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Tuesday 28th May 2024 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# WERE FIREMEN BUGGED?

Up to 30 complaints have been made by retained firemen to the Data Protection Commissioner over alleged illegal bugging of fire tenders carried out during and after industrial action by the firemen. Brendan O'Brien of SIPTUI has written to the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council seeking an explanation and clarification before deciding what future action will be taken.

"Wicklow County Council and the Chief Fire Officer need to clarify if alleged illegal recordings were authorised, and if so by whom," declared John Brady TD, expressing his alarm and concern at reports of the alleged clandestine recording of conversations in the cabs of fire engines in county Wicklow. He further called for the Chief Fire

Officer for Wicklow to clarify if the alleged recordings were authorised, and if so who was responsible for the authorisation.

According to emerging reports approx. 100 members of the Retained Fire Service are considering lodging complaints about their employer under data protection legislation. "That frontline emergency respon-

ders would be treated in this manner is a potential scandal of huge proportion," Deputy Brady said.

"Reports that members of the Wicklow Retained Fire Service were allegedly subject to clandestine surveillance both aural and visual is deeply disturbing. There are strict rules in place in respect of personal privacy, including the retention of personal data



Cllr Tom Fortune, Dr. Deirdre Keyes (CE KWETB), Gabriel Allen (BIFE DP), Cllr Erika Doyle, Ray Tedders (BIFE Principal) and David O Gorman (BIFE BOM) at the opening of BIFE's Graduate Art & Design Exhibition.

VOTE  
#1

Bray East  
LEA

Cllr. ERIKA  
DOYLE

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under GDPR.

"There are a number of serious questions that need to be answered here immediately, was the alleged illegal recording of members of the Retained Fire Service in their workplace authorised, if so, who authorised the alleged illegal recording, who was aware of the alleged recordings, who has had access to the recordings, and where are the recordings currently stored, and will they be made available to a potential future investigation or inquiry.

"We need to know how many conversations were recorded, how many fire engines were configured to record the private conversations of retained firefighters.

"I also believe that Wicklow County Council needs to clarify if any other employees of the Council have been placed under clandestine surveillance at any time?

"If these allegations are proven, any employ-

ees of Wicklow County Council including members of the Retained Fire Service who was a victim of this gross abuse of employer privilege need to be contacted and made aware of the situation, and the relevant recordings made available to them. The clandestine surveillance of workers including the recording of their private conversations is an abuse of power and is totally unacceptable.

"I have written to Minister Darragh O'Brien on this matter along with the Chief Executive Officer of Wicklow County Council calling on them to investigate these allegations, and make their findings public with the utmost urgency."

Wicklow Times contacted Wicklow County Council asking whether the allegations were true? If so, who sanctioned the action? Has the council used such methods in the past?

Has/do the council use the services of private detectives? A council spokesperson issued a one sentence reply which

they said they had no authorisation to expand on. It read "Wicklow County Council is considering issues raised by

Fire Fighters and SIPTU with regard to the installation and operation of Dashcams in a number of Fire Appliances."

VOTE 1, PLEASE

TIMMINS  
EDWARD

1

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'A TRUSTED EXPERIENCED REPRESENTATIVE'



# Endurance athlete climbing Wicklow's mountains for Kenya communities

The people of Wicklow are urged to come out and lend their support to a man who has set an ambitious challenge to climbing almost every mountain in Wicklow (with a height of 600 metres and above) and the entire country between now and the end of June in a tough and gruelling charity endeavour.

56-year-old Aidan Ennis is planning to climb all 275 mountains in Ireland in one continuous hike to raise funds for Brighter Communities Worldwide, a small Irish charity that works in partnership with local communities in Kenya.

The charity has launched 'The BIG Walk' which will see walkers complete 10,000 KM, the distance from Ireland

to Kenya, from now until October in a bid to highlight the work it does in healthcare, sanitation and economic empowerment.

Aidan will spend from the 28th to the 30th May traversing mountains across Co. Wicklow, a challenge he relishes.

He will complete the Wicklow Mountain range in the three days as part of the challenge he has

set to finish the all-Ireland challenge in just 48 days. Not only will he climb all the mountains in the country over 600 metres, but he also plans to run from one mountain range to the next, adding to the gruelling nature of the challenge.

He says "Brighter Communities Worldwide is a hugely deserving charity, they work incredibly hard and their

work over the past two decades has been tangible, all the while improving the lives of the people with whom they work in partnership with in Kenya. They have chosen 10,000km - as the target to reach between now and the end of October and so the kilometres I will run up by climbing every mountain in Ireland, a total of some 2332 KM is going to help quite a lot.

"As walking is the main mode of travel for so many people in Kericho County in Kenya who have to travel vast distances to access clean water, the charity hopes that this will resonate with people in Ireland to get behind the challenge. Participants will choose where they want to walk, count the km's they cover and hopefully together they will reach 10,000km."

Aidan is no stranger

to tough charity challenges, last year he walked the entire coastline of Wales including all 15 of the Welsh 3000ft mountains enroute, for Brighter Communities Worldwide. He credits running on the beaches around Tramore as helping him prepare for this challenge.

"I will camp out most nights, with some nights in towns and cities in B&B or guest houses where I will pick up supplies for the next few days of the hike. My wife, Emily and our 11-year-old son Alex will meet up with me with our VW Camper on some weekends also. The people of Ireland are so generous and giving and I am really hoping they get behind me on this challenge, meet me along the route and donate a little to help a lot."

To donate, see <https://www.idonate.ie/event/thebigwalk>



Aidan Ennis.

## Health and Wellbeing Fair

Bray Area Partnership and Health and Wellbeing, Community Healthcare East, HSE will be hosting a Health and Wellbeing Fair as part of the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme on Wednesday 29th May. The fair run from 10am to 12pm in the Little Bray Community Centre.

The event will have information stands from community groups and services who provide Health and Wellbeing supports in Bray. Everyone is welcome to browse, chat, make connections and find out more about what's on offer in our wonderful local community.

There will also be information sessions on Healthy Food Made Easy and Parenting Courses and even some songs from the Cheile Community Choir on the day. To find out more you can contact Louise or Karen in Bray Area Partnership on 01 2868266, or visit the Bray Area Partnership website, [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie).

## Stamp your journey through Wicklow

Visit Wicklow has just launched the Wicklow Passport, an exciting new initiative that encourages visitors and locals to stamp their journey through the Garden of Ireland at participating locations - and discover hidden gems along the way!

To start your journey simply order your Wicklow Passport for €5 from [Visitwicklow.ie/passport](http://Visitwicklow.ie/passport), and start planning your route online using the new interactive map. There are over 26 different areas just waiting to be explored.

Throughout the year, Visit Wicklow welcomes new Ambassadors from all over the world, in recognition for completing the Wicklow Passport. To claim your Ambassador Certificate simply upload a photo of your Wicklow Passport with a minimum of 15 stamps to [Visitwicklow.ie/become-a-wicklow-ambassador/](http://Visitwicklow.ie/become-a-wicklow-ambassador/) to claim your Wicklow Ambassador Certificate along with a fantastic Wicklow Passport neck-warmer and Wicklow Ambassador Collector's Pin.

The combination of routes you can take are endless with the Wicklow Passport. Alongside being one of Ireland's premier outdoor destinations - offering everything from the

largest national park in Ireland, the biggest forest land, the largest mountain area and the highest waterfall - Wicklow also offers picturesque towns, fascinating heritage sites

and cultural experiences with a host of fantastic local flavours at the many restaurants, pubs and cafes.

Stamp your Wicklow journey this summer, and

discover the Garden of Ireland's hidden gems with the Wicklow Passport. Available to purchase now for €5 from [Visitwicklow.ie/passport](http://Visitwicklow.ie/passport).

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Children consulting their Wicklow Passport.

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# MALACHAÍ

and

All other Candidates

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# THREE WICKLOW BEACHES AWARDED BLUE FLAG STATUS

At a ceremony last week, An Taisce announced the recipients of the Blue Flag and National Green Coast Awards for 2024. Three beaches in County Wicklow were awarded the Blue Flag and one beach earned the National Green Coast Award. The Blue Flags were awarded to Greystones South Beach, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South. Arklow South Beach was awarded the Green Flag.

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognized awards for beaches. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of criteria in the areas of facilities, safety, environmental management and education must be met and maintained. Bathing water must also have attained excellent status.

The National Green Coast Award recognises beaches with excellent water quality and are prized for their natural, unspoilt environment. They must be managed in partner-

ship with the local community. Wicklow County Council worked closely with Arklow Coast Care to clean and manage the beach in an environmentally sensitive way. Arklow South Beach has regained the award after an absence of 4 years.

Commenting on the Green Flag award, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy, said "I am delighted that the Green Flag will once again fly over Arklow South Beach. The

award is testimony to the hard work and dedication Arklow Coast Care shows."

Welcoming the announcement of the awards, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman said, "There is a massive commitment required across many of the Council's departments and Municipal Districts to reach the level of excellence required. The Blue Flag is a huge honour and provides recognition for the efforts of our staff."

## Mixed results for Wicklow's bathing waters in new report

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published the Bathing Water Quality in Ireland report for 2023 which shows that water quality at Wicklow's beaches was of a high standard overall.

The main beaches along Wicklow's coast were rated either 'good' or 'excellent' - Bray South Promenade (Good); Greystones South (Excellent); Silver Strand

(Good); Brittas Bay North & South (Excellent); Clogga (Good); Ballymoney North Beach (Good); The remainder of Wicklow's bathing areas

fell into the category of 'other monitored waters', which are smaller less populated beaches monitored by the local authority and not formally managed under the Bathing

Water Regulations. Of these, South of Bray Harbour was 'Generally Good Quality'; The Cove in Greystones and Kilcoole Beach were 'Excellent'; The Murrough was 'Excellent'; Wicklow Harbour 'meets minimum standard'; Arklow South Beach 'Good'; The Cove, Arklow 'meets minimum standard'.

Around the country, 97 percent of bathing sites met the minimum standard.

Bathing water quality can be impacted by heavy rainfall. This results in waste water overflows and in runoff from agricultural lands and urban areas which can cause short-term deterioration in water quality. In 2023 urban waste water related incidents were the most frequently reported cause of beach closures. Runoff from agriculture, fouling from dogs left on the beach, wastewater from properties going to surface water drains rather than sewer (known as misconnections) and algal blooms also impacted on bathing waters.

Record rainfall levels in July and storms in August led to more beach closures in 2023 than in previous years. The rainfall events in 2023 highlighted the need to build climate resilience into the effective management of bathing waters.

Commenting on the report, Dr Eimear Cotter, Director of the EPA, Office of Evidence and Assessment, said: "While our bathing water quality is generally very good



Paul Sutton is welcomed back to Arklow by Mary Hickey following his cycle from Cork to Arklow in aid of the East Coast Samaritans.

overall, there is a need to build climate resilience into the management of bathing waters to reduce the risk of pollution following heavy rainfall. This needs action by all sectors including Uisce Eireann, local authorities, and agriculture to reduce overflows from urban waste water systems, and runoff from urban areas and agricultural land.

While beach closures play an important role in protecting bathers' health, local authorities need to improve their understanding of the pressures which can impact beaches in the context of changing rainfall patterns."

The number of beaches classified as poor increased from three to five in 2023. These are

Balbriggan Front Strand Beach, Lady's Bay (Buncrana), Tra na mBan (An Spidéal), which were also poor in 2022, and Loughshinny and Sandymount beaches in Dublin. The relevant local authorities and Uisce Eireann have plans in place to improve water quality at these beaches. These must be fully implemented to make

these beaches safe for swimming.

No new bathing water sites were identified in 2023, although monitoring continues at almost 80 beaches not formally identified. The EPA encourages swimmers to engage with local authorities to officially identify and manage additional bathing sites to protect bathers' health.

INDEPENDENT

Bray East LEA

1

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# Green light for Blessington Community College for new 3-storey state-of-the-art school

Planning permission has been granted for a new 1,000 pupil state of the art school for Blessington Community College. Welcoming the news, An Taoiseach Simon Harris said the growth in population in Wicklow has to be matched by the number of available school places and by the community's infrastructural needs.

The works will involve the demolition of the existing school buildings and the removal of existing prefabricated temporary accommodation on the site, to allow for the construction of a new 3-storey 1,000 pupil post-primary school comprising teaching spaces, ancillary spaces, physical education hall facility, special education needs suite, general purpose hall, social areas, library, administration areas, toilet and changing facilities, external stores, and associated ancillary accommodation. 704 students currently attend the school, a 100 per cent increase since 2013.

An Taoiseach Simon



An Taoiseach Simon Harris.

Harris said: "After working very closely with the school, families across Blessington, the Board of Management, KWETB and the Parents Council I am really delighted Blessington Community College has received a green light for the new 3 storey state of the art school which will cater for 1,000 children.

"This news will come as a huge relief to so many families. The new state of the art school will meet the highest standards of educational requirements in the country and will be of incredible benefit to the local community.

"In Wicklow we have had challenges with school places shortages, but I am truly delighted that this new school building has received planning permission.

"This new build will go a long way in solving some of the issues faced by families with school shortages. As Taoiseach and as a representative for Wicklow I am conscious we need to match the growth in population with the development of educational infrastructure.

"The community has worked so hard in getting this over the line so a huge credit is due to all involved. The school prin-



Cllr Edward Timmins.

cipal and school staff have believed in this project for so long and have made a huge difference to hundreds of families in the area. My focus on the educational needs of children of Wicklow is never ending and I will continue to pursue all school building projects in County Wicklow so that families no longer have to deal with the stress of school shortages."

Speaking from Blessington following the announcement, Councillor Edward Timmins expressed his delight with the news: "As one of my priorities for many years, I am delighted with the news that planning permission has been granted to extend Blessington

Community College into a 1000 Student Secondary School. This outcome of conditional planning permission is a direct result of the tireless work of parents and others in the school community such as the Blessington Community College New School Campaign. I would like to commend everyone involved for their efforts to date. As outlined in my literature that is currently being disseminated, I am fully committed to working with the Taoiseach to ensure the new 1000 Student Secondary School becomes a reality as soon as possible."

