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Tuesday 24th June 2025 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'ABUSE IS ABUSE'

Calls for justice for former residents of the Westbank orphanage in Greystones gained new momentum last week, as a Seanad exchange between Senator Victor Boyhan and Minister of State Neale Richmond drew renewed attention to the ongoing campaign for redress.

Westbank orphanage, previously known as the Protestant Home for Orphan and Destitute Girls, operated for decades in Greystones and took in children from across the island, including a large number from Northern Ireland.

Describing the situation as "extraordinary," Senator Boyhan said, "Everyone shakes their head and says it is all shocking. You meet people in here day in, day

out with so many of these stories. They are all saying it is all terrible yet they are in the heart of power in the corridors of power here and suddenly they are helpless to do anything."

He continued, "I think everyone here will appreciate there is a need to understand and make sense of what happened in anyone's past, but particularly in relation to Westbank orphanage. There is also a need to

learn from the past. We all must learn from the past so that similar things would never happen again as they did in Westbank."

Senator Boyhan quoted a letter addressed to then Taoiseach Simon Harris in April 2024: "The Minister's compensation scheme made me ineligible for compensation. I will not even get an 'enhanced' medical card, though that is of little benefit where I



Students take part in the Cruinniú na nÓg 'Make a Movie on Your Mobile' workshop at the Screen Hub in Clermont Campus, Rathnew. Pic: Michael Kelly.

live in Armagh."

He continued, "The Mother and Baby Home Commission of Inquiry (MBHCI) recognised the injustice of denial of redress to Westbank residents. The MBHCI twice called on the government to grant redress to Westbank residents."

"The Commission's 2nd Interim Report (2016) stated (section 5.14) that Westbank 'should have been included in the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme.' The MBHCI's Final Report [in 2020, not that long ago] emphatically restated this position. It said that Westbank was 'unfairly excluded from' the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme."

Minister of State Neale Richmond, responding on behalf of the Government, said: "Westbank orphanage, which was previously known as the Protestant home for orphan and destitute girls, or the Harold's Cross orphan-

age, was not investigated by the commission of investigation because it operated primarily as a residential children's home rather than as an institution providing ante- and post-natal facilities."

He added, "The Government recognises there are people who suffered stigma, trauma and abuse in other institutions. If it were to come to light that an institution in respect of which the State had a regulatory or inspection function fulfilled a similar function with regard to single women and their children as those included in the payment scheme, section 49 of the Act provides that the Minister... may insert an additional institution into the Schedule."

"I believe the opportunity that lies before us this morning is to continue the process the Senator started to right what is an historical injustice... I will ensure

the Tánaiste will also do so, and he has asked me to convey that to the Senator here on the floor of the House."

Senator Boyhan wel-

comed the response but added: "What is the difference? Abuse is abuse. Emotional abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse in any

setting, whether in a State school, this building or anywhere else, is not acceptable and justice has to be done at the end of the day."

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Redcross Summer Fete

Redcross Summer Fete 2025, in aid of Parish funds, will take place in the grounds of Redcross Church, Redcross village, on Saturday 5th July from 2-4pm. There will be Afternoon Teas & Cakes, Home Baking, Plants & Garden Produce, Toys, Books, Pre Loved Fashion and Fashion Accessories, Pony Rides, Games & lots and lots of fabulous Raffle Prizes. There is something for all the family. Free Entry & Parking and all funds raised go towards Parish Funds. More information on Redcross facebook page and www.redcrosschurch.ie.

Study explores children's vision and lifestyle

An Irish research team is calling on parents, teachers, coaches, and optometrists across the country to share their insights into how modern childhood habits may be impacting eyesight. The study, led by Eoin Kerin at the Centre for Eye Research Ireland in TU Dublin, is exploring how screen time, outdoor play, and physical activity relate to the growing issue of childhood myopia (short-sightedness). With over 500 responses already gathered, it is one of the largest and most comprehensive studies of its kind globally, and uniquely includes input from those who care for, teach, or look after the eye health of children in everyday life. "We're asking the people closest to children to help us understand what might be contributing to changes in vision," Eoin explains. The anonymous survey takes just five minutes to complete and is open now at: https://redcap.link/CAMS_Survey. All responses will help shape future awareness campaigns and strategies to support children's eye health across Ireland.

