support from our Sponsors enables the event to take place and raise much needed funds for this very worthwhile local charity."



The Nolan and Bradshaw family making the cheque presentation to Greystones Cancer Support

Shine a light on homelessness

Focus Ireland's annual Shine A Light sleep out takes place on October 13th.

The campaign is calling on business leaders, companies, employees, and individuals to come together to kick start real change, by sleeping out against homelessness to help raise funds for Focus Ireland's vital homeless services.

According to the latest government figures, 1,804 families are in emergency accommodation as of June 2023.

With the number of families becoming homeless increasing by 30% in the last year, there has never been a more important time to show your support.

Business leaders are invited to lead by example and join a sleep out event. The Dublin event is in Croke Park. Their businesses can get involved in Shine A Light by signing up through the Focus Ireland website shinealight.focusireland.ie and organising a sleep out at their workplace.

Bereavement Support meeting

Anam Cara, the only organisation of its kind in Ireland with support services available to bereaved parents, will resume their face-to-face meetings following a short break over the summer months.

September can challenge many. Summer clothes are packed away, holidays have been taken and long evenings shorten. In many respects, it is a new beginning in a new school term, the start of college, a new career to embark upon. But September can be a difficult month for bereaved parents. Many milestones can arise over the month, many milestones their beloved child will never get to mark. On Tuesday 12th September, Anam Cara will hold their South East meeting in The Brandon House Hotel, New Ross at 7:15pm. All bereaved parents from the South East area are welcome, regardless of the age their child died or circumstances of

their death. There is no need to register, just arrive on the evening at 7:15pm. For more information on the support services offer by Anam Cara, please call 085 2888 888, email info@anamcara.ie or see www.anamcara.ie.

Service Manager for Anam Cara, Sharon Vard comments "September, as a month, can be a tough one and a stark reminder of a key stage of our child's life that was not reached. Yes, it is a change of season and the dark evenings are coming in with winter approaching. However, as Mams and Dads we also mark and mourn where our child should be at this time of the year."

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Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)
Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin

Bray Rapid Chess success

The 29th Annual Bray Rapidplay Chess Tournament took place on Sunday, August 27th. The event was won by the reigning Irish Champion, Grandmaster Alexander Baburin. Cllr Joe Behan was on hand to make the ceremonial opening move. In his opening remarks Cllr Behan thanked everyone for visiting County Wicklow, and wished the competitors an enjoyable day of chess.



Eavan Gleeson from Dublin (black jumper) vs Flavia Bastos Scully from Greystones (white jumper)

The event was sold out with 90 entrants. Two International Masters Sam Collins and Oleg Gubanov also participated. For the second time in history the tournament took place in Greystones Bridge Centre. Players travelled from across Ireland to contest the seven round Bray Rapidplay. Stella Li of the Master Chess Club in Stillorgan earned the ladies prize. Local man Eric Bennett was the highest local finisher in 14th place. Meanwhile Greystones women Bernadette Stokes and Flavia Bastos Scully were the highest placed female finishers.

Cllr Stephen Stokes, who was one of the organisers, praised the organising committee and Greystones Bridge Centre. Cllr Stokes stated: "The Bray-Greystones Chess Club were lucky to have a great team including Tom Janowski, Eugene Rellis, Bernadette Stokes and Niall O'Higgins. Greystones Bridge Centre is an outstanding venue. On behalf of Bray-Greystones Chess Club, we would like to thank them for hosting us. The day was a big success."

The Bray-Greystones Chess Club is currently recruiting players for the upcoming Leinster League season.

Anyone seeking more information can email braygreystoneschessclub@gmail.com for further details.



Bernadette Stokes (Greystones) with Cllr Joe Behan, making the ceremonial opening move

Wicklow businessman who died on holiday had 'heart of gold'

PEMCO Bray have released a statement following the death of their Director, Paul Tynan, who died while on holiday in Lanzarote earlier this month.

"It is with such sadness we have to let you know of the passing of our beloved Brother, Director and colleague Paul Tynan. He passed away suddenly on holiday, on the 22nd of August in Lanzarote, Canary Islands while in the tender care of the teams at Lanzarote Hospital," PEMCO said.

"Paul was one of the hardest workers and valued member of the PEMCO team. A leader of extraordinary vision, Paul brought innovation and fresh ideas to the industry. We cannot overstate his importance to both our company and our customers.

His dedication, positivity and commitment made him an essential part of Progress Electroplating and Manufacturing Co. Ltd., family business. Everyone who was lucky to have worked with and alongside Paul will miss him deeply.