Kieran Burke, Principal of Blessington Community College and a Local Election candidate for the Baltinglass Local Electoral Area (LEA), said working to improve education services in his community is a key part of his election campaign.

He said: "As Principal of Blessington Community College, I am delighted that an announcement has been made that planning permission, subject to conditions, has been granted for the new 1,000 pupil state-of-the-art school for the community of Blessington. This is very exciting news and comes after



Deirdre McCormack and Jennifer Whitmore at Blessington Community College.

many years of painstaking work by the entire school community, supported by our Board of Management, the Kildare and Wicklow Education Board and our dedicated and committed Parents Council.

"Since being appointed Principal 11 years ago, I have witnessed the massive growth in our student numbers from 313 students in 2013 to 704 students today, a 124% increase. This growth demonstrates the confidence shown by the community in selecting Blessington Community College as their school of choice.

"Together, we will continue to work closely with the Kildare and Wicklow Education Board and the relevant government departments to

ensure that this new development passes through the necessary stages as rapidly as possible. The people of Blessington and the surrounding community deserve to have the best and most modern facilities for their children and I remain committed to working, at the coalface, with all relevant stakeholders in ensuring this new school is delivered as soon as possible."

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow, Jennifer Whitmore, and Local Election Candidate for West Wicklow, Deirdre McCormack, have also welcomed the news.

The decision from Wicklow County Council comes following a lengthy campaign by local parents and the school community who have been calling for the development and expansion of the school for several years, they said.

"This is fantastic news today for the both the school community and the greater Blessington community," commented Deputy Whitmore. "Blessington and the surrounding villages are growing communities, but the schools and other public

services have not been growing in line with this increase in population which has led to issues with school places and a lack of facilities. Myself, and Social Democrats Local Area Rep, Deirdre McCormack, have been working with the Blessington Community College Parents Association and school community to support their campaign to see Blessington Community College developed into a 1,000 pupil school. I am delighted that today, we are one step closer to seeing this much-needed school being delivered for the town."

Social Democrats Local Election Candidate for West Wicklow, Deirdre McCormack also welcomed today's news: "This is great news for our community here in Blessington. I know that a lot of parents were concerned about a possible lack of secondary school places in the town in the coming years and hopefully this news will help to reassure them. But we must also ensure that our current school community, students, and teachers are being looked after and have access to the appropriate

classrooms and facilities they need while the new school is being developed. I would like to congratulate the Parents Council for their continued determination and commitment to this project which will bring far reaching benefits to our whole community here in Blessington," commented Ms McCormack.

Deputy Whitmore echoed Deirdre McCormack's praise for the Parents Council. "The members of the Blessington Community College Parents Council have worked tirelessly to highlight the urgent need for a 1,000 pupil school here. For many of them their children will have finished secondary school by the time this project has been completed but nevertheless they continued to campaign for this because of the benefit it will bring to the community here. I would like to congratulate them on all their hard work. The school community have my continued support and I am calling on the Department of Education to ensure the timely completion of this much-needed school in Blessington," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Cllr Mark Barry  
Greystones LEA



Danny Alvey  
Wicklow LEA



Caroline Winstanley  
Bray West LEA



Aaron McAllorum  
Bray East LEA



Deirdre McCormack  
Baltinglass LEA



Wicklow

Social

Democrats

Candidates



Working with  
Jennifer Whitmore TD



Councillor Patsy Glennon, TY student Conor Allen, Principal Kieran Burke, Minister Stephen Donnelly and Dr Sheila Geoghegan on a visit to Blessington Community College.





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**FITZGERALD**  
ARKLOW



Cllr. Pat  
**KENNEDY**  
ARKLOW



Kieran  
**BURKE**  
BALTINGLASS



Cllr. Patsy  
**GLENNON**  
BALTINGLASS



Cllr. John  
**MULLEN**  
BALTINGLASS



Fergal  
**FITZGERALD DOYLE**  
BRAY EAST



Jack  
**COMMONS**  
GREYSTONES



Sonia  
**CASEY SHORTT**  
WICKLOW



Cllr. Gail  
**DUNNE**  
WICKLOW



# Less than one month to go until 2024 SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race



For those on a quest for glory, race day is coming! For those seeking personal achievement, race day is coming. For those ticking that bucket list, race day is coming! And what is clear for all Round Ireland participants is that it's going to take a whole heap of skill, determination and endurance to complete these 704 nautical miles on beautiful Irish coastal waters.

The 2024 SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race takes place on 22nd June, and excitement is building in Wicklow Town.

"Excitement is building and the entry list is still growing," says Wicklow Sailing Club commodore Karen Kissane. "There's less than a month to go and it's likely to go over the 50 boat mark. We're all working hard towards June 22nd, to make it the

best race yet."

Race Director Kyran O'Grady described the entry list as "a hugely formidable fleet of boats, many returning time and time again to undertake the race. Every edition brings its own challenges and can be tactically tricky where tides and slack winds can make or break you. As well as doing everything right, you still need a bit of luck to win."

One thing is for sure, there is

no clear winner on this side of the line. It's going to be a highly competitive race with lots of boats in the 35-40ft range. Organisers are delighted the 2022 winners SL ENERGIES GROUPE FASTWAVE are returning to defend their title.

How many nights at sea will be determined by weather conditions and the team that dig deep to overcome whatever comes their way.

## 'We need urgent evaluation of Local Link 183'

Sonia Casey-Shortt, Fianna Fail Wicklow LEA candidate says the Local Link 183 bus service, which was initially lauded for its role in connecting the eastern and western regions of Wicklow, has recently been the subject of operational concerns, particularly regarding the length of journeys and the reliability of the service.

"The Local Link 183 Bus Service, now extending from Sallins to Arklow, plays a pivotal role for commuters and travellers in the region. It serves as a lifeline, facilitating movement and connectivity. However, the extension of the route has led to questions about its efficiency and reliability," she said.

"The service spans a significant distance, linking a variety of towns and scenic areas. This extensive coverage, while beneficial, has inadvertently led to longer travel times. The diverse terrain along the route, coupled

with the distance covered, has had a detrimental impact on the reliability of the timetable.

"One of the primary objectives of the Local Link 183 was to enable seamless travel between East and West Wicklow. However, the current situation seems to undermine this objective. Passengers find themselves unable to rely on the punctuality of the service, which is a critical aspect of any public transportation system.

"Despite the provision of four journeys a day and five at the week-

ends, there is a clear and pressing need for additional daily journeys. A robust strategy to address the punctuality of the service is also required. These improvements could significantly enhance the user experience and increase the service's utility."

Sonia Casey-Shortt has called on the Transport for Ireland (TFI) to reconsider their current bus stop policy. She believes that transport accessibility could be significantly improved by introducing more stops between villages.

"It's puzzling that the Local Link, which can halt nearly every 500 meters in towns with pedestrian amenities, doesn't provide stops for communities that are over 15km apart and lack pedestrian facilities. If the TFI is genuinely dedicated to

efficiently serving rural areas, this policy needs to be promptly reassessed."

In conclusion, Sonia Casey-Shortt emphasises the need for a thorough and prompt review to address these issues. She believes that all relevant stakeholders must collaborate to enhance the service's reliability and streamline the timetable.

"Public transport should be the first choice for commuters if it is convenient, cost-effective, and easy to use. Unfortunately, the current situation suggests that the service is falling short of these standards. It is imperative that these issues are addressed to ensure that the Local Link 183 Bus Service can truly fulfil its potential and serve the needs of the community effectively."



Sonia Casey-Shortt.

**VOTE NO.1**

**Sonia Casey Shortt**

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**VOTE 1,2**

**in the order of your preference**



*As your Wicklow TD, I am asking you to support my team  
Louise Fenelon Gaskin and Aileen Lennon on June 7th.  
I asked Louise and Aileen to run in this election because I need their strong voices  
and support on Wicklow County Council. Please lend them your support  
and give me the team I need to support you. I love our community and  
I want to continue to improve the Greystones Ward for everyone.*

An Taoiseach  
*Simon Harris TD*

Working in your area with An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD, Cllr. Derek Mitchell,  
Sean Kelly MEP, Deirdre Clune MEP, & European Election Candidate John Mullins.



# Green MEPs welcomed to Bray

Bray Green Party councillor and local election candidate Cllr Erika Doyle recently welcomed Green MEPs Grace O'Sullivan (Ireland South) and Bas Eickhout (Green Left, part of the European Green Party) to Bray where they discussed the issues facing Bray and the need for green policies both locally and on a European level.



Cllr Erika Doyle with Green MEP Grace O'Sullivan.

All three are running for election on June 7th, and agreed that the concerns of constituents remain much the same, regardless of constituency size.

Cllr Doyle said, "I was delighted to welcome Grace and Bas to Bray. Grace is a regular visitor to Wicklow, and as an ecologist and former surf champion she has a passion for marine protection and clean water and spoke to me of her desire to help Bray win back its Blue flag."

"Grace is an inspiration to all of us who work towards fair and inclusive environmental action. A Greenpeace activist for 20 years, she spent many years aboard the Rainbow Warrior and was in fact a crew member when it was bombed in 1985. She is a skilled negotiator and has used this to good effect as a lead negotiator for the European Parliament on the Environment Action Plan 2030. She has led the campaign in the European Parliament to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza."

"As an Ireland South MEP we share Bray as a constituency and Grace is in regular contact with me to discuss the issues facing our community. From traffic congestion solutions such as improved public transport and active travel schemes, to protection of our green spaces and natural and built heritage, we feel sustainable solutions and green policy provide far sighted solutions to many of the day to day challenges faced by people living in a growing town like Bray."

"It was also great to welcome Bas, our lead green MEP candidate from the Netherlands, and see what we can learn from each other as fellow greens in Europe. Bas got to experience Bray on a glorious sunny day and I was proud to tell him about the many great things the town has to offer," concluded Cllr Doyle.



Cllr Doyle with Bas Eickhout MEP from the GreenLeft.

## €147,000 for 149 local projects



An Taoiseach Simon Harris.

An Taoiseach Simon Harris last week announced small grants to benefit community groups across Wicklow. At an event in Tramway Theatre Blessington, where all local groups were invited, An Taoiseach Simon Harris praised and celebrated the hard, on the ground work, of hundreds of Wicklow based community groups.

149 Wicklow local projects received funding under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024. The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 was launched in December 2023 with funding of €6 million available, which included €1 million in

funding ring-fenced specifically to support Women's Groups. The funding provides capital supports essential for the many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas.

The Department of Rural and Community Development's Local Enhancement Programme 2024 is administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority, in each area.

Announcing the successful projects for Co. Wicklow today, Taoiseach Harris said: "The Local Enhancement Programme is about giving a helping hand to our local groups and clubs, who are the building blocks of Irish community life. I want to congratulate the successful applicants and to thank them for the vital work they do in providing services in our local communities."

"These grants will help hundreds of community organisations, clubs, men's and women's sheds, youth centres and parish halls, to continue to provide their valuable services to the people in their areas."

"I'm really delighted that close to 150 organisations in County Wicklow are receiving funding which will go a long way in benefiting so many in the localities. On top of this 26 Women's Organisations in County Wicklow are receiving ring-fenced funding as part of the LEP allocation."

The Taoiseach added: "Local organisations across County Wicklow breathe positivity, they breathe change, and activity. The organisations getting funding today fill the gap and address needs that often go unmet. It is thanks to you that so many feel comfortable in calling their local area: home; because they feel connected

through the organisation, the club, the team and so on. The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 provides vital support to community groups in order to help them improve their facilities. It supports small-scale funding for projects which range from purchasing IT equipment to minor renovations to buildings. Ultimately the Programme responds to local needs."

"I want to congratulate all the groups here this evening, and to thank each of you for the vital work you do in providing services in your local communities, and I look forward to supporting you in your continued success."

## Children waiting more than a year for CAMHS

There are currently 462 children on the waiting list for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in CHO Area 6, which includes Dublin South East, Dun Laoghaire and Wicklow.

The HSE have confirmed that six children in the region have been waiting more than a year, 85 of them have been waiting for longer than six months. The data was released by the HSE following a Parliamentary Question from the Aontú Leader Peadar Kirby TD.

Commenting, Aontú's Bray candidate Ciarán Hogan said: "It isn't acceptable that a child in this part of the country has been left waiting for over a year for CAMHS. My heart goes out to these children and their families, especially the 85 who have been waiting more than six



Ciarán Hogan.

months. With mental illness, early intervention, early diagnosis and early treatment are key to positive outcomes. Without timely intervention some children, depending on their condition, may suffer academically, socially, and in extreme cases may become suicidal. The government needs to do more in terms of recruiting child psychologists, and equipping families with the tools they need to cope with mental illness in children. Due to a lack of services and support, many of these children are being enticed by adult criminals into a life of crime. Tackling child poverty, tackling the shortage of foster carers and reducing the wait time for CAMHS needs to be the absolute priority for the new Taoiseach when the Dáil returns."

VOTE 1

LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATE

FINE GAEL

Peter STAPLETON

Baltinglass LEA

087 972 5067

peterstapleton.finegael@outlook.ie

Continue Preference for Cllr Avril Cronin & Cllr Edward Timmins

An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

ARMY RIFLE RANGES

WARNING

If you are walking in the countryside  
do not walk onto any of the  
Military Firing Ranges  
as you could be in  
GREAT DANGER

at all times from unexploded shells and  
other dangerous ammunition

RED FLAGS indicate LIVE FIRING

Watch out for the warning signs  
AND TAKE CARE!

An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

FOLÁIREAMH

Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath,  
ná siúil isteach i gceann ar bith de na  
Raonta Lámhaigh Míleata  
mar d'fhéadfá a bheith i  
nDEARG-BHAOL

i gcónaí de bharr sliogáin  
neamhphléasctha agus armlón  
contúirteach eile

Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA  
agus BEO-LÁMHACH

Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh  
AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!





Michael McNamara TD visited Greystones as part of his campaign to win a seat in the European elections for Ireland South. Deputy McNamara is currently an Independent TD for Clare. He was joined on the campaign trail by Cllr Stephen Stokes and local supporters on Thursday, May 9th. Cllr Stokes stated: "It was great to welcome Michael McNamara to County Wicklow. We received a very warm welcome across Greystones. Michael would be a superb MEP. His parliamentary contributions are remarkable."