GARA outing

The Greystones Active Retirement Association's outing to Powerscourt Estate and Gardens in Enniskerry will take place on 16th July. Bus will leave Holy Rosary Church Car Park at 10am, return 4pm. Bus cost is €20 per person. Entrance fees and refreshments at own expense. Please spread the word, 25 people are needed to make the trip viable. Booking and payment of €20 on 30th June, Kilian House Family Centre, 12.30 pm. Trip is for Members only. If you are not a Member, you are most welcome to join GARA Greystones. Membership is €25 per year. If you join now, your Membership will carry you through to September 2026.

Public information meeting

The Glenmacnass River is impacted by invasive and non-native vegetation which has badly degraded the banks and associated riparian habitat especially in the vicinity of Laragh bridge. Laragh/Glendalough Tidy Towns has received funding from LAWPRO to remove these non-native trees and shrubs from the islands and mill side riverbank in the vicinity of Laragh bridge. Ecological consultant, Faith Wilson, who prepared a report and invasive species management plan for the site, will present her findings and outline the steps needed to restore the river habitat to good ecological health. All are welcome and please bring a friend. Lynham's Hotel, 26th June at 7:30pm.



The Sugarloaf Bridge Club in Greystones held a bridge night on 17th June with a Bloomsday Theme. Pictured (L-R); Peter Quinn, Siobhan Moloney, Paula O'Donohue, Martina Dowling, Noleen Corrigan, June Byrne (President 2025/26) and Frank Deignan. Photo by John McGowan

Unveiling Wicklow's Local Heroes

Six local organisations from Wicklow have been announced as County Finalists in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2025.

The six County Finalists of the National Lottery Good Causes Awards from Wicklow are: Arts & Culture: Anna Newell Theatre Adventures; Youth: ForOige Ann-acura; Community: Lakera Social and Recreation Club; Sport: Wicklow Town AFC; Heritage: Wicklow Uplands Council; Health & Wellbeing: Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team.

These awards, now in their seventh year, aim to honour, showcase and celebrate the inspiring work being carried out nationwide by thousands of projects, clubs and individuals

who have received support from Good Causes funding. Nearly 30 cents of every euro spent on National Lottery games goes back to Good Causes all over the country.

Announcing the County Finalists, National Lottery CEO, Cian Murphy, said: "It's an honour to announce and celebrate the 146 outstanding Good Cause beneficiaries selected as County Finalists in this year's Good Causes Awards - each one a shining example of the meaningful and lasting impact that projects, clubs, and individuals have on communities across Ireland. These awards were created to honour the positive impact that Ireland's Good Causes have in shaping a brighter and more inclusive future for all, and to ensure their efforts are recognised and celebrated on a national stage. Everyone associated with the National Lottery can feel proud that funding from ticket sales helps support the success stories that are Ireland's Good Causes. Since 1987, more than €6.5 billion has been raised for Good Causes. In 2024 alone, €239.3 million was raised for Good Causes in communities all across Ireland."

Returning as MC for this year's awards, Marty Whelan, said: "Every year, we are inspired by the incredible work and stories behind our amazing Good Cause beneficiaries. This year's County Finalists represent the very best of who we are - selfless, passionate, and committed to

making Ireland a better place. It's a joy to celebrate their achievements and give them the recognition they so richly deserve. I wish each of our County Finalists the very best of luck as they each progress to the next stage of this year's Good Causes Awards!"

The 146 County Finalists will now progress to the next stage of the judging process and compete for a place in the National Finals. The 35 National Finalists will be announced during the summer. The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, 18th of October in Killashee House Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare.