"Paul will be forever loved and deeply missed by his much-loved family and his cherished children Robert, Lauren, Daisy and James, his treasured grandchildren Ned and Layla. His sister Elizabeth, brothers Tommy, Joey and Michael. All his extended family and large group of friends and staff at PEMCO.

He will be remembered fondly and missed by all. Paul was a gentlemen, kind, loving and generous to everyone. His warmth, creativity and curiosity about life touched all those he met. He had a heart of gold and will be sadly missed, but never forgotten."

Progress Electroplating & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., was established in 1974 by the late Joseph Tynan Snr, an electrician by trade. It's a family-run manufacturing and distribution company employing 22 people at its base in Harbour Industrial Estate, Bray.



Paul Tynan



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

PREPARATION OF THE WICKLOW TOWN – RATHNEW LOCAL AREA PLAN

PRE – DRAFT PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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 by scanning the QR code here or through the consultation hub at www.wicklow.ie/living and is accepting submissions up to 28 September 2023.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY

Everyone is invited to a public information day that will be held in the Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96 on Thursday 14 September 2023. From 10.00am to 13.00pm and 16.00pm to 19.00pm. The plan team will be available on the day to answer any questions on the plan, the plan process and to help guide the public on how to make a submission.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions regarding the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new Local Area Plan are invited from the public and interested bodies up to 28 September 2023. 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/living (consultation hub)

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 are a matter of public record, and may also be placed on the County Council's website.



Lorraine McElwain, Deirdre Byrne, Wendy Lundy and Cillian Sheehan at Newcastle Parish's Hollywood themed annual summer fair on the grounds of St. Francis National School.

Council progressing Bus Priority Interim Scheme

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport Authority (NTA) are progressing the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme.

The overriding objective of the N11/M11 BPIS is to develop a proposal for the provision of bus priority measures (in both directions) on the N11/M11 national road. Priority facilities can be used by buses/coaches to avoid congested traffic lanes and help to reduce the current unsustainable dependency on the private car.

The N11/M11 BPIS, developed separately to the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme, offers a practicable interim solution for implementation in advance of the larger and more comprehensive scheme.

The extent the N11/M11 BPIS covers the section of existing N11/M11 route from Loughlinstown roundabout in Shankill to the north as far as Junction 9 (Glenview) in the south. It is within this 11.6km length of the existing route that the option selection process has examined the viability, type and optimal extent of bus priority to be provided.

Public Display Event

The public, stakeholders and interested parties are invited to

attend to view information on the Preferred Option identified for the BPIS scheme, the work undertaken to date and the programme for advancement of the project.

This non-statutory consultation event also provides an opportunity for feedback and observations to be submitted regarding the process and conclusions reached to date, which may inform the further development of the scheme in the next phases.

The public display event will be held in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, on Tuesday, 12th September 2023 between 12.00 noon and 8.00pm.

Members of the Project Team will be available to provide guidance and to answer questions. The public display documents will also be available to view on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie from 12:00 noon on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

This public display event follows a previous public display of the preferred BPIS proposals held in November 2022, details of which remain available on the project website (www.n11m11bpis.ie/publications/).

tions/).

At the November 2022 Public Display, the preferred option for the scheme included the provision of bus priority measures along the following sections of the N11/M11 Corridor:

- Sub-Scheme A Northbound & Southbound - Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 6 (Bray/Fassaroe)
- Sub-Scheme C Northbound only to Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) to Junction 9 (Glenview)

At the November 2022 display, it was noted that the successful delivery of bus priority with Sub-Scheme B (Junction 6 to Junction 8) presented a number of location specific challenges and constraints. The Project Team gave a commitment to further examining the viability of delivering bus priority within Sub-Scheme B to identify the optimum solution to meet the project objectives.

Following further analysis and input from project stakeholders, a preferred option for the provision of bus priority measures within Sub-Scheme B has now been identified.

The upcoming Public Display on Tuesday 12th September 2023 will present the overall pre-

ferred option for the BPIS within Sub-Schemes A, B and C.

Following the Public Display, submissions will be accepted via the online feedback form available on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie or by email to n11m11@arup.com or by post addressed to N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, Transportation Department, Wicklow County Council, County

Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96. Submissions will be accepted from Tuesday, 12th September 2023 and must be received on or before Friday, 13th October 2023.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, stated: "Wicklow County Council values the opinion of the community on this project and welcomes feedback and submissions from the public and interested parties."

Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, added: "The knowledge gained from the engagement will be considered by the project team as part of the next stages of the development of the scheme."