# Homelessness increases in South East as housing crisis continues to get worse

Sinn Féin candidate for Ireland South in the European elections, Kathleen Funchion has demanded an emergency response to rising number of people being forced into homelessness in the South East.

The call was made as the Department of Housing's monthly homeless report shows a 20% increase in the number of adults accessing emergency accommodation in the South East over the last 12 months.

Kathleen Funchion said: "The March homeless report shows the number of people in Department of Housing funded emergency accommodation has increased by 20% in the South East since this time last year.

"Significantly the number of females accessing emergency accommodation is growing faster than the overall figure, with nearly 30% more women now in urgent need of a home compared to twelve months ago.

"Behind every number is a person who is experiencing the devastating impact of the housing crisis.

"The housing crisis is causing misery for people across the South East. Every day that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are in government, the worse the housing crisis is getting. They continually miss housing targets and fail to deliver the change that is needed. This Government is neither interested in nor capable of addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. We need an emergency response and that will only come with a change of Government. Housing would be the number one priority of a Sinn Féin government."



Kathleen Funchion TD.

## Record high number of candidates of a migrant background running in the June local elections

This year's local elections see a significant increase in the number of candidates of a migrant background running. In the 2019 local elections there were 56 migrant candidates, however the Immigrant Council of Ireland has identified over 100 candidates of a migrant background running in the upcoming local elections on 7th June.

In 2019 over half of all migrant candidates ran as independents, while in this election cycle independent candidates only make up a third of all migrant candidates.

Other notable demographics include the following: 1 in 20 (5%) of all candidates contesting the local elections are of a migrant background; Migrant women account for the majority of candi-

dates of migrant background at 55%, this is increased from 45% in 2019; For the first time there are candidates from South and Central America running in this local election; 81% of candidates from a migrant background are contesting their first elections in 2024; 27 out of 31 local authorities have candidates of a migrant background, compared to 24 in 2019.

## School Transport Scheme 2024/25

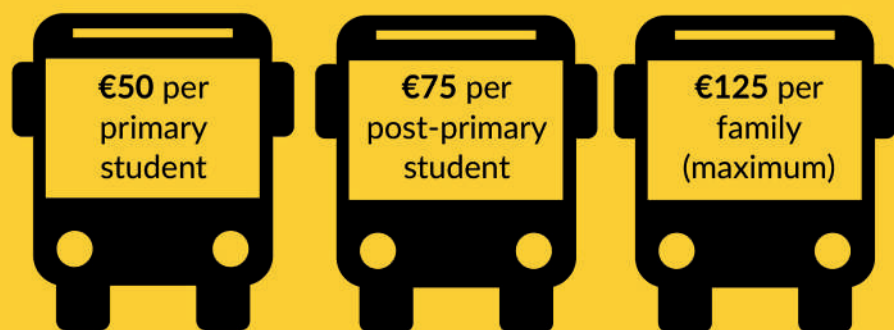


The Bus Éireann school transport portal for the 2024/25 school year is closing soon.

The facility to pay/enter medical card details will remain open until **Friday, 7 June 2024.**

Late payment/entering of medical card details may mean that a ticket is not available for your child.

Fees for the 2024/25 school year remain unchanged:



To pay or enter medical card details, go to [buseireann.ie/schooltransport](https://buseireann.ie/schooltransport)

The School Transport Scheme is delivered by Bus Éireann on behalf of the Department of Education



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education

# GRACE O'SULLIVAN<sup>MEP</sup>

## Fighting Your Corner

At Home and in Europe.

Always.

**VOTE #1**







Paul Sutton is welcomed back to Arklow by supporters and members of the East Coast Samaritans after his cycle from Cork in aid of the East Coast Samaritans.

## Wildflower Walk relaunched in Newtownmountkennedy

The popular Wildflower Looped Walk has been relaunched in Newtownmountkennedy by the local Tidy Towns for a second year. This year sees the addition of a dispersed community orchard with fruit trees planted in eight housing estates also added to the map.

A digital version of this map is available on Google Maps, (see [short-url.at/vGPRY](http://short-url.at/vGPRY)), and has already been viewed

nearly 15,000 times by locals and visitors to the town alike.

"Thank you so much to everyone in the town

who came out this spring and helped us plant apple, pear and plum trees in the Newtown GAA pitch, Garden

Village, Kiladreenan Close, Sycamore Drive, Mountain View Drive, Rossmore, Glenbrook, Wicklow Hills and Season Park," said vice-chairperson of Newtown Tidy Towns, Danny Alvey. "Thank you also to Wicklow Wolf Brewing Company who co-sponsored the trees, along with a tree grant received from Wicklow County Council. The dispersed orchard is inspired by similar ones in Navan and Monaghan Town and the idea is to plant small pockets of fruit trees dispersed across all the estates and green areas in the town. These trees will produce flowers and fruit that will benefit pollinators and birds, but can also be collected by children in the community and will hopefully teach and inspire them about growing their own food."



Danny Alvey and Jen Quinn of Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns with Mag Synnott, Newtown GAA and Simon Lynch, Wicklow Wolf.

## Stokes calls for Recycling Centre for Greystones District

Calls have been repeated for Wicklow County Council to provide a recycling centre for the Greystones Municipal District. The Greystones district is the only district in Wicklow without such a facility. Cllr Stephen Stokes, Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District, repeated his call to action at the May 2024 meeting of Wicklow County Council.

Cllr Stokes stated: "All citizens of County Wicklow deserve a fair share of resources. Residents in the Greystones Municipal District should not be denied equal provision. We have a rapidly growing population across Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle. A plan to deliver a local recycling centre in the Greystones Municipal District should be put together with resolve."

Cllr Stokes previously moved a successful motion before the Greystones Municipal District seeking a recycling centre. The motion received unanimous support of all Councillors present. He is calling on Wicklow County Council to take action. Cllr Stokes added: "Some districts in County Wicklow have two recycling centres. It's about time that we have one. In today's rapidly evolving world, environmental conservation has become paramount. Among the initiatives aimed at preserving our planet, recycling stands out as a fundamental practice. Recycling centres act as the cornerstone of sustainable waste management. Expecting our residents to drive to Bray defeats the purpose, as most cars are still petrol and diesel based. We need a more convenient and energy efficient service in the Greystones district."

Cllr Stokes believes that a recycling centre in the Greystones Municipal District could create local employment and further engage young people. He remarked: "Recycling centres serve as vital hubs where recyclable materials are collected, sorted, and processed for reuse. The importance of recycling centres cannot be overstated, as they contribute significantly to creating a more sustainable and greener future for generations to come. In this regard we could look to have school visits to further engage with young citizens. Together, we can harness the power of recycling centres to build a more sustainable, resilient, and environmentally conscious society."

In December 2023, Wicklow County Council provided a bottle bank for Charlesland and Hawkins Wood. Cllr Stephen Stokes worked with Wicklow County Council to secure this resource, which is located close to Go Gym in Greystones. Subsequently clothes pods were added to the site. Cllr Stokes concluded: "We appreciate these smaller resources. They make a positive difference. Their high volume of use proves that there is a great demand for

recycling services across Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle. I will continue to seek more resources."



Cllr Stokes at Charlesland bottle bank.

# LITTLE BRAY

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

# FAIR

Wednesday 29th May  
10am to 12pm  
LITTLE BRAY  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**FREE ENTRY**

Join us for a fun-filled morning of health and wellbeing. Browse the information stalls and try out some taster sessions. Some of the services attending include:

- Parenting programmes
- Heathy Food Made Easy
- HSE Health Promotion
- Stop smoking services
- Living Well
- Traveller health services
- Social Prescribing
- Older persons' services
- Sun Smart
- Sports and yoga

## VOTE 1

# CLLR STEPHEN STOKES

## INDEPENDENT

### Getting Things Done

**3 REASONS TO SUPPORT STEPHEN**

- ✓ Fighting To Get The Basics Right
- ✓ Protecting Our Biodiversity
- ✓ Working For Infrastructure & Amenities







COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF POLL

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2. The following are particulars of the candidates, whose names will appear on the ballot papers in the order shown:-

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: ARKLOW

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Annesley	Tommy	Clydebank, Dublin Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	County Councillor	Fianna Fáil	
Bodley	Viktoria	St. Thomas's, Dublin Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Language Teacher	Non-Party	
Bourke	Sylvester	Three Oaks House, Killiniskyduff, Love Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Councillor/Farmer	Fine Gael	
Busher	Shiela	26 Church View, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Voluntary Community Worker	Sinn Féin	
Farrell	Lorraine	Woodlands Green, Lamberton, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Retail Sales	People Before Profit - Solidarity	
Fitzgerald	Pat	32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Fianna Fáil	
Kearon	Laurie Way	An Tígín Rua, Ballinacarrig Lower, Ballinacdash, Co. Wicklow	Public Servant	Fine Gael	
Kennedy	Pat	Kirikee, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	Public Servant	Fianna Fáil	
Leonard	Peir	Southwinds, South Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	County Councillor/ Ceramic Artist	Non-Party	
Murphy	Miriam	4 Avondale Crescent, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Non-Party	
O'Gorman	David	Old Ashwood Farmhouse, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Director	Independent Ireland	
O'Toole	Warren	66 Fernhill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Mechanical Contractor/Carer	Sinn Féin	

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: BALTINGLASS

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Burke	Kieran	Belan Street, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow	Principal	Fianna Fáil	
Byrne	Connor	The Banks, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Technical Analyst	Sinn Féin	
Cronin	Avril	Station Road, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow	Parliamentary Assistant	Fine Gael	
Glennon	Patsy	"Oak Lodge", Hollywood, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Barrister-at-Law	Fianna Fáil	
Kinsella	Aidan	Ballingate, Carnew, Co. Wicklow	Self-employed Plasterer	Sinn Féin	
McCormack	Deirdre	Deerpark View, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Administrative Assistant	Social Democrats	
McNulty	Anthony	Parkbridge, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow	Herbalist	People Before Profit - Solidarity	
Mulhall	Jason	151 Burgage Manor, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Engineer	Non-Party	
Mullen	John	6 Pound Lane, Tinahely, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Fianna Fáil	
O'Neill	Gerry	Butterhill Lane, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Non-Party	
Plant	Dominic	Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	IT/GDPR Manager	Non-Party	
Stapleton	Peter	Ballinacor House, Bridge Street, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow	Business Owner	Fine Gael	
Timmins	Edward	Grangecon, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow	Chartered Accountant and Public Representative	Fine Gael	

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: BRAY EAST

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Cahill	Denise	5 Old Connaught View, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Family Support Worker	Sinn Féin	
Cremins	Finnian	9 Sydenham Mews, Sidmonton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Landscape Design	The Irish People	
Donnelly	Lee	51 Newvale, Shankill, Co. Dublin	Unemployed	Non-Party	
Doyle	Erika	Sidmonton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Green Party/Comhaontas Glas	
Duddy	Malachai	18, An Chlólan, BR. na Deargaile (Dargle Road), Brí Chualann, Co. Chill Mhantáin	Abhcóide/Gníomhaí (Barrister/ Activist)	Non-Party	
Ferris	Anne	10 Seapoint Court, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	The Labour Party	John Nolan, 10 Seapoint Court, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Fitzgerald Doyle	Fergal	66 Ashton Wood, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Barrister	Fianna Fáil	Garrett Donohoe, 16 Cuala Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow





COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: BRAY EAST

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Flynn Kennedy	Aoife	Melford, 7 Ballywaltrim Lane, Bray, Co. Wicklow	County Councillor/ Housing Professional	Fine Gael	
Hayes	Frank	1 Kenmare Heights, Delgany, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Retired	People Before Profit – Solidarity	
Hogan	Ciarán	2 St. Cronans Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Company Director	Aontú	
McAllorum	Aaron	7 Kilmantain Place, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Public Servant	Social Democrats	
Neary	Ian	23 Dargle Heights, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Embroidery Machine Operator	Independent Ireland	

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: BRAY WEST

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Behan	Joe	55 Richmond Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Non-Party	
Carry	Rob	139 Cromlech Fields, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin	Business Owner	Non-Party	
Corrigan	Melanie	The Granite Byre, Ballybrew, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	Business Owner and Public Representative	Fine Gael	
Flood	Colm Joseph	24 Ard na Gréine, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Student Nurse	Non-Party	
Kenna	Bryan	Brookdale Grove, Quill Road, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow	Social Care Worker	The Labour Party	John Kenna, Brookdale Grove, Quill Road, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow
Manning	Keith	Swallows Nest, Kilmolin, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	Company Owner	Non-Party	
O'Brien	Dermot 'Daisy'	68 Fairy Hill, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative/Trainer	Sinn Féin	
Pigot	Alex	Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	Businessman/Farmer	Green Party/Comhaontas Glas	
Ryan	Mick	81 Herbert Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative/Electrician	Sinn Féin	
Winstanley	Caroline	Strand Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Speech and Language Therapist	Social Democrats	

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: GREYSTONES

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Barry	Mark	291 Charlesland Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative/ Operations Director	Social Democrats	
Burke	Anne Waithira	Burnaby Lawns, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Post Graduate Student	The Labour Party	
Commons	Jack	3 Wendon Park, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Teacher	Fianna Fáil	
Fenelon Gaskin	Louise	7 The Bawn, Victoria Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Self-employed – Accounting And Business Services.	Fine Gael	
Finn	Orla	85 Burnaby Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Community Activist	Non-Party	
Fogarty	Brian	88 Kindlestown Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	HR Manager	Sinn Féin	
Fortune	Tom	'DeLacy', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	Business Consultant/ Public Representative	Non-Party	
Goldsmith	Antony	18 Priory Drive, Eden Gate, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Security	Irish Freedom Party	
Keddy	Charlie	Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	Plumber	Non-Party	
Kelly	Esther	3A New Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	Care Support Manager	Sinn Fein	
Lennon	Aileen	Lynn Cottage, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Community Activist	Fine Gael	
McConnell	Kellie	Constituency Office, 13 Lower George's Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Wicklow	HSE General Dentist	People Before Profit-Solidarity	
Scott	Lourda	Redford Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative/ Veterinary Surgeon	Green Party/Comhaontas Glas	
Stokes	Stephen	43 Charlesland Court, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Education Director/ Public Representative.	Non-Party	



# New EU&I platform launched to help voters navigate European Parliament elections

A new app aiming to help European citizens engage with the upcoming European Parliament elections went live on May 9th to coincide with Europe Day.

The EU&I app aims to help EU citizens navigate the upcoming European Parliament elections, taking place in June. The app provides a comprehensive platform to help voters explore and understand the positions of both Irish political parties and independent candidates competing in the European elections.

When they visit the EU&I web app, users are prompted to indicate their political preferences through a questionnaire, which generates personalised insights about which political parties and candidates align best with the voter's values and beliefs. Available in 20 languages with 36 policy statements, the EU&I Voter app offers users an extensive guide on a range of topics central to European politics, including economic policies, environmental initiatives, and social justice issues. It also allows users to explore party/candidate views on Ireland's position in Europe and beyond.

The creators of the app are hoping that this new development will encourage Irish citizens to vote in the upcoming elections taking place on the 7th-9th of June.

Commenting on the launch of the app, Team Ireland lead, and Associate Professor at UCD, Dr James Cross said: "We are delighted to officially launch our new app EU&I ahead of the European elections. This app provides an excellent educational platform to empower Irish voters, which will, in turn, allow them to make informed decisions about the future of Europe. A group of our master's students from different disciplines here at UCD have been working tirelessly to compile information about the election and its candidates. They have made this information accessible to our app users, contributing to a Europe-wide effort to inform voters. By harnessing the power of technology, we aim to empower voters to make informed decisions when entering the ballot box this June."

UCD Master's Student Aaron Kelly added: "By making this political information readily available for app users, we aim to inform the general public on one simple, accessible platform. This helpful tool eliminates political jargon while providing a wealth of information for citizens as well as for politicians themselves. It is a free resource that provides a personalised and exhaustive political guide for users, and we hope that it will encourage more people to get out and use their vote in June."

The official launch of EU&I Voter takes place on the 14th of May at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. A panel discussion featuring Dr. Laura Sudulich from the University of Exeter, Dr. Kevin Cunningham Director of Ireland Thinks and Patrick O'Riordan from Dublin Office of the European Parliament on pressing issues faced by the EU will take place, as well as a live demonstration of the EU&I app and how it works.



Pictured canvassing last week in west Wicklow were Cllr Vincent Blake (who is retiring), An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD and first-time candidate Peter Stapleton who hopes to be elected to Cllr Blake's seat.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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### LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA: WICKLOW

Surname	Other name(s)	Address	Description		Name and address of proposer, if any
			Occupation	Name of Political Party, if any	
Alvey	Danny	49 Glendarragh, Wicklow Hills, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow	Fundraising Manager	Social Democrats	
Casey-Shortt	Sonia	Boleynass, Ashford, Co. Wicklow	Public Servant	Fianna Fáil	Bernadette Shortt, Boleynass, Ashford, Co. Wicklow
Dunne	Gail	9 St. Manntans Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Fianna Fáil	John O'Neill, 51 The Meadows, Marlton Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow
Fahey McCarthy	Mia	Killadreenan, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow	Sustainability Professional	Green Party/ Comhaontas Glas	
Hill	Anthony	24 Broad Lough View, Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	Social Care Worker	Sinn Féin	
Kavanagh	Mary	58 Seafield, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Non-Party	
Kavanagh	Tim	Ashton House, The Meetings, Avoca, Co. Wicklow	Shop Assistant	Non-Party	
Langrell	Shane	Knockadreet, Ashford, Co. Wicklow	Self-employed	Fine Gael	
Larkin	John	178 Season Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow	Retired Senior Executive Officer	Non-Party	Shannon McMahon, 4 Glenbrook Heights, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow
O'Brien	Paul	11 Castle Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	The Labour Party	
O'Loughlin	Abbie	Dusan, Milltown Lane, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow	Third Level Student	Sinn Féin	
Richmond	Graham	Keatingstown Lodge, Ballynerrin, Rocky Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	Secondary School Teacher	Fine Gael	
Snell	John	No. 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow	Public Representative	Non-Party	

Lorraine Gallagher,  
Returning Officer,  
County Buildings,  
Wicklow Town.  
20th day of May, 2024.



# Arklow Electoral Area

## Tommy Annesley - Fianna Fáil



Tommy was born and raised in Arklow Town and has had the privilege of representing the people of Arklow since 2009. He was first elected to Wicklow County Council in 2014 and was honoured to be re-elected in 2019. He is an experienced Councillor and has leveraged strong relationships with the County Council Officials and the experience he has gained in his time is due to being a reliable public representative. His priorities for his campaign include: Housing, Improved Infrastructure, Jobs, Safer Communities, Community Groups, Health, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## Sylvester Bourke - Fine Gael



Sylvester was first elected to office as a public representative in 1999, and was subsequently returned to office at every election since. Sylvester says he is a hardworking, committed and capable public representative. He is a farmer by profession and was heavily involved with the IFA, he keeps 2000 hens and also grows cereal, maize and beans. club.

## Peir Leonard - Independent

Peir Leonard, an Arklow native, was elected to the Arklow Municipal District in 2019 after announcing her candidacy just weeks before the election.

Cllr Leonard focuses on developing Arklow as a maritime economic hub, promoting sustainable growth, and boosting tourism by leveraging the town's natural and historical heritage. She aims to integrate the local creative sector into the town's regeneration efforts.



Cllr Peir Leonard

## Pat Kennedy - Fianna Fáil

In May 2014 Pat was honoured to be elected to represent the people on Wicklow County Council. Throughout the years since his election, he has had the pleasure and responsibility of representing his constituents on many issues and has always done so in the most hard-working, open and diligent way. Pat was born in Glenmalur, son of Ned and Marie Kennedy, and has lived in the area all his life. Pat is married to Helena, a primary school teacher in Rathdrum, and they have three sons, John, Peter and Ciarán.

It has always been Pat's strongest belief that only by working together can we achieve that which will make homes and communities the places we want them to be. He has always maintained that the seat that he holds on Wicklow County Council is not his seat. It is the people's seat. It is their family's seat and



their community's seat.

Pats campaign priorities include: Community Infrastructure, Rural Issue, Crime, and Senior Citizens, and Planning and Jobs.

## Pat Fitzgerald - Fianna Fáil

Pat is on Wicklow County Council with 25 years of unbroken service representing the interests of Arklow. Having lived and worked in Arklow all his adult life he's acutely aware of the many challenges facing the area and its residents. His priorities on his campaign are: Housing, Employment, Health Services, Community and the Treatment Plant.



## Warren O'Toole - Sinn Féin



"My name is Warren O'Toole and I'm your Sinn Féin candidate for the upcoming local elections. A native of Arklow, I believe our town is crying out for a strong voice. I have seen firsthand the years of government neglect and indifference towards South Wicklow. Our area needs investment in jobs, housing, and infrastructure. It needs a plan committed to providing a future for young people in the area. I am a parent of a son with Down Syndrome and Autism, this has given me a particular insight into the challenges that families face. I believe that I can be a voice for Arklow and surrounding areas on Wicklow County Council, bringing fresh ideas, energy, and vision. I am passionate about delivering change that can positively impact the South Wicklow area."

Warren's priorities are: More social and affordable housing; Reliable Public Transport with quality road infrastructure; Good Employment opportunities locally; More Community Policing; Special needs services; Improved recreational/sporting facilities; Increased public amenities; Timely access to mental health services

## David O'Gorman - Independent Ireland

David O'Gorman has a business background, he aims to bring fresh perspectives and effective leadership. He believes change is necessary for the community's betterment and advocates for a common-sense approach.

## Lorraine Farrell - People Before Profit

A well-known activist in the town, Ms Farrell has recently been involved in organising events in solidarity with Palestine. Ms Farrell has also been a key figure in organising a hub for Ukrainian refugees in Arklow, as well as campaigning for the Repeal movement and marriage equality, and is standing in the local elections to highlight the "disastrous crisis in housing".

## Miriam Murphy - Independent

Councillor Murphy was first elected to the Arklow District in 2009 and has been serving the community since. She entered local politics with a focus on improving conditions for people with disabilities.



Cllr Miriam Murphy

# Laurie Kearon - Fine Gael

Laurie Kearon is committed to being a strong and effective advocate for the community. With a proven history of achieving tangible results, Laurie's vision for South Wicklow encompasses a range of vital initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

One of Laurie's top priorities is to improve support systems for the elderly. Recognising the invaluable contributions of our senior citizens, she aims to ensure they receive the care and assistance they deserve.

Laurie is also passionate about providing additional resources and facilities for young people, recognising that investing in youth is investing in the future. She plans to establish new recreational and educational facilities to create safe, enriching environments for young people.

Laurie says she is determined to tackle the issue of derelict buildings. By revitalising these unused spaces, she plans to bring new life and opportunities to the area, boosting both the local economy and commu-



nity spirit. Laurie is also focused on improving local transport services, making it easier for residents to commute, access services, and stay connected with neighbouring communities.

She says: "Together, we can build a brighter future for South Wicklow. Let's make our community thrive. A vote for me is a vote to make South Wicklow a better place for everyone."

## Shiela Busher - Sinn Féin

"As a native of South Wicklow, I am married and live locally with my four children. My own community and academic background are what have driven me to stand for election. I have seen first-hand the struggles affecting not only the marginalised but also workers and families who are under enormous financial pressure. I know from my involvement in various groups such as the Drugs Task Force and Arklow Positive Ageing Committee that our area needs a strong voice on Wicklow County Council.

"When I see a service that I am involved with dropping off over 150 weekly food parcels for families locally, I say enough is enough. Arklow needs strong representation to address the level of issues our community faces. I strongly believe I can be the person to stand up for the people of South Wicklow."

Shiela's priorities are: Social and Affordable Housing; Measure to tackle homelessness, including provision of



emergency accommodation in South Wicklow; Better Public Transport; Better supports for victims of Domestic Violence; Gaps in addiction, mental health system and Youth Mental Health Service that need to be addressed immediately; Investment in Health Services in South Wicklow, including the Ambulance Service.

## Viktoria Bodley - Independent

Originally from Moscow, Viktoria made Ireland her home at the age of 19. She is a graduate from Griffith College Dublin (Bachelor of Arts and she coordinates the Italian language programme in BIFE.

"I'm a proud wife of my late husband Frank Bodley, the Love of my Life, who taught me how to go after your dream, whose work I would like to continue. Fair play and balance, transparency, and clear communication at all levels with sincere love and care, it is the only way forward."

"I will be a truly independent strong voice for the concerns of locals on issues, no matter how big or small. I have taken a very active role in many community groups in Arklow such as : Arklow bridge clubs ( Apollo, Arklow, Arklow 68 ); Templarainey church choir; Conradh na Gaelge ( opening branch in Arklow); Woodenbridge Golf Club.

"If elected I would be focusing on: Making Arklow a destination and a cultural centre for all; Sustainable community: home for every family, facilities for our seniors and children; Flourishing local business - food and fashion destination.

"I have a clear vision and viable business plan! I'm an independent voice to fight for you!"





# Baltinglass Electoral Area

## Peter Stapleton - Fine Gael



Peter lives in Tinahely. His strong ties to the area go back to the early 1900s through Duffy's of Hacketstown, a business founded by his great-grandfather. Although the business is no longer in operation, the importance of agriculture and enterprise to all in South and West Wicklow was instilled in him from a young age and remain core policy interests. Peter's educational journey includes a first-class degree in Business and Law from UCD, after which he trained as a chartered accountant. Like much of Ireland's youth today, Peter spent time abroad, in London, where his work focused on investments in the renewable energy, healthcare and education industries. Peter returned to Ireland to manage his family's, Wicklow-based, interior landscaping business. As a first-time candidate, Peter looks forward to bringing a fresh level of vigour and enthusiasm to his campaign. Meeting the electorate and listening to the challenges they face. Talking to people young and old, workers, business and parents to understand how we can create a truly vibrant future in our rural communities.

## John Mullen - Fianna Fáil

Councillor Mullen is serving his first term as an elected representative of the Baltinglass Municipal District. He previously worked as a community activist and as an assistant to Pat Casey when he was a TD.

Cllr Mullen is the Secretary of Tinahely GAA Club and is involved in promoting Wicklow tourism and marketing the natural beauty of the Garden County.



## Kieran Burke - Fianna Fáil

Born and raised in Baltinglass, Kieran is a new candidate for the 2024 elections. He is the Principal of Blessington Community College and has also taught in Dunlavin. He has worked with young people and their families in areas like education, agriculture, business, mental health, sport, arts and culture for over 40 years.

Kieran's priorities include: Supporting initiatives on improvement on Infrastructure; Improving accessibility and availability of mental health services for young people and their families in West Wicklow; Helping people have local government access to housing, health services, education, youth services and aids for those with disabilities; Supporting initiatives and plans to improve the sporting and cultural amenities available to young people in the area.

## Connor Byrne - Sinn Féin



"A native of Kilbride, I have a keen interest in our community, environment and services for younger people. I'm a graduate of TUD and have a degree in Business and Information Technology. I was also previously involved with Leinster Animal Rescue. Passionate about West Wicklow, I want to see a future where my generation can own their homes, and families can access quality local services without a struggle. I want to see a day when Local Authorities have the resources and political will to proactively build houses and communities. Our local council is not short of experience, but it needs new ideas and councillors with passion, energy and vision. I want to be a voice of progress, actively contributing to the redesign and delivery of public services for all of our community, leaving nobody behind."

Connor's priorities are: Delivery of more social and affordable housing locally; Reliable Public Transport and roads infrastructure; Enterprise and employment opportunities locally; More community policing and resources; Improved recreational and sporting facilities.

## Patsy Glennon - Fianna Fáil

Cllr Patsy Glennon, previously a Garda Inspector in Baltinglass and Garda Contingent Commander in Kosovo (2010-2011), retired from An Garda Síochána in 2018. He was called to the Bar of Ireland the same year and elected to Wicklow County Council in 2019. He now works as a barrister.