Kim Humby and Ben Patterson at the Dominican College Debs in Wicklow Town

Chartered Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine Clinic opens in Bray

DBC Bray Chartered Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine Clinic has recently opened its doors in Egans Business Centre. This state-of-the-art physiotherapy clinic will offer expert clinical assessment, accurate diagnosis and a solid rehabilitation plan that fits your needs and specific demands. DBC Bray is owned by Westmeath native and DBC founder/clinical director Liam Heavin, with Lead Clinician Stephen Brownlow, previously of DBC Belfield brought on board to establish an expert team ready to assist any injury or condition.

DBC's structured rehabilitation programs have been developed in conjunction with some of Ireland's leading orthopaedic and neuro-surgery consultants. Our ethos is to follow international best practice in terms of applying an exercise based rehabilitation approach, with a foundation of strong scientific support and clinical reasoning.

Minister of State, Simon Harris officially opened DBC Bray on August 29th in front of some of the wider DBC Team, some local GP's, businesses and friends. The Minister welcomed the DBC Team and outlined the significance of the service now being provided to the local community.

DBC Chartered Physiotherapy started life in Ireland in 2001, founded by Chartered Physiotherapist Liam Heavin. He established a pilot clinic based at the Ashleaf Centre in South Dublin. This 2,500 square foot facility was purpose built to house a full range of Back, Neck, Shoulder, Upper and Lower Limb rehabilitation devices in addition to a state-of-the-art physiotherapy centre. Over the last 16 years, Ashleaf has grown to become a celebrated centre of excellence; particularly in the provision of specialist back and neck rehabilitation. Well over 1,000 back and neck pain sufferers have successfully passed through the

clinic's doors since 2002, and DBC's reputation as a specialist treatment provider has grown along with this success.

The DBC Team consists of Liam (founder of DBC Chartered Physiotherapy, and one of Ireland's most experienced back

and neck rehabilitation specialists); Stephen (former experience with Wolverhampton Wanderers, Nike Academy, and the PFA Inpatient Rehab in St George's Parkleads. Now leading the new state of the art Bray Clinic where he sees both athletic rehabilitation cases alongside more chronic spinal issues); Cathy (certified in the application and delivery of Trigger Point Dry Needling and Musculoskeletal Shockwave Therapy. Has worked with a range of sports teams in rugby, GAA and soccer).

DBC's clinics specialise in exercise-based rehabilitation and apply treatments with a foundation of strong scientific support and clinical reasoning. This is especially true of their back and neck rehabilitation programs which utilise medical devices developed in Finland by DBC International. DBC International has a treatment support base that has been consistently growing since the mid-1990's. Since its development in Finland led by

one of the world's foremost experts - Prof. Simo Taimela; they have

proven to be steps ahead of the global physiotherapy market. We see ourselves not only standing on the shoulders of the pioneering work of Prof. Taimela and his team, but as leaders in its application at a clinical level.

Some of the conditions they treat are: Acute and chronic back & neck pain; Repetitive strain injuries; Tendon issues Shoulder issues e.g. tendinopathy, bursitis, impingement, frozen shoulder etc; Tension related pain; Post operative rehabilitation; Acute injuries e.g. sprains, strains, contusions; Sports injuries.

They also offer a number of specialist services alongside a range of standard physiotherapy: Specialised Cervical/Lumbar assessments; Deep dry needling & Deep tissue massage; Biomechanics assessments; Ergonomics advice; Shockwave therapy for tendon & soft tissue issues; Specialised physio-led classes; Access to our physiotherapy team via email if patients ever have queries about home exercise programs or other issues.

DBC are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm. Call them on (01) 531 0333 or Email: bray@dbc.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

N11/M11 BUS PRIORITY INTERIM SCHEME

NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE PREFERRED OPTION (PHASE 2)

Wicklow County Council is progressing the development of the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme (BPIS) in partnership with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and the Department of Transport.

The N11/M11 BPIS aims to deliver a practicable interim solution capable of realising bus journey time benefits in the short to medium term. The key strategic goal is to deliver as much contiguous bus priority as practically achievable, such that the transportation deficiencies blighting the corridor could start to be addressed early and in advance of the more comprehensive N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme to follow.

Public Display Event

The public, stakeholders and interested parties are invited to attend and view information on the Preferred Option identified for the BPIS scheme. This public display event follows a previous public display held in November 2022, details of which remain available on the project website (www.n11m11bpis.ie/publications/). Following further analysis, a preferred option for the provision of bus priority measures between Junction 6 (Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) have now been identified. This upcoming Public Display will present the overall preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview).

This non-statutory consultation event also provides an opportunity for feedback and observations to be submitted regarding the process and conclusions reached to date, which may inform the further development of the scheme in the next phases.

The public display event will be held in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, on Tuesday 12th September 2023 between 12.00 noon and 8.00pm.

Members of the Project Team will be available to provide guidance and to answer questions.