A dedicated hillwalker and local GAA enthusiast, Cllr Glennon entered politics to improve his community in the Blessington area, focusing on neglected rural villages. His efforts have since extended to all of west Wicklow.



## Edward Timmins - Fine Gael

A Chartered Accountant and Engineering Graduate from Baltinglass, Edward Timmins is an Experienced Councillor with a proven track record in the delivery of significant funding. He prides himself on being available locally daily to assist people on issues from housing, rural planning, care for the elderly to home grants and many other issues.

As Council Chairman, he changed the budget model to ensure more resources for community organisations, delivering an extra €200,000 in funding annually. He made 48 of the total number of 120 submissions to the current County Development Plan including zoning Council land for a sports centre, and extending the Luas to Blessington. He spearheaded €3.5 million in funding from the Rural Regeneration Fund, and secured funding for new fire stations in Baltinglass and Dunlavin.

His priorities include affordable homes, improved infrastructure, proper public transport, broadband, small business, tourism, accountability, fast tracking a secondary school in Blessington, and lobbying for services to combat rural isolation.



## Aidan Kinsella - Sinn Féin

"I'm married to Mary, and together we live in Carnew with our four children. As a longstanding community representative, I am aware of the challenges families encounter in accessing local services. The South West of Wicklow has faced neglect for a long time and I believe it's time the council got back to doing what it did well in the past - building good quality houses, roads and other community services. Wicklow County Council is not short of experience, but I believe we need fresh ideas, energy and vision. I am passionate about bringing change that can positively impact the entire South West Wicklow area. I want to play a leading role in delivering good quality services for the local community, committed to leaving no one behind."

Aidan's priorities are; More social and affordable housing; Reliable Public Transport with quality road infrastructure; Good Employment opportunities locally; More Community Policing; Improved recreational/sporting facilities; Timely access to mental health services; Local access to GP, Dental and Health services.



## Gerry O'Neill - Independent

Cllr Gerry O'Neill was first elected to Wicklow County Council as a Sinn Féin representative in 2014 and re-elected as an Independent in 2019 after a party dispute. He is a founding member of the Blessington and District Forum, Chairman of the Crookslong Hospital Action Group, and a coach at Blessington Boxing Club. His main priorities include addressing the housing shortage



in west Wicklow and implementing the local area plan for Blessington.

## Jason Mulhall - Independent

Jason is aiming to bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the issues we all face. "My campaign will focus on improving local services, supporting our community groups and small businesses, and ensuring a sustainable and inclusive environment for all residents. I look forward to engaging with many of you, listening to your concerns in the coming weeks, and working together to make our communities a better place for everyone."

## Deirdre McCormack - Social Democrats

Deirdre McCormack is a first-time candidate and lives in Blessington with her husband and three young children. She founded the Community Pool for West Wicklow campaign.

A highlight of this campaign was the delivery of a temporary Pop-Up Pool in Blessington. Deirdre works with Social Democrats TD, Jennifer Whitmore, on local issues such as public transport, schools and GP access. Deirdre is a passionate advocate for the provision of better local amenities and sporting facilities and joint-up thinking when it comes to



decision making. She is a strong believer in the need to support and encourage community climate and biodiversity actions and will continue to work to help create and support sustainable and inclusive communities in West Wicklow.

## Anthony McNulty - People Before Profit

Anthony is a qualified Master Medical Herbalist and works as a builder. "I am the former trainer for the Shillelagh First Responders group, I train adults through community education, and I developed the DIY for Women Programme. I am the founding chairperson of Protect Moylisha Hill. We are committed to

protecting Moylisha from lithium mining."



## Avril Cronin - Fine Gael

Cllr Avril Cronin was the first female elected to the Baltinglass District in 2019. She is active in her local GAA club, serving as the Healthy Clubs officer. She has worked in various roles in National Government, including Parliamentary Assistant and Ministerial Advisor. Her goals include improving services and infrastructure in west Wicklow and increasing community access to funding and services.





# Bray East Electoral Area

## Anne Ferris - Labour



Cllr Anne Ferris's campaign priorities include:  
Housing - "I will continue to do all in my power in the fight for affordable housing for all."  
Public Safety - "We need to increase the number of local Community Gardai to tackle anti-social behaviour."  
Traffic - "I will push for a major overhaul of how traffic in managed throughout the whole of Bray."  
Our Future - "Everything I do will be with one eye on the future, and the sustainable of our community to provide services & amenities we can all be proud of."

## Aaron McAllorum - Social Democrats

Aaron is parliamentary assistant to the former co-leader and co-founder of the Social Democrats, Catherine Murphy TD, and has been working with the party and Wicklow TD Jennifer Whitmore since its early stages.  
"My candidacy brings almost 20 years of experience on the civil and political side of public service."  
Aaron is campaigning on: Advocating for investment in public transport infrastructure with an emphasis on sustainable modes of transport; Making our public spaces fully accessible; Building sustainable communities; A fairer distribution of resources and services for Bray; Transparency in how the executive of the Council operate.



## Frank Hayes - People Before Profit



Frank Hayes studied architecture and has worked as a draughtsman and in later years a professional musicians. He retired seven years ago. He has been a life long socialist activist since the 1960s and has fought against inequality most of his life.

## Fergal Fitzgerald Doyle - Fianna Fáil

This is Fergal's first time running for election. Him and his wife, Karolina, have been living in the area for many years and are proud to call Bray home. He was a secondary school teacher for 5 years, and thereafter qualified as a Barrister and has been practicing law for over 25 years. From a young age, he has worked with and raised funds for numerous charitable organisations. He believes Bray is a neglected gem of Wicklow. With work and leadership, it can regain its sparkle. He is committed to tackling the issues and enhancing the services and amenities of Bray.  
His priorities are to: Re-open the Bray Cliff Walk; Work for the provision of social and affordable housing solutions; Tackle the rising levels of crime and anti-social behaviour; Oppose the closure of the Bray exit, and other aspects of the N11/M11 Bus



Priority Scheme ; Regenerate Bray Main Street; Regenerate Bray Harbour; Progress the development of the 55 acres of designated sports lands in Old Fassaroe ; Increase public parking.

## Aoife Flynn Kennedy - Fine Gael



Elected to Wicklow County Council in May 2019, Cllr Flynn Kennedy is currently serving as Cathaoirleach for 2023-24. She resides in Bray with her husband and three children. She holds an Honours Degree in Social Policy, a Diploma in Local Government Studies, and qualifications in Addiction Studies, Mediation, Diversity & Equality, and Leadership & Management. She also has a UK Level 4 Qualification in Housing from the Chartered Institute of Housing. She has worked in various roles in three local authorities, focusing on housing, community, events, accessibility, equality, and disability.

## Denise Cahill -Sinn Féin

"I have lived and worked in Bray for my entire adult life. I currently work in Family Support and Community Development. Through both my employment and volunteering, I have been part of many community initiatives to improve the area we live in.  
"My goal is to ensure inclusivity for all and to ensure that all residents have a voice in decision-making that will affect them. I want to see transparent local authorities that are future-proofed for the next generation. In my community development roles, I've embraced the motto 'nothing about us, without us.' I'm committed to bringing this principle to Wicklow County Council.  
Denise's priorities are: More social and affordable housing; Supporting more Community Projects and activities for young people; Development of education facilities; Ensuring enough accommodation throughout the local area so that all residents can have a home through social and affordable options; Delivery of a full-time homeless service in the Bray area; Improvements to communities suffering from deprivation.

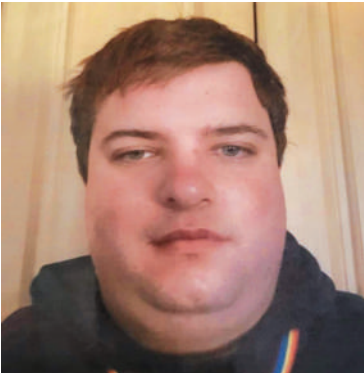


## Ian Neary - Independent Ireland

Ian Neary is a long-time resident of Little Bray. He attended Bray School Project and St. Brendan's/Woodbrook College before joining Visual Print as an embroidery machine operator in 2006, where he continues to work to this day. He's involved with local football team St. Peter's and has served as a committee member (P.R.O) for the Wicklow Football League.  
Ian's campaign will prioritize issues such as the lack of resources, funding, and amenities in Little Bray. He says he is committed to advocating for increased investment in local infrastructure, the development of recreational facilities, and initiatives to enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

## Lee Donnelly - Independent

Lee Donnelly is an advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights and affordable housing, he's committed to inclusivity and social justice. Lee is aiming to bring a fresh perspective to the political landscape of Bray.



## Ciarán Hogan - Aontú

Ciarán Hogan , living in little Bray with his wife and two daughters is a first time candidate for local elections, coming in from the business world. A successful entrepreneur running a venue in Dublin for 7 the past years, he brings a strong work ethic and no nonsense mindset.  
Previously to that he was a commercial pilot having earned an ATPL license.  
He has been involved with various Bray concerns such as Bray tidy towns, Bray Coast care group, and is on the board of his local residence association.



Ciarán Hogan campaigned heavily for the NO NO campaign in recent referendums. He was dismayed at the Council's response to real issues in our community like; housing, traffic, and supporting local business. He railed against Council meetings that are "tiresome, self-congratulating, drawn out affairs with very little productive work done given the time, money and resources available". He believes his business sense would be key to driving a sea change in how the council operates.  
Ciaran has said if elected most if not all local issues could be solved by a new tireless work ethic and organ-

ised productive use of "our many many great assets in Bray".  
One of his major campaign issues is to fill the many vacant business premises in Bray with local and international brands and bolster Bray as a self sufficient town. To ensure that the council is working well Ciaran has committed to getting each meeting advertised and attendance promoted.

## Erika Doyle - Green Party

A councillor since 2020, Erika works to bring principles of sustainability, openness and fairness into her work on the council. Before entering politics Erika worked in the arts and as a local news journalist. She now works full-time in local politics and lives on Sidmonton Road in Bray with her husband and children. Erika was elected as Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District for the 2022-2023 term.  
As well as day to day representations for her constituents, Erika's ongoing work in Bray is around protecting our built and natural heritage, transport solutions for the town including public transport and adequate cycling infrastructure, accessibility for all ages and abilities, rejuvenation of the Main Street, and protecting and improving parks, playgrounds and green spaces. She is passionate



about Bray, while acknowledging the challenges faced by a growing town, and is committed to working for the betterment of all its residents.

## Malachai Duddy - Independent

Malachai Duddy is a father to a young family, he's a local activist, barrister and human rights lawyer. He was born and bred in Bray where he has been prominent in a number of local campaigns as well as being active in many local organisations.  
He has been active locally in opposing the sale of a multi-million euro seafront property, formerly the Barracuda restaurant. He also campaigned to save the historic St Paul's Lodge on the Herbert Road from demolition.  
He comes from a longtime Bray family , and was a voluntary director of Bray Credit Union for over 13 years, serving as President, Chair, and Vice Chair. He served on the Executive of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, chaired the Bray 1916 Commemoration Committee, served on local Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council, serves on the board of the Boxing Union of Ireland, and has been active on human rights and social justice issues with the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice and the National Organisation of the Unemployed.  
He is campaigning on the issues of



Crime; Keeping the N11/Herbert Road Junction at Kilbride open; enhancing local youth and sports facilities; tackling the Housing Crisis; Reversing the dilapidation of Bray Main Street; Solving Traffic issues; addressing Climate change and environmental issues; caring for Bray's heritage; improving transport.  
Malachai says "Wicklow County Council needs a fresh voice for Bray, and with your support, I can be your voice."



# Bray West Electoral Area

## Joe Behan - Independent



Cllr Joe Behan, a lifelong resident of Bray, has dedicated his career to education and public service. Throughout his teaching career, he served at St. Fergal's Senior NS in Bray, where he also took on the role of principal. He retired in November 2015 to fully commit to his responsibilities as a public representative.

Cllr Behan has served as a member of Wicklow County Council since 1985. Over the years, he has represented constituents in their dealings with local and national government, advocating for their needs and addressing their concerns. He has also been actively involved in supporting local voluntary groups, helping them to achieve their goals and improve the community.

His long-standing commitment to public service and his deep connection to Bray have made him a dedicated advocate for the area. As a candidate, he continues to focus on the issues that matter most to the residents, including education, community development, and effective local governance.

## Rob Carry - Independent

Carry set up Jai Sua Muay Thai back in 2014 and feels politics is a logical next step: "I've always been interested in politics," he explained. "I've got a degree in History and Politics from UCD. I think too that my involvement with the club has given me the chance to get to know a huge number of people in the area. I've been able to get a real insight into the challenges that people are facing right now."

Carry, who is originally from Ballybrack, decided not to run in his home town and opted instead for the Bray West Local Electoral Area: "I'm running in Bray because although I'm not a Bray native, this is where I spend practically all my time."

"The housing crisis is forcing people from Bray out of the town," he adds. "People can't get a doctor's appointment or even a school place for their children. The population of Bray - and the country - is growing at break neck speed and the consequences of that are becoming apparent."



## Caroline Winstanley - Social Democrats

Caroline has lived in Bray for 12 years with her husband & two children. Caroline is a Speech and Language Therapist who works with autistic people and also works in an adult disability service.

Caroline joined the Social Democrats and works closely with Jennifer Whitmore TD because she believes in a fair and inclusive society that doesn't leave anyone behind. She wants to see real change in local housing provision and improved local investment in education, public services, healthcare, the environment, and transport.

Caroline is running for election because she has spent her career making a positive difference to people's lives by helping them access services and believes that her experience will make her a strong voice to represent Bray West.

## Mick Ryan - Sinn Féin



"As a lifelong resident of Bray, my roots run deep in this town, having grown up on the Old Soldiers Road and currently residing in Herbert Park. My strong connection to the community is reflected in my involvement in various local activities, such as managing schoolboy soccer teams for Wolfe Tone and St Fergal's, being a member of Bray Emmets, and serving as a selector for the Juvenile, minor and Junior teams. Driven by a passion for equality, fairness, and social justice, I have taken on leadership roles such as currently serving as the President of the Bray Trades Council and was a shop steward at my workplace. Recently co-opted onto Wicklow County Council, I am eager to utilise my experience and skills in public representation, policy analysis, and negotiation to tackle local issues that impact the daily lives of residents.