The public display documents will also be available to view on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie from 12:00 noon on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

Submissions will be accepted via the online feedback form available on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie or by email to n11m11@arup.com or by post addressed to N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, Transportation Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96. Submissions will be accepted from Tuesday 12th September 2023 and must be received on or before Friday 13th October 2023.

Wicklow County Council values the opinion of the community on this project and welcomes feedback and submissions from the public and interested parties. The knowledge gained from the engagement will be considered by the project team as part of the next stages of the development of the scheme.

Culture Night returns to Wicklow

Wicklow County Arts Office announces an extended programme of events

With Culture Night (Oíche Chultúir) approaching on Friday, 22nd September, Wicklow County Arts Office is pleased to announce an extended programme of events.

Culture Night is an all-island annual event that celebrates creativity and the arts and promotes Ireland's rich and diverse culture through a dynamic range of experiences and live performances for people of all ages to enjoy free of charge.

This free programme of happenings showcases a diverse range of events purposefully selected to open up pathways to creativity.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, said she was delighted to see such a varied and ambitious range of live performances and events in this year's Culture Night programme while Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, stated: "Culture Night encourages everyone everywhere, to come together on one joyful night to explore and discover all that culture and creativity has to offer and I'm delighted to see so many Wicklow artists and organisations represented in the programme this year."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer Gorman, stated that

she was pleased to have the continued support of the Arts Council and Creative Ireland which has enabled the Wicklow County Arts Office to produce such an innovative programme of events across the county.

Events

- Visit Baltinglass on Culture Night for a fun filled night of music and creativity. Enjoy a special outdoor concert featuring Jerry Fish along with a stellar line-up of local musicians and singers including Mark Caplice, Leslie Dowdall, James Nelson, Amy Barret and many more. An arts and crafts market and craft demonstrations provided by Wicklow Marketplace and Crafty Craic Candles will also take place in Germaine's to spotlight artists and crafts people from across the county.

- In celebration of their 21st birthday, Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray is hosting a thrilling line-up of contemporary Irish music acts, presented in partnership with RTÉ 2FM and curated from the RTÉ 2FM Rising list. This

one-off, free concert presented by Dan Hegarty will be broadcast live from Mermaid Arts Centre on Radio 2FM and will showcase the most exciting live music acts coming out of Ireland right now.

- Launching in Wicklow Town on Culture Night is 'Threading Place,' a site-specific visual-art project located across three public spaces in the town. This outdoor exhibition uncovers the varied connections that form the backbone of rural communities in County Wicklow and viewers can engage with the photography both visually and sonically.

- Due to popular demand, the 'Arklow Culture Crawl' is back. Participants follow a purposefully curated trail of local cultural hot spots, with regular stop offs along the way to enjoy some of the amazing local talent featuring a range of artists and creatives.

- Bray Jazz Festival returns to Rathdrum's St Saviour's Church to host 'Roamer,' an Irish contemporary jazz performance featuring four of Ireland's most internationally active jazz musicians.

- Music under the Mountains presents an intimate evening with Megan O'Neill, one of Ireland's up and coming songwriters and named in the Irish Examiner's 'Ones to Watch.'

- The Whale Theatre will host a very special evening of 'Classical Cabaret' featuring some of Ireland's finest classical musicians. Wicklow-based violinist Lynda O'Connor, cellist Ailbhe McDonagh and pianist Máire Carroll will perform a selection of much-loved classical chamber music repertoire.

- The Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre has created a unique celebration of music which will take place in two venues on Culture Night. The first concert takes place at the Shillelagh Courthouse with singer/songwriter Riona Sally Hartman, together with some of Ireland's top musicians, Izumi Kilmura, Mathew Halpin and Neil O'Loughlen. The second concert takes place in the Tinahely St Vincent de Paul Resource Centre with music provided by the Tinahely Comhaltas.

- Join the Threading Place

team: photographer Finn Richards; architects Phoebe Brady and Sarah Doheny from Cineál Place, and sociologist Dr Nikki Dunne in Wicklow Town Library for an informal chat about the launch of a visual-art project in Wicklow Town.

- West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival returns to Russborough House to present 'The Kelly Sisters,' Fiona and Jean, who have been performing together as a flute and harp duo for over 20 years.

- Signal Arts Centre invites you to 'When I Close my Eyes' an evening of events and activities inspired by abstract artist Iseult McCormack's first solo show which opens on Culture Night. The theme reflects an intuitive approach to 'mark making' and brings to mind artists such as Kandinsky or Pollock whose work was influenced by and evokes thoughts of music.

- Join Music in Calary for a memorable night of music with performances by harpsichordist Rachel Factor and Wicklow-based Canadian soprano Catherine Redding.