"My priorities include campaigning for: More social and affordable housing to buy/rent; Better access to GP, Dental and health services; Improved public transport; Improved sports and recreational facilities; Better access to mental health and disability services."

## Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien - Sinn Féin

"Born and bred in Bray, for the past five years I have had the honour of serving as a Sinn Féin Councillor for Bray, Enniskerry, and Kilmacanogue. I have spent a large part of my life serving our local community. I have been involved in a wide area of youth work, sport, including youth mental health, trauma informed practice, youth participation, community education and training. Since my youth I have been motivated by equality, fairness, and social justice. It has been my driving force in public life. It has been my privilege to represent the people of our community over the last five years, and I want to return to Wicklow County Council and use the experience I have gained over that period, as part of a new strengthened Sinn Féin team with the capacity to effect real change across our county."

Cllr O'Brien's priorities are: More social and affordable housing to buy/rent; Better access to GP, Dental and health services; Improved public transport; Improved sports and recreational facilities; Better access to mental health and disability services; Full time fire service; Better local planning and community engagement in decision making; Support for Youth Services.



## Colm Joseph Flood - Independent

Colm Joseph Flood is running as an Independent candidate in the Bray West LEA. A student nurse, Colm is running on the issues of Housing, Environment, Community and the Economy. He believes in equality and representation for all and is looking to make a positive change in the community.



## Bryan Kenna - Labour

Local Kilmacanogue man, Bryan Kenna has had 15 years experience working in the disability sector, caring for children and young adults. "My years of experience in this sector has allowed me to see the needs that are not being met across our community. It also gives me the perspective to see what must be done to meet those needs."

Bryan believes that the people struggling to find stable accommodation must be a priority. Public transport is an issue that Bryan wants to focus on. The development of our communities is also very important to Bryan.

He says that his experiences dealing with vulnerable and marginalised groups have reinforced his ties to politics.

## Alex Pigot - Green Party

Alex has lived in Bray West for most of his life. He founded and has run his own small business for nearly 40 years. He co-founded with his wife Tina Roche the international charity Addressing The Unaddressed in 2012. He was a member of the Management Committee of Curtletown N.S., chair and manager of the Enniskerry Schoolboys and Schoolgirls FC and chair of the Social Responsibility Committee of the St Gerards Parents Association.

In recent years he (along with Tina) was a founding member of Enniskerry Sustainable Energy Committee, the Glencree River Valley Native Woodland Association, the Save Enniskerry and Protect Knocksink Committee and has helped out with Enniskerry Tidy Towns and the refugees from Ukraine. He is a member of the Curtletown Church Choir. He has been a Green Party member since 2018 and is involved with the Green Party policy groups dealing with Housing, Universal Basic Income, Carbon Tax and Dividend, and Shared Island. He is campaigning on the issues of housing, the environment, reduce conflict locally and elsewhere especially conflict which causes or is a result of migration or inequality.



## Melanie Corrigan - Fine Gael

"As a councillor for the last five years and current Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, I have decided to run again to represent the people of Bray West. I love this Community, I have lived here all my life and chose to bring my family up here, I believe in the people, the beauty of the area, and in everything it has to offer.

"My campaign vision in 2019 was to make Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue and Co. Wicklow a better place to work in, live in, and visit. A vision I am still committed to. If re-elected I will continue to work in my role as Councillor and Chair of the Local Community Development committee and Board Member of the various committees I am elected on to prioritise issues under the three headings:

"Address the needs of the local area - I will continue to work to sup-

port people with Disabilities; work with local schools to improve safety, and with local sports clubs and communities to improve and provide new facilities.

"Boost business innovation and support - I want to continue to work with local businesses and tourism outlets, and support them to access grants, and to promote business.

"Cultivate a clean and caring community - I will continue to work with Tidy towns, Pure Mile, Leave no trace groups, to make sure our community is kept clean and tidy and continue to champion environmental initiatives. "I've worked very closely with Bray Area and Wicklow Partnerships to provide social inclusion programmes and family support and will endeavour to continue to do so, as well as making the arts and culture more accessible to minority and disadvantaged groups."





# Greystones Electoral Area

## Stephen Stokes - Independent



Cllr Stephen Stokes is a native of Greystones and lives in Charlesland. He is the current Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District. He attended St. Kevin's N.S. and St. David's. Over the years, Cllr Stephen Stokes has been involved in several successful campaigns including the Charlesland Dog Park, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones chess tables, Charlesland bottle bank, a public piano in Greystones Railway Station and more. He is campaigning for infrastructure, amenities and to protect biodiversity. Additionally he is calling for a recycling centre.

He believes that roads, schools and public transport need particular focus. He is calling for Greystones Community College to be built without delay, and for a secondary school in Newtownmountkennedy.

## Anne Waithira Burke - Labour

Anne is currently a postgraduate student in DCU. Anne has been involved in volunteering in Greystones and Kilcoole for many community organisations over the years. Anne believes in strong positive action to unite people. She established the Greystones Multicultural Days and her vision is "Uniting all for a Great Greystones Municipal District".

Her priorities include more social and affordable housing, huge improvements in public transport and a large increase for the Wicklow County Council budget for Greystones based on large population increase.

## Mark Barry - Social Democrats



Mark Barry has been a Councillor since December 2022. "I work with Jennifer Whitmore TD to address vital local issues."

Mark's Priorities are: Better public transport; Improved walk and cycle paths; More schools, sports, and community facilities for our young residents.

## Brian Fogarty - Sinn Féin



"I am a native of Greystones. As Chairperson of Mandate Trade Union's Wicklow Council, and a member of its National Executive, I helped form positive change by shaping national strategies. I negotiated for better pay and conditions for workers, promoted grassroots activism and empowered others through leadership and training. I want to use my experience and skills in public representation, policy analysis, negotiation, and conflict resolution to address local issues."

## Charlie Keddy - Independent

"I'm Kilcoole born and bred and throw my hat into the ring as an Independent. I don't change depending on how the wind is blowing. The recent referendum proved that political parties are all the same. I was in The Wicklow Times asking for a No : No vote. I love our language and all things Irish, I like athletics and have done 11 marathons. I loved all year round sea swimming until the dog sh\*\*e got priority. Kilcoole beach is where myself, my family and many of the local families spent hours and hours."

"For the last 22 years I've been protesting against the illegal development in Kilcoole. That Stardust families waited 42 years. I am waiting 25."

I was in the Red Cross for 25 years and spent a good few years playing football and hurling. That was when we played with hurleys, not table tennis bats.



Two hands on the hurl, not one on the bat and the other to push or drag the opponent. In football we did not throw the ball, and only took four steps. That was and is me."

## Lourda Scott - Green Party

"Before stepping into politics, I qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon and earned a PhD in food safety, working in the U.K. and Ireland. I'm deeply involved in my community, volunteering with local groups, such as Greystones Tidy Towns, residents associations, Sustainable Greystones and Kilcoole AC. This is really important to me as I know how much value these groups bring to the community. As a Councillor since 2019 I

served as Chairperson of the Climate and Biodiversity Policy Group, Women's Councillors Caucus and Board of Greystones Community College. I am director of the KWETB and Bray Area Partnership and represented the Greystones LEA on various groups such as the Disability and Inclusion Committee." My priorities include: Prioritising climate action and environmental protection; Community Facilities and



Education; Improved public transport and cycling/walking infrastructure."

## Louise Fenelon Gaskin - Fine Gael

"Born and raised in Greystones, I have deep roots in our community, extending from Greystones to Kilcoole, and Delgany to Newcastle. As a small business owner running my own accountancy services, I understand the challenges faced by families and businesses in our area."

"I have a lifelong commitment to my community through volunteer work and community involvement. I have served as a family liaison officer at Eire Og GAA Club and have been actively involved in the board of management at St. Brigid's National School, as well as helping to fundraise for Temple Carrig school. Additionally, I am a founding member of the East Wicklow Business Network, showcasing my

dedication to local businesses and economic development."

"As a mother, I am passionate about improving youth mental health services and am committed to implementing proper support systems in our community. My campaign focuses on enhancing public transport options, increasing family supports, and building stronger, safer communities."



## Jack Commons - Fianna Fáil

Jack is a new candidate for the Greystones LEA. He is a recent first-time buyer, and a schoolteacher. The issues facing young people today have been directly affecting Jack too. Being a young person going for election for the first time, he wants to make a difference by tackling these issues. His priorities are: Local schools; Local transport; Local development plan.



## Tom Fortune - Independent

"As an experienced Independent councillor for the community, I will always seek out what is right on your behalf," says Cllr Tom Fortune. "I advocate for the community. I am passionate about the community and I've been involved in community activities for many years. I have over 30 years' experience working in corporate and indigenous Irish companies at board level. I use all of this experience carrying out my role as a councillor. In my role as a councillor I question all matters on your behalf and only support what is in the interests of our community. I have an established and proven track record."

"I bring Expertise in local government, in my business background, and in my approach in seeking fairness on your behalf, and in dealing with local and national government on your behalf. I have an Independent mind and I bring my life experience to what I do."

The urgent priorities for Cllr Fortune are the Local area plan (which will determine land usage over the next six years); Schools (a lack of school places is causing massive stress to parents, "I will work close with our TDs to help solve this serious issue"; Meeting and



talk with bus service providers to get increased service; Focusing on getting footpaths, road improvements, road markings and lighting across the district; Continuing to help people deal / navigate with local and national government.

"Independent is better for local Government, Independent is better for you."

## Aileen Lennon - Fine Gael

For six years, Aileen owned and ran a local newsagents, positioning herself at the very core of the community. Her strong community connection is clear in her unwavering support for various organizations across the region, from Greystones to Delgany, Kilcoole, Willow Grove, and Newcastle. Aileen's passion extends beyond business; she actively contributes to causes close to her heart, including aiding those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Aileen's leadership journey began in 1999 when she assumed the role of Scout Leader in Delgany. Recently celebrating 22 years as the Cub Scout Leader, she has mentored countless young individuals from the surrounding area, fostering a sense of community. Many of these former scouts stay in touch with her, a testament to her lasting impact.



Aileen served as Chair of the Delgany Community Council, advocating for local interests. She is an active member of Delgany Tidy Towns. Additionally, she collaborates with a local eco group, focusing on biodiversity management within the community. She served on the Parents' Association of the local national school.

## Esther Kelly - Sinn Féin

"I live in Kilcoole, where I am currently working in support of vulnerable people, older people as well as adults and children with intellectual and physical disabilities. I have been active in my community for over a decade. It is my intention to campaign for improved road and reliable public transport infrastructure in our area. I want to see more resources being put in place locally for our young people." My priorities include campaigning for: More affordable and social housing; Reducing the cost of living; Better and reliable public transport and roads infrastructure; More employment opportunities locally; Greater Garda resources for the area; Improved Recreational & Sporting facilities' Providing our community with a strong voice on the council."



## Orla Finn - Independent

Orla has a background in Public Administration and a BA in Public Management. Her Main Priorities are: Radically Improve Local Government Transparency and Communication; prioritise improving the Public Transport service and ensure that the Greystones Community College gets to construction as promised; "I want better facilities for people with disabilities and I will continue to work towards getting an Arts and Community Centre in Greystones. I want more green spaces provided and it is vital that the Cliff walk is re-opened as soon as possible. I also want to ensure that our footpaths, roads and lights are fixed or upgraded as a matter of urgency. Finally, I believe that our community needs a strong, Independent voice that is solely focused on these issues."



# Wicklow Electoral Area

## Abbie O'Loughlin - Sinn Féin



"A native of Rathnew, I am a keen member of the GAA and final year History and Politics student in UCD. Passionate about Wicklow, I want to see a future where my generation can own their homes, and families can access quality local services without a struggle. Our local council is not short of experience, but it needs new ideas and councillors with passion, energy and vision. I want to be a voice of progress, actively contributing to the redesign and delivery of public services for all of our community, leaving nobody behind."

Abbie's priorities are; Delivery of more social and affordable housing locally' Reliable Public Transport and roads infrastructure; Enterprise and employment opportunities locally' More community policing and resources; Improved recreational and sporting facilities

## Paul O'Brien - Labour

Wicklow Town-native Paul O'Brien was elected in 2019. As an active member of the local community, Paul is working on the many causes that are important to him. He grew up locally, and is passionate about his community. Paul is known locally because of his role in local sport. He is the former National President of the Irish Soccer Referees Society. He is also a supporter of Wicklow Swimming Club & a number of different organisations in the County. As a Councillor, Paul is a member of the Housing SPC, Wicklow Sports Partnership, Wicklow Partnership, KWETB, Wicklow Tourism Board and is a member of the Joint Policing Committee. Paul was appointed as a Peace Commissioner in February 2020.



## Anthony Hill - Sinn Féin



"A native of Wicklow Town, I have always been passionate about helping and supporting others. I work in the social care sector, specialising in support for adults with autism. Throughout my life, I have actively volunteered as a youth worker organising clubs, trips, and summer camps.

I want to help create more opportunities that empower our young people and contribute to building the best possible community for everyone. I believe housing is a fundamental issue as stability is crucial for individual growth. Every family in Ireland deserves a safe place to call home. I am determined to bring about positive change in our local community through action, not just words."

## Mary Kavanagh - Independent

Mary Kavanagh is a native of Wicklow Town. She was co-opted to Wicklow Co Council in 2016 following the death of her late sister, Cllr Pat Kavanagh, also an Independent. A second term was secured in the Local Elections in 2019. High on her list of priorities is the protection of biodiversity and heritage, and improvements in housing development. Cllr Kavanagh believes that massive housing developments without proper infrastructure is a ticking time bomb when today's children become teenagers. Cllr Kavanagh has worked with the local Town Team and members of the community to bring a BMX Pump Track to the area and a Camino style walk from Wicklow to Glendalough.