- The Barn Ensemble will present a programme of baroque and traditional music featuring an eclectic mixture of musical instruments including cello, flute, guitar, keyboard, tin whistles, violin, and percussion at Carnew Community Centre.

- Mermaid Arts Centre is keeping their doors open late to welcome all to



Mermaid Arts Centre

their current exhibition 'Twenty One.' Celebrating 21 years of Mermaid's Visual Art Programme, this group exhibition includes over 140 works of painting, sculpture, multimedia, printmaking and photography.

Wicklow County Arts Office in collaboration with Wicklow Library Services has curated a thoughtful programme of performances at Carnew, Dunlavin, and Rathdrum Libraries including:

- 'Harp and Song' at Carnew Library promises to be a wonderful evening of music as Alyth McCormack and Triona Marshall come together to perform a timeless program of traditional and contemporary Irish and Scottish music and song for Culture Night.

- Join Dunlavin Library for 'A Magical Evening with Aisling Ennis,' as

she explores the Victorian obsession through the lens of harp music from our Irish and classical traditions. This whistle stop tour of virtuoso fairy harp music, stories and accounts of the fairies, is perfect for the whole family to enjoy.

Culture Night in Rathdrum library will see well known Blessington writer and actor Richard Lynch present 'From the Shoulders Down' - The life and times of an Irish builder's labourer, one of his most popular shows. Cleverly scripted and performed by Richard, the show has previously been staged in Ireland, England and at Canada's 'London Fringe Festival Ontario' and 'North Quebec,' winning rave reviews at many venues.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council,

Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, said she was delighted to see such a varied and ambitious range of live performances and events in this year's Culture Night programme while Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, stated: "Culture Night encourages everyone everywhere, to come together on one joyful night to explore and discover all that culture and creativity has to offer and I'm delighted to see so many Wicklow artists and organisations represented in the programme this year."

All events are free and people are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. See the full Culture Night programme at www.culturenight.ie/wicklow.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 10 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 2004 SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT AT ROAD WORKS M11/N11 MMARC WORKS – J5 TO J7 PAVEMENT SCHEME – ROAD WORKS SPEED LIMIT ORDER

RWSLO NO.4 OF 2023 – NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND JUNCTION 5 TO 7

Notice is hereby given that in exercise of the powers vested under Section 10 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004, and in the interest of safety, the following shall be the Roadworks speed limits for mechanically propelled vehicles on the roads specified on the following dates or such earlier date as may be determined by Wicklow County Council.

RWSLO No.4 of 2023

Southbound: 11/09/2023 to 06/10/2023
Northbound: 25/09/2023 to 13/10/2023

First Schedule

60 kilometres per hour shall be the Road Works Speed Limit for mechanically propelled vehicles on the roads as specified hereto.

- a) The M11/N11 southbound carriageway from the Wicklow County Council County Boundary north of the M11 Upper Dargle Overbridge at Junction 6 to a point 21 metres south of the centre point of the M11 Kilcrouney Lane Over Bridge at Junction 7.
- b) The M11/N11 northbound carriageway from a point 520 metres South of the centre point of the M11 Kilcrouney Lane Over Bridge at Junction 7 to the Wicklow County Council County Boundary north of the M11 Upper Dargle Overbridge at Junction 6.

Second Schedule

80 kilometres per hour shall be the Road Works Speed Limit for mechanically propelled vehicles on the roads as specified hereto.

- a) The M11/N11 northbound carriageway from a point 1020 metres South of the centre point of the M11 Kilcrouney Lane Over Bridge at Junction 7 to a point 520 metres South of the centre point of the M11 Kilcrouney Lane Over Bridge at Junction 7.

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services,
Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow



Courthouse Arts Centre

Lisa McCleary presents: 'I'll Be In Touch'

An Tigin, Marine Terrace, Greystones, Friday 8th - Sunday 10th September, and Wednesday 13th - Sunday 17th September. Daily viewing times, 12pm - 6pm.

Artist Lisa McCleary invites the public to the launch of her first solo exhibition in Ireland. McCleary will showcase the last four years of her practice, through painting, drawing and tapestry, in her hometown Greystones.



Aching, 2019, oil on aluminium, 73cm x 41cm

Addressing mediated corporeality, her practice is anchored by the embodiment of touch. McCleary's repertoire consists of a growing collection of works which will be on display at An Tigin (A63 PK81).

McCleary employs a layered artistic process to create surrealist distortions and anthropomorphic beings. She presents reality as something that is not fixed but in a constant process of change. McCleary's artworks capture a vital moment in which layered elements, emotions, materials, and processes come together to create an aesthetic energy with suggestive being and force.