## John Snell - Independent

Independent Cllr John Snell was elected to Wicklow County Council in 2009 and was re-elected in 2014 and 2019. He has served as Chair of the Council's Housing Special Policy Committee. He has also served on the Joint Policing Committee, and is former Chairman of East Wicklow Electoral area and WCC Burial Board. He has also been a member of the East Coast Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force. John has served 24/7 to help and assist all East Wicklow constituents.



## Mia Fahy McCarthy - Green Party

"My priorities are: Ensuring the improvement and enhancement of local amenities; Advocating for continued improvements to the transport infrastructure providing for social and economic benefits to Wicklow and its residents. Supporting the community on



issues that matter most them including access to child-care provision."

## Tim Kavanagh - Independent Ireland

Tim has a background in arts, culture, community activism, and a strong commitment to preserving Wicklow's heritage. "As a lifelong resident of Wicklow, I care deeply about our community's well-being and preserving our rich heritage for future generations. I want to address the needs of our residents of all ages, and champion environmental conservation. I am a keen advocate for championing the voices of our community in difficult times."

## Sonia Casey Shortt - Fianna Fáil

Sonia is a new candidate in Wicklow. She has 27 years in public service. During her time at the HSE she helped implement the national cancer strategy and worked as the HR Manager.

She takes great pride in the success of the national cancer strategy which has significantly improved the country's survival rates.

Her priorities include: Improving community facilities and services. Meeting housing needs with affordable solutions; Providing accessible transport for all.



## John Larkin - Independent

In 2019, John Larkin campaigned for Trudder House as an auxiliary health facility in the community and he has recently been at the forefront of the Newtown Says No campaign. "Trudder House is not about Newtown says No versus migrants or racism or far right, it is about losing a valuable site - we have a bucket list of community resources for it," he says.

He is campaigning on the issues of immigration, housing, Law &

Order, care for the elderly, lack of school places, the Environment, Planning, Social Justice and Health.

John Larkin is a member of Keep Ireland Open, an organisation which strives to open walkways and preserve public rights of way, was involved in the protest to Wicklow lighthouse in September.

"I support planning for housing developments and once off planning for houses within reason, we

need far greater transparency in planning at local level and I will strive for that."



## Shane Langrell - Fine Gael

Shane Langrell is running as a first-time candidate in the local elections. With a wealth of experience, a broad network of connections, and a deep understanding of local needs, Shane is committed to working hard for the people and communities. Shane grew up in Ballinahinch Newtownmountkennedy and now resides in Knockadreet Ashford with his wife, Roisin, and their daughters, Alannah, Kerrie, and Erin.

He explains, "Living in a rural area I am very aware of our community's challenges, including traffic management issues, affordable housing, planning permission, transport, and infrastructure. With our children

attending schools in both Ashford and Wicklow, I firsthand understand the diverse needs of urban and rural settings, motivating me to address the unique priorities of each community."

Shane has encouraged people to connect and reach out to him throughout his campaign, emphasizing that this open communication will continue if he is elected. He wants to be hands-on and work hard for the people, ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed.

Shane has been an active member of the committee for twelve years at Roundwood AFC. Additionally, Shane engaged in leadership, committee, and fundraising activities with An



Tochar Ladies & Men GAA, where he also served as the Ladies GAA Chairperson for three years.

Shane acknowledges the significant work done by Councillor Shay Cullen and pledges to continue the impactful initiatives driven by Shay.

## Gail Dunne - Fianna Fáil

Born and raised in Wicklow, Gail is a councillor on Wicklow County Council for nearly eight years. Gail is passionate about advocating for community progress. With the belief that positive change starts at local level, he is committed to fostering a positive and inclusive Wicklow for all. With a background in community engagement and a keen understanding of local needs, his vision includes improving infrastructure in housing and community development. Having grown up and worked in the community, he knows the challenges that people are facing. He has a record in delivering for the community.



## Graham Richmond - Fine Gael

Graham Richmond is the new Fine Gael Local Election Candidate for Wicklow. Living and working in Wicklow town for the past fifteen years, he is a secondary school teacher and rugby coach in East Glendalough School. Graham is a graduate of UCD and Trinity College Dublin; his wife and three daughters all attend local schools.

He is heavily involved in a number of local community groups and is a volunteer coach in a Wicklow rugby club.

Graham is very pas-



sionate about the future of Wicklow and wants to deliver improved sports and recreational facilities, champion local businesses and improve transport in and through the area.



# Wicklow votes will count in EU election

Once again County Wicklow residents will be voting in the Ireland South Euro constituency which stretches along the south coast and includes Cork, Kerry and even Clare.

## 23 candidates in Ireland South

*Derek Blighe (Ireland First)*

*Lorna Bogue  
(Rabharta - party name not on ballot paper)*

*Graham de Barra (Independent)*

*Christopher VS Doyle (Independent)*

*Susan Doyle (Social Democrats)*

*Mary Fitzgibbon (Independent)*

*Kathleen Funchion (Sinn Féin)*

*Paul Gavan (Sinn Féin)*

*Niamh Hourigan (Labour)*

*Billy Kelleher (Fianna Fail)*

*Sean Kelly (Fine Gael)*

*Ross Lahive (The Irish People)*

*Michael Leahy (Irish Freedom Party)*

*Una McGurk (Independent)*

*Michael McNamara (Independent)*

*John Mullins (Fine Gael)*

*Patrick Murphy (Aont')*

*Cynthia Ní Mhurch' (Fianna Fail)*

*Ciaran O'Riordan (Independent)*

*Grace O'Sullivan (Green Party)*

*Cian Prendiville (PBP-SOL)*

*Eddie Punch (Independent Ireland)*

*Mick Wallace (Independents 4 Change)*

There is no one from Wicklow contesting for a seat, with Mick Wallace from Wexford being our nearest candidate. Wicklow had candidates in the past, former Minister Andrew Doyle and most notable, our present Taoiseach, Simon Harris.

Of those elected last time out only two MEPs seemed to be regular visitors to the county.

Sean Kelly the Fine Gael MEP from Cork was a constant visitor to Wicklow over the past five years and could often be seen on Bray Main Street. Also visiting regularly was Green Party MEP, Grace O'Sullivan.

Of the 23 candidates

only a few have made any serious attempt to engage with Wicklow voters.

Michael McNamara, one time TD for Clare and now an independent TD, put some time and effort into his Wicklow Campaign.

Sinn Féin's Kathleen Funchion also campaigned strongly in Wicklow accompanied by local TD John Brady.

Whilst County Wicklow may not be very important to many candidates due to our low population numbers it could be vital when it comes to transfers as the counts progress.



Michael McNamara, Independent candidate.



Green MEP Grace O'Sullivan.



MEP Sean Kelly.



Sinn Féin's Kathleen Funchion launching her campaign for the European Election, with Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald.

## 'Ireland needs strong representation in Europe'

Clare TD Michael McNamara is contesting the European election in the Ireland South constituency as an Independent candidate. Speaking about his candidacy to The Wicklow Times, McNamara said, "When the Irish people voted for greater integration of the European Union in the Lisbon Treaty, it was with an opt out on justice and immigration measures. Our government is now opting in to the EU Migration and Asylum Pact. Like agriculture and the environment, data collection and security, surveillance and privacy, trade and human rights, policy will be determined in Brussels. That's why, more than ever, we will need strong representation in Europe."

"As a farmer, I understand the pressure of regulation and running a small business. As a barrister, I understand EU laws and how to influence their impact," he added. "I have questioned the Government and tried to make them explain the decisions they make, and I am asking for the support of the people of Wicklow to do the same in Europe where more and more of the decisions that affects us are made."

The Independent candidate cited agriculture and renewable energy as key issues for him should

he be elected.

"I am committed to protecting family farms, which uphold the highest environmental and welfare standards, from greedy multinational retailers and conglomerates, as well as calling for the introduction of price transparency in the food chain at a European level, which our government has resisted domestically," explained McNamara. "Funding will need to be put in place before farm families on marginal land, who are already under pressure, are required or asked to curtail agricul-

tural activity."

He added, "While immigration reform is being carried out, the European Union must use its position in the world to address the root causes of mass migration." McNamara said: "I will be a strong advocate for Ireland's offshore wind energy sector, with its vast potential held back by government inertia, as has our biomethane sector."

Supporting Shannon and regional airports to reach their full potential continues to be a priority for him. McNamara said he would also use his

position as MEP to advocate for funding as part of the European Green Deal to increase Ireland's housing stock through the conversion and renovation of upper floors over commercial units on the streets of every town and city in Ireland South into residential accommodation. He also said he would work to ensure those on hospital waiting lists can obtain treatment in other European states.

An Independent TD, McNamara has served as Chair of the Special Committee on Covid-19 Response. He is a farmer and barrister.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow County Council has established a Heritage Forum to advise it on the preparation and implementation of a Local Authority Heritage Plan. The aim of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan is;

**To create a framework to protect, manage and cherish our heritage, providing greater opportunities for communities to connect and engage with it.**

The Heritage Forum is seeking your assistance with the preparation of the Heritage Plan. The Heritage Act 1995 includes: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks, and inland waterways. Our Wicklow Heritage also includes our social history and culture including, traditions, customs and folklore.

The process of preparing a new Heritage Plan has commenced and all are invited to participate.

Public submissions are invited via online questionnaire at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Online-Consultation-Hub/County-Heritage-Plan-2024>

Written submissions are also invited and should be e mailed to [wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie) with subject line 'County Wicklow Heritage Plan' or posted to Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96.

All submissions should be received **30th July 2024**.

Public drop in clinics are taking place from 4-7 pm in the following branch libraries, all are invited to attend.

**Thursday 13th June** – Blessington Library, New Town Centre, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, W91 RW83.

**Tuesday 18th June** – Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 W627.

**Thursday 20th June** – Greystones Library, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 KN52.

For further information please contact: Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie) T: 0404 20100.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



# Iarla Ó Lionáird with Cormac McCarthy

Whale Theatre, Saturday 1st June, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €28 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Promising to be a very memorable and unique concert, this is an inspired pairing of twice Grammy nominated vocalist Iarla Ó Lionáird with renowned pianist/composer Cormac McCarthy. Through their own compelling interpretations, the musical duo will explore Iarla's rich and varied repertoire in the beautifully intimate setting of the Whale Theatre.

Iarla Ó Lionáird has carved a long and unique career in music both internationally and in Ireland. From his iconic early recording of the vision song "Aisling Gheal" as a young boy to his ground-breaking recordings with Dublin's Crash Ensemble and New York's Alarm Will Sound, he has shown a breadth of artistic ambition that sets him apart in the Irish Music fraternity.

A twice Grammy nominated artist, Ó Lionáird has worked with a stellar cast of composers internationally including Donnacha Dennehy, Dan Trueman, Kate Moore, Nico Muhly, Linda Buckley, Gavin Bryars and David Lang and he has performed and recorded with such luminaries as Peter Gabriel, Nick Cave, Robert Plant and Sinéad O'Connor. His unique singing style has carried him to stages and concert halls all over the world, from New York's Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera House and beyond. He has performed



as soloist with concert and symphony orchestras including the Ulster Orchestra, The National Symphony Orchestra at The Kennedy Centre, USA, The Irish National Symphony Orchestra and the RTE Concert Orchestra.

Cormac McCarthy is a pianist, composer, arranger and conductor from Cork, Ireland. Noted

for a diverse stylistic palette, and equally at home in a variety of genres, his music is said to "defy categorisation" (Lyric FM). In 2010, having completed his Masters degree in composition at the MTU Cork School of Music, Cormac received the prestigious Bill Whelan International Music Bursary, an award earmarked for young Irish

composers studying abroad. He spent a number of years living in Chicago, where he completed a Masters in Jazz Studies at DePaul University.

His compositions and arrangements have been performed and recorded by artists including Phil Woods, Jeff Hamilton, Mick Flannery, Martin Hayes, Andrea Corr, Gavin James, Niamh Regan, Jack O'Rourke, The DePaul Jazz Ensemble, The RTE Concert Orchestra, The Crash Ensemble, The New Irish Jazz Orchestra and the Cork Opera House Concert Orchestra. He has performed extensively at concert venues, clubs and festivals throughout Europe and the US, sharing the stage/recording studio with artists across a wide musical spectrum, including Peter Washington, Nell Ni Chróinín, Billy Drummond, Liz Carroll, Donal Lunny, The RTE National Symphony Orchestra & The RTE Concert Orchestra



## Shane Daniel Byrne: But He's Gay

The award-winning Shane Daniel Byrne is Irish comedy's new wonderkid (in his mid 30s). He's embarking on his first national Irish tour after sold out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Dublin Fringe. Once considered an exciting talent of contemporary performance art in Dublin he messed that up and now he's a comedian. Join him for his fierce and fiery debut hour about whatever is wrong with him.

Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 8th June, 8pm. Tickets: €25



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT ST. ERNAN'S, RATHNEW, CO. WICKLOW.

Wicklow County Council is delighted to launch an 'Affordable Housing Scheme' at St. Ernan's, Rathnew Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

A total of 44 affordable homes, consisting of 10 x 1 bed apartments, 8 x 2 bed dwelling, 16 x 3 Bed dwellings, 8 x 3 Bed Semi Detached dwellings & 2 x 4 bed dwellings are being made available for sale by Wicklow County Council in conjunction with Rathnew SPV Limited in the residential development of St. Ernan's, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow under the affordable dwelling purchase arrangements in accordance with the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and associated Affordable Housing Regulations.

The houses are available for purchase by first time buyers who do not own or have a legal interest in a dwelling, with some exceptions applicable. The dwellings will be sold at a price that is lower than market value, such price to be determined in accordance with the income of the purchaser. The minimum prices to be paid by eligible purchasers for dwellings are detailed in the table below.

All purchasers will sign up to an 'Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangement' with Wicklow County Council. Wicklow County Council will retain an 'Equity Share' in the property, equal to:

*'The difference between the open market value of the dwelling and the Purchase Price paid by successful applicants' expressed as a percentage of the Open Market Value of the dwelling'*

Wicklow County Council may not seek realisation of this Equity Share for a 40-year period (with exception where a breach of the agreement occurs). However, successful affordable purchasers can choose to redeem or purchase the Equity Share in the dwelling at any time by means of one or a series of payments to Wicklow County Council.

To be eligible to apply for the scheme, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Be a First-Time Buyer or meet the exceptions under the Fresh Start Principle.
2. Comply with the typical gross household income limits for eligibility for each dwelling type as set out in the following table:

House Type	No. of Units	Market Value	Min. Purchase Price (€)	Max Household Income Limit (€)
1 Bed	10	€215,000	€165,000	€45,957
2 Bed	8	€290,000	€240,000	€61,988
3 Bed	16	€330,000	€280,000	€70,538
3 Bed Semi Detached	8	€350,000	€300,000	€74,813
4 Bed	2	€395,000	€345,000	€84,432

3. Each person included in the application must have the right to reside indefinitely in the State.
4. The affordable home must be the household's normal place of residence.
5. Applicant's purchasing power must not exceed 95% of the market value of the property.

**While not a requirement, it is recommended that applicants have Mortgage Approval in Principle prior to applying for this scheme.**

Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for which applications are made, applications will be prioritised in accordance with Wicklow County Council's Scheme of Priority. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for sale, the following will apply:

- In respect of 70% of the dwellings, date and time of application, will be a ranking mechanism on which eligible applications will be prioritised on a First Come First Served basis under Wicklow County Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.
- In respect of the balance of 30% of the dwellings, priority to be given to households whose current address as given in the application form is in the Municipal District of County Wicklow. Date and time of application will also be a ranking mechanism on which eligible applications will be prioritised under Wicklow County Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.

**Applications will be accepted via an online application portal only which will go live on 10th June 2024 at 12 noon.**

**Applications can be made between 10th June 2024 at 12 noon until the 22nd July 2024.**

Further information on this scheme, including the Scheme of Priority, link to the application form and support documentation required, is available at:

[www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Dated this 29th day of May, 2024.

Joe Lane, Director of Services,  
Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services.



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



# Hamlet feat. Ian McKellen

## (screening)

### RECRUITMENT

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future vacancies may be filled:

- PART-TIME RETAINED FIREFIGHTER (COUNTYWIDE) – ROLLING RECRUITMENT**  
REF: 18/2024
  - Candidates should not be more than 55 years of age on the latest date for receipt of applications.
  - Candidates should reside and work within a maximum of 8 minutes distance to the Fire Station as there are strict requirements regarding availability to attend fire calls.
  - Remuneration:** Annual Retainer starting at €12,894.00 per annum gross, plus hourly drill and call out rates apply.
  - Candidates will be subject to Garda Vetting.

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Human Resources at 0404 20159 or by emailing [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher,  
Organisational Development,  
HR | Corporate,  
Wicklow County Council,  
County Buildings,  
Wicklow.  
Phone: 0404 20159  
Fax: 0404 20112  
e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

Whale Theatre, Friday 31st May, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €17.50 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Two-time Academy Award nominee and Shakespearean titan, Ian McKellen, stars in this thrilling and uniquely modern take on The Bard's classic tragedy. This screening will include an exclusive recorded Q&A with Ian McKellen and Director, Sean Mathias.

A tale of revenge that has stood the test of time, Shakespeare's classic tragedy is reimagined for the modern day as a gripping psychological thriller! Transcending the confines of the stage in a uniquely modern take, the film utilises nearly every room of the Theatre Royal Windsor to transform it into the immortal Elsinore Castle, from basement dungeon to roof-top battlement.

Ian McKellen - reprising his lead role as Hamlet, a man who descends into madness as he seeks vengeance against his uncle for the apparent murder of his father - leads a stellar cast including stage and screen legend, Steven Berkoff, and stars of the critically acclaimed, recent stage cast of 'Hamlet': Francesca Barber (King Lear, Chekhov's The Seagull), Jonathan Hyde (King Lear, Titanic, Crimson Peak), Jenny Seagrove and BAFTA-



winner Francesca Annis, bringing their iconic roles to life in this compelling new film adaptation.

**BBFC: 12A. IFCO: 12A**  
**Director:** Sean Mathias /  
**Producer:** Bill Kenwright, David Gilbery, Naomi George /  
**Cast:** Ian McKellen, Jonathan Hyde, Jenny Seagrove, Steven Berkoff, Francesca Annis, Frances Barber  
**Runtime:** 117 mins PLUS 20 min recorded Q&A

## Driving Mum

Whale Theatre, Thursday 30th May, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €12

Hilmar Oddsson's darkly comedic road movie is a bewitching 1980-set odyssey of self-discovery and acceptance across the beautifully photographed landscapes of Iceland.

Middle-aged and disappointed, Jón (pröstur Leó Gunnarsson) spends his days knitting and listening to the radio with his domineering elderly mother (Kristbjörg Kjeld) on their rural Icelandic farmstead.

With his life overtaken with looking after his home and his mother's needs, Jón's isolated world is upended when she suddenly passes away. But with her having left him a series of instructions to follow upon her death, Jón sets out on a journey across Iceland to honour her final wishes - including being buried in Eyrarbakki, her home village.


Strapping her into his Ford Cortina, and with the beloved (and scene-stealing) family dog Brezhnev in tow, Jón sets off on his strange odyssey. With his late mum still relentlessly nagging him from the back seat, he meets a variety of peculiar and charm-

ing strangers en route, and encounters some ghosts from his past too.

**Directed by Hilmar Oddsson. Iceland/Estonia 2022. 112 minutes.**  
**In Icelandic with English subtitles. Cert: 18**

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Keith and Donna Finlay seek permission for change of use from commercial use (formerly 'The Suburban Club') to residential use at 4 Florence Terrace, Florence Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 X681 (A Protected Structure). 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.

**BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA**  
**CHILL DARAGHUS CHILL MHANTÁIN**  
**KILDARE AND WICKLOW**  
**EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Tá Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin ag lorg iarratas ó dhaoine leis na cáilíochtaí cuí don phost mar:

### POIST MHÚINTEOIREACHTA IARBHUNSCOILE

a d'fhéadfadh teacht chun cinn ón 1 Meán Fómhair 2024 in a 23 Iarbhunscoil ar fud Chontaetha Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin.

Gach eolas ar fail ó [www.etbvacancies.ie](http://www.etbvacancies.ie) agus ar KWETB gréasáin: <https://kildarewicklow.etb.ie/post-primary-teaching-vacancies>

An dáta deiridh le hiarratais chomhlánaithe ar líne a fháil: 12 meán lae Déardaoin 6 Meitheamh 2024.

An Dr. Deirdre Nic Aoidh,  
Príomhfheidhmeannach.

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons for:

### POST PRIMARY TEACHING POSTS

which may arise from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 in its 23 Post Primary Schools across Counties Kildare and Wicklow.

All details are available at [www.etbvacancies.ie](http://www.etbvacancies.ie) and on the KWETB website: <https://kildarewicklow.etb.ie/post-primary-teaching-vacancies>

Closing date for receipt of completed online applications: 12 noon on Thursday 6th June 2024.

Dr. Deirdre Keyes,  
Chief Executive.

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

St Patrick's Missionary Society, located in Kiltegan has a multi-purpose residential and care facility that provides independent living and care to the greater retired Society Membership.

It offers a friendly and relaxed environment for its members and staff, all of whom are highly valued and respected.

### WE CURRENTLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

- COOK**  
**6-12 months Contract, 30 hours per week**  
A minimum of 1 year working in a similar environment  
Relevant qualification (desirable)
- RELIEF HEALTHCARE ASSISTANTS**  
Minimum of 6 months experience in a care of the elderly environment with QQI Level 5 Healthcare Support Qualification.
- HOUSEKEEPING ASSISTANT**  
**6 month contract, 20 hours per week**  
Provide domestic support by ensuring a high standard of cleanliness and hygiene is maintained throughout the buildings.
- RELIEF CATERING/DINING ROOM ASSISTANTS**  
Assist with the preparation and cooking of food and ensure that the service area and equipment is maintained to a high standard of cleanliness.

**Successful Candidates will receive**

- Competitive Rate of Pay
- Paid Lunch Breaks
- Full training will be provided for the successful candidate

Interested candidates should submit a current cv to Dearbhail McKee, HR Manager, via email only to: [hrmanager@spms.ie](mailto:hrmanager@spms.ie)

Full details of the job description can be requested from the HR Manager or downloaded from the website: <https://www.spms.org/vacancies>.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is by close of business 7th June 2024.**

*St Patrick's Missionary Society is an inclusive employer.*

# PLANNING

## ATTENTION

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# SSE Airtricity announces €5m Generation Green Community Fund

*Local communities invited to share views on their needs in 10 week consultation*

SSE Airtricity has launched a €5 million all-island Community Fund today, with the aim of delivering meaningful community benefits across the island of Ireland. The company plans to undertake a ten week consultation process, which opens today, and which will continue until 26 July, inviting views from communities, individuals and organisations from towns, villages, inner cities, and rural heartlands, to advise how the fund could best support green initiatives throughout our communities.

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community fund is part of SSE Airtricity's commitment to customers and the communities it serves by supporting them on the path to net zero through education, awareness raising, as well as grant funding and energy efficiency supports. The fund aims to support communities in reaching net zero by delivering a positive and lasting social impact.

Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development said: "I am delighted that SSE Airtricity has officially launched its €5 million Green Generation Community Fund. This is a transformative level of funding that will make a real and lasting difference in rural and

urban communities. It's pleasing to see SSE Airtricity acknowledge the integral role that local communities the length and breadth of Ireland will play in the transition to Net Zero through the launch of its community fund and consultation process today.

"This new fund will support local communities across Ireland with biodiversity, education, and decarbonisation projects, along with enhancing services and amenities in rural and urban areas. I would encourage local communities and organisations to positively engage with SSE Airtricity and its Green Generation Community Fund during the consultation phase."

Klair Neenan, Managing Director of SSE Airtricity, said: "Getting

to net zero is in everyone's interest and local communities will be at the heart of the energy transition. We know there are passionate people and groups working hard across Ireland and we want to help them make a positive difference by powering up their sustainability plans. But funding can often be an issue. That's why we're delighted to launch our unique Generation Green Community Fund.

"We know issues like biodiversity, education and decarbonisation are big priorities but to ensure the funding makes the biggest difference we want to hear from local communities directly. That's why we're launching this initial consultation, and we look forward to hearing from communities and



SSE Airtricity has today launched a €5 million all-island Community Fund today, with the aim of delivering meaningful community benefits across the country. The company plans to undertake a consultation process, inviting views from communities, individuals and organisations from towns, villages, the inner city, and rural heartlands. Pictured at the launch were: Klair Neenan, Managing Director of SSE Airtricity, and Deirdre Smith, Head Of Corporate Affairs at SSE Airtricity.

individuals, to inform how the fund should be used."

As part of the consultation process, SSE Airtricity is inviting local communities and individuals to shape what the priorities for the fund should be. This will ensure the fund focuses on what is most important to communities. Examples of priorities may include green energy

upgrades for community buildings, community biodiversity projects or green skills workshops and education.

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community Fund will be administered in line with a number of UN Sustainable Development Goals, aligning with SSE Airtricity's core sustainability priorities

around community, biodiversity, education and decarbonisation.

The company has a long-standing commitment of supporting its customers and community groups. In response to the global energy crisis in 2022 and 2023, SSE Airtricity established a €25 million customer support fund to help its cus-

tomers deal with the impacts of inflation.

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community Fund will be open to application later this year, following the initial consultation period. To submit your views to the consultation or for more information, please visit: [www.sseairtricity.com/communityfund](http://www.sseairtricity.com/communityfund)

## Only 2 out of 2,013 Wicklow applicants for ICOB grant money for struggling businesses

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called for the immediate release of Increased Cost of Business scheme funding to approved businesses, as data shows that in Wicklow only 2 out of a total of 2,013 business who applied for funding have actually received a payment as of two weeks ago.

Deputy Brady said: "Since its announcement in Budget 2024, the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) scheme was beset by delays, confusion, and incompetence. The nature of the scheme, qualifying criteria, and grant rate changed on a number of

occasions. Therefore, it was unsurprising that businesses were confused and that only 49.94% of qualifying businesses had applied before it closed on 30th April.

"Thankfully, the Minister for Enterprise listened to Sinn Féin's advice and

reopened the scheme so more, hard pressed ratepayers could apply for relief. However, data obtained by Sinn Féin shows that not only have many businesses not been able to apply, but firms who have applied have not had their applications processed and thou-

sands of approved businesses have not received any money to date. As of 15th May only 17 percent of businesses have had their applications approved, and only 10.7 percent of applicants had grant money paid to them. In six local authority areas, not a single

cent has been paid out to struggling businesses.

"A mere 157 businesses in our capital city have received the ICOB grant. The situation is replicated in many rural areas across the state. In our own county of Wicklow some 2,013 businesses applied under the scheme. Of which a paltry 39 have been approved to date.

And out of the 2,013 who have applied, two businesses in the whole of Wicklow have received payment. For which they received €6,253 from the €14,991,260 paid out across the state - which equates to about 0.04%!"

## CLASSIFIEDS

### PRAYER FOR A SPECIAL REQUEST

Oh! Dear Mother of God. Our Lady of Conception Aparecida! Oh! Saint Rita of Cassia and Saint Jude worker of miracles and helper of impossible causes pray for me. Saint Expedite, Saint of urgent causes. Saint Edwige the Saint of the needy, you know how desperate I feel, please ask Jesus to help me (mention request) May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified for ever. Pray 1 Our Father, Glory Mary, Glory be..... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Pray for 3 days. Publish on the 3rd day. See what will happen on the 4th day. A.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.C.

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# AONTÚ



# VOTE

# 1

LIFE | UNITY | ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Vote for

Integrity and effectiveness

## Ciarán Hogan

- Bring business back
- Cut wasteful council spending
- Ease traffic jams
- Make Bray dog friendly
- Clean and safe streets

My background as an entrepreneur and pilot gives me skillset and mentality to be highly effective in our local council

Patrick Murphy



**Aontú stand for**

Free speech  
tight immigration control  
Irish sovereignty  
Housing the people of Ireland

Peadar Toibin