"My current series of work investigates the malleability of identity and the nature of the human spirit," says Lisa.

"I explore the intersection of vulnerability and resilience, materiality, absurdity, ambiguity, otherness and the tactile. I utilise abstract figuration, focusing on physical aberrations and tactile manipulations of expression to evoke highly

ambivalent emotions and experiences. I employ a layered artistic process to create surrealist distortions and anthropomorphic beings.

"I begin by making clay sculptures which I then photograph and render in oil paint onto wooden panel. I utilize the Trompe L'oeil painting technique; I want to create the illusion of 3-dimensionality through the skilled use of form, colour, and light. The paintings are 2-dimensional and place focus on the sensuality of the flat painted surface. The illusion of tactility creates a longing for the real and palpable.

Through the medium of oil paint my previous series captures imagery of the everyday in New York City to highlight the dystopian reality of the Covid-19 Pandemic. This project focuses on the screen as a surface of mediation, protection, isolation, safety, and fear. This series of paintings captures silent moments shared between ride share drivers and I. During the height of the Pandemic in NYC these essential workers had created make-shift screens and installed them as a protective barrier in their vehicles. This series acknowledges the courage of our essential workers during these unprecedented times, and their protection of and service to the community at large.

About the artist

Lisa McCleary is an Irish-Australian artist currently living and working in Ireland. In 2018 she completed her MFA Degree at Parsons, The New School, NYC. McCleary has exhibited internationally with previous solo exhibitions in Sydney, Mexico, and New York City. Her most recent solo show was held at Shelf Gallery in Mexico City.



Crawl, 2022, oil on panel, 61cm x 91cm



Lisa McCleary

Her art is currently on view at the Irish Consulate, New York City and in 2023, McCleary was selected to exhibit her work at the London Art Biennale and the Royal Hibernian Academy's 193rd Summer Annual in Dublin, Ireland. In 2022, McCleary exhibited her work at The Boynes Emerging Artist Awards, Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery, LA, Oscar Roman Gallery and Hotel Matilda, Mexico. McCleary has held a position at the Trestle Artist Residency, Brooklyn, NYC, the Summer Painting Residency at the School of Visual Arts, NYC, and the Vermont Studio Residency for which she received the VSC Merit Grant.

McCleary has been selected as a semi-finalist in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition as part of the Smithsonian Museum's National Portrait Gallery, DC. In 2022, McCleary was chosen as a finalist in the Boynes Emerging Artist Award and as an Artist to

Watch by artconnect.com. In 2021, McCleary's work was selected as Best in Show in Wet Paint, at Colors of Humanity Art Gallery, she also received a Highly Commended Award

at International Art Show LA and a Special Merit Award at Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery. In 2020, McCleary was included in The UK Sunday Times article '30

under 30: Ireland's most promising artists.'

Launch Reception,
Fri 8th Sept, 4pm-7pm
Evening Reception, Sat
9th Sept, 4pm-7pm

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

1, Mr. James Kearns seeks Planning Permission for 1) Construction of new 87sqm 2 bedroom (2-storey) detached dwelling to side of existing dwelling. 2) New boundary walls & Fence 3) Demolish existing Double Garage. 4) Connection to all public services. 5) All necessary ancillary works at 147 Applewood Heights, Applewood, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 T889. 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 and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Andrew Byrne from 1 Arch Villas Greystones County Wicklow, is seeking planning permission to build a 5-bedroom dormer bungalow. West facing dormer windows and Velux roof windows on east facing side. 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 and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing in payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 week's beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Kathleen and Jason Kelly, intend to apply for permission for development at this site: Coburg Court, Coburg Estate, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of: This is a repeat application of the previously granted planning application Reg. Ref. 18/737 which sought permission for; the provision of a single storey extension to the South West facing elevation, the provision of a part two storey and part first floor extension to the South East facing elevation, including the relocation of the front door to the South East facing elevation to face the road. The development also includes other general internal alterations. 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

Guy L. Tribble and Susan Kelly Barnes intend to apply for Permission for the erection of a glass roofed, open sided decorative wrought iron sculpted entrance canopy, detached from the existing dwelling at Glanmore Hall, Glanmore, Ashford, 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.



Dublin Crust - Whale Theatre, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th September, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets are €12 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call 01 2010550.

Worn Out, Played Out, Strung Out. 10 Years after Punk band Crust split up, the band members lives have fallen apart. Drummer Bonehead has just been released from prison and sets about reforming the band for one last show. 'Dublin Crust' is like 'Trainspotting' meets 'The Commitments' and has an illegitimate love child with 'The Full Monty'. This special screening will be followed by a live Q&A hosted by Aisling Goodwin.

ATTENTION

Architects, Planners & Builders

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Call 01 286 9111 or email pauline@localtimes.ie



DS - The hidden gem

With the huge choice of car makes and models on the Irish Market, it is easy to miss a variant - or even an entire brand ñ that might be your best option.

By Martin McCarthy

One such is the French brand, DS - steeped in a rich history of design excellence. While the first models arrived in Ireland in 2011 ñ it has been relaunched, expanded and streamlined to service potential customers better than ever

since coming under the Gowan Auto Group.

Earlier this year a beautiful new DS Showroom was opened on the Navan Road, Dublin - the only dedicated sales outlet in Ireland for this niche marque, whose heritage dates back to 1955, when the space age DS19 was unveiled in Paris. It upturned conventional styling norms but struck a chord with forward thinking motorists - which kept the model in production for 18 years.

DS Navan Road is less than an hour from Bray and North Wicklow and there they have their four models - the DS3, DS4, DS7 and the top end DS9, on show with experts who can advise on what would best suit a customer's needs and pocket.

I recently took a DS4 on a long journey across country to Belmullett Co. Mayo - which included every type of road ñ motorway, main roads, country boroens and bog roads.

I had a lot of 'truck' but the DS4 hatchback

styling and flexible seat arrangements handled it well. It was also very comfortable with four up on the tour to the tip of the Mullett peninsula where the Met report on June 5th 1944 persuaded General Eisenhower to delay the Normandy D-Day landing by 24 hours.

The DS4 comes with a number of power options - starting as what is now a competitive price of €37,990. Based on the EMP2 platform, the plug-in hybrid version, DS 4 E-TENSE 225 inherits expertise from DS Performance with its four Formula E championship titles. High performing and efficient, this power unit relies on a 4-cylinder 180 horsepower 1.6L PureTech engine and a 110-horsepower electric motor with a 12.4kWh battery which has a zero emissions range of up to 55km (on the WLTP combined cycle). The 360Nm of torque enables 100km/h to be reached in 7.7 seconds and the 1000 metres Start-Stop to be covered in 27.3 seconds with fuel consumption of just 1.3 litre / 100km and emissions from 29g / km of CO2 on the WLTP combined cycle.

A 1.2L PureTech 130 Automatic petrol engine, plus a 1.5L BlueHdi 130 Automatic Diesel are on offer with consumption from 4.8 litres / 100km for Diesel and 5.9 litres / 100km for petrol on the WLTP combined cycle and CO2 emissions of 125g/km for diesel and 135g/km for petrol.

If the budget could be stretched, the DS7 is a fantastic big family option, priced from €50,400 and also available with a number of different power-trains. This attracts those who need Hyundai Tuscon space and flexibility, but like the beautiful Parisian styling, inside and out.

IF YOU NEED TO FIND THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY, GIVE US A CALL ON 01 286 9111

PRAYERS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

RECRUITMENT



kcetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board

COLÁISTE EOIN, BAILE HAICÉID GLANTÓIR PÁIRTAIMSEARHA

Conradh ar Théarma Seasta –
16 uair an chloig sa tseachtain

Cruthófar painéal chun poist Glantóirí eile a líonadh i BOO Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach a d'fhéadfadh teacht chun cinn le linn na scoilbhliana acadúla 2023/2024.

Téigh le do thoil chuig: www.kcetb.ie le haghaidh foirm iarratais agus tuilleadh sonraí.

Dáta Deiridh: Dé Luain, 18 Meán Fómhair 2023 (12 meán lae).

D'fhéadfadh gearrliostú a bheith i bhfeidhm.

*Is fostóir comhdheiseanna
é BOO Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach*

COLÁISTE EOIN, HACKETSTOWN PART-TIME CLEANER

Fixed Term Contract –
16 hours per week

A panel will be created for the filling of other Cleaner positions in Kilkenny and Carlow ETB that may arise during the 2023/2024 school academic year.

Please refer to: www.kcetb.ie for job application form and further details.

Closing Date: Monday, 18 September 2023 (12 noon).

Shortlisting may apply.

*Kilkenny and Carlow ETB
is an equal opportunities employer*



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

Competition for appointment to the position of Clerical Officer in Wexford and Bray Court Offices

The Courts Service are currently recruiting CLERICAL OFFICERS in the Wexford and Wicklow area.

The duties of a Clerical Officer may vary but will include general clerical / administrative tasks such as preparing and resulting Court lists, public counter duties, filing, photocopying, answering/making telephone calls, dealing with e-mails, receipting cash, supporting line-managers and colleagues, working as part of a team, use of IT, and more.

The starting salary for this position is €27,131.00, rising with length of service.

Further information in relation to salary, terms and conditions of employment and application process are available in the Information Booklet under the role listing at www.courts.ie/careers.

Applications by way of a CV and a one-page cover letter outlining how you meet the requirements and why you should be considered for this position should be made by applying directly for the role listed at www.courts.ie/careers by **22nd September 2023 at 2pm.**

This recruitment campaign is being undertaken in compliance with the Code of Practice for Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA).

The Courts Service is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

Comórtas cheapachán do phost mar Oifigeach Cléireachais in Oifigí Cúirte Loch Garman agus Bhré.

TÁ OIFIGIGH CHLÉIREACHAIS á earcú ag an tSeirbhís Chúirteanna i gceantar Loch Garman agus Chill Mhantáin.

Bíonn dualgais Oifigigh Chléireachais éagsúil ach áireofar leo tascanna ginearálta cléireachais/riaracháin mar leithéid liostaí Cúirte a ullmhú agus na torthaí a chur isteach orthu, dualgais chuntair phoiblí, comhdú, fótachóipeáil, freagairt/glaonna gutháin, déileáil le ríomhphoist, airgead a admháil, tacú le bainisteoirí agus comhghleacaithe, scileanna obair foirne, úsáid TF, agus go leor eile.

Is é an tuarastal tosaigh don phost seo ná €27,131.00, ag ardú le fad seirbhíse.

Tá tuilleadh eolais maidir le tuarastal, téarmaí agus coinníollacha fostaíochta agus an próiseas iarratais ar fáil sa Leabhrán Faisnéise faoin liostú ról ag www.courts.ie/careers.

Ba cheart iarratais ar CV agus litir chlúdaigh leathanach amháin a sheoladh go díreach go dtí an ról fógraithe art www.courts.ie/careers roimh **22 Meán Fómhair 2023. ag 2pm.**

Ba choir go leagfadh an litir chlúdaigh amach conas a chomhlíonann tú na ceanglais agus cén fath a gceapann tú go bhfuil tú oiriúnach don phost seo.

Tá an feachtas earcaíochta seo á dhéanamh de réir an Chóid Chleachtais um Cheapacháin chun Poist sa Státseirbhís agus sa tSeirbhís Phoiblí a d'ullmhaigh an Coimisiún um Cheapacháin Seirbhíse Poiblí (CPSA).

Tá an tSeirbhís Chúirteanna tiomanta do bheartas comhdheiseanna.

Hospitality VAT increase a 'tax on consumer'

The decision by the Government to increase the Hospitality VAT rate from 9% to 13.5% from 1st September is extremely disappointing and is a tax on the consumer, says the Vintners Federation of Ireland (VFI).

For pubs serving food the special 9% VAT rate was a crucial intervention at a time when the cost of doing business continues to soar. Ever since Covid restrictions were removed publicans have faced price increases across the board from energy to labour alongside food and drink.

VFI President John Clendennen says: "The decision to increase the VAT rate for hospitality is effectively a tax on the consumer and comes at a time when publicans are dealing with rampant inflation that has decimated margins and seen some pubs go out of business."

"The government acknowledged that fact by extend-

ing the hospitality VAT rate last February for another six months but the basic economics of the situation have only worsened since then. The special VAT rate was a vital intervention that allowed pubs serving food some respite from the soaring cost of doing business.

"Increasing VAT to 13.5% will negatively impact the trade as the summer season ends and a quieter autumn trading period arrives. Customers are already feeling the pinch with cost of living increases so this is a short-sighted move by government that will lead to concerns about long-term viability," concludes the VFI President.

Childcare services in Wicklow to benefit from €300k grant

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris T.D. last week announced that childcare services in County Wicklow are set to receive over €300k in funding under the Government's Building Blocks Improvement Scheme.

This funding will help promote and encourage Green Energy and Retrofitting initiatives in childcare facilities.

Minister Harris said, "Childcare providers in

Wicklow play an invaluable role in our community. The grant will go towards helping childcare services retrofit their facilities and take on Green initiatives,

making them more sustainable."

The funding will be delivered through two strands: The Green Energy Strand which supports the Climate Action Agenda and The Retrofit Strand which supports existing services in need of upgrading.

"Investing in our childcare providers with long term sustainable ini-

tiatives is vital, and making childcare more convenient and accessible is something I am really focussed on delivering for families in Wicklow."

"To this effect, recently I have created a survey on Wicklow's childcare services to take on feedback from families all across Wicklow. This survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/H7ZYK2Z>."



Nicola O'Dwyer and Kim Harris at Newcastle Parish's Hollywood themed annual summer fair, on the grounds of St. Francis National School.

LOCAL BUSINESS
LOCAL BUSINESS
LOCAL BUSINESS

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