The total prize fund available on the night of the Good Causes Awards ceremony is €100,000, whereby each of the seven category winners will receive €10,000 and the overall Good Cause of the Year will take home an additional €25,000. A special category, 'Hero of the Year', will be announced on the awards night in recognition of outstanding work, the recipient will receive a prize of €5,000. In addition, each of the 35 National Finalists announced later in the summer will receive a cheque for €1,000.

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"We act in all aspects of the residential property market. Talk to your Solicitor early and gather your documents early as the volume of documentation required to buy or sell your home might be a surprise to you. Gathering all the relevant documents early in the process will save you time later and talk to us for the right guidance, our aim is to ensure a smooth and efficient process for all involved.

Festina Lente is recruiting

Festina Lente, a multidimensional learning facility whose focus is to enable people to achieve their personal best through the medium of horses, nature and community inclusion.

The charity is well known for its outstanding work in the field of equine assisted services as well as its outreach programmes with local community groups and schools to bring nature and wellbeing together through their social therapeutic programmes. Festina Lente also provides day services programmes funded by the Health Services Executive for adults where the core values are person centredness, community inclusion, and active citizenship.

Festina Lente is recruiting a number of key positions as it prepares to move to its new facility at Belfield House, in Kilpeddar. This relocation will allow for the expansion of programmes across our equine, social therapeutic horticulture and day services, moving from 450 clients per week to 650 clients per week.

For more information on these roles, visit festinalente.ie/about-us/careers-with-festina-lente/

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Community-led land purchase in Glen of the Downs welcomed

Renewed calls for Government to secure remaining lands

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed the recent decision by Eire Og Greystones GAA Club to enter into agreement to purchase a portion of land for sale in Bellevue, adjacent to the Glen of the Downs. She has called it a 'positive and hopeful step' for the future of the area. However, Deputy Whitmore has also warned that the Government must now act decisively to secure the remaining lands before they are lost to piecemeal private sales.

"I'm absolutely delighted to see this agreement go ahead. It's a huge win for the community and will provide extra pitches and capacity for this fantastic and growing sports club. The fact that this land will remain in community use is something to celebrate. But we cannot ignore the bigger picture in relation to the overarching sale of the 200 acres at the Glen of the Downs, where is the Government," Deputy Whitmore questioned.

"Despite strong community action and clear public support, the Government has yet to make a firm commitment to purchase the remaining lands and I find this ongoing delay extremely concerning," Deputy Whitmore added.

Deputy Whitmore has been a vocal advocate for the public purchase of the 200 acres of land adja-

cent to the Glen of the Downs lands since it was first listed for sale in 2024. She started a petition to call on Government to purchase this land to expand the Glen of the Downs, which garnered huge support, with over 5000 signatures. She then held a public meeting, to bring the local community together with experts in nature restoration. Her call for public purchase of this land was supported by An Taisce, the Irish Wildlife Trust, the Native Woodland Trust, and ReWild Wicklow, who wrote a joint open letter to then Taoiseach Simon Harris expressing that support. Minister of State for Biodiversity at the time, Malcolm Noonan, had stated that the National Parks and Wildlife Service would consider this purchase. In late October, Deputy Whitmore presented Simon

Harris, who made similar statements regarding the possibility of a purchase, with her 5000-signature long petition calling upon his government to purchase these lands. Since then, she has encouraged and invited new Minister for Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan TD, to visit the Glen of the Downs, and has called upon the Government to step in and finally get this purchase over the line.

"The community has done more than its fair share. From petitions to public meetings, from expert engagement to grassroots campaigning, the people of Wicklow have stepped up. Now it's time for the Government to do the same," Deputy Whitmore stated.

"Without swift intervention, the remaining lands could be sold off in fragments, undermining the ecological and recreational potential of the area. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect and enhance this iconic landscape. But that opportunity is slipping away. The Department must step in now to ensure the Glen of the Downs is preserved as a unified, thriving natural space for generations to come," Deputy Whitmore continued. "I really welcome the news that Eire Og have entered into an agreement to purchase lands up at the Glen of the Downs, but the Government cannot keep dragging their feet on this. At this point, it is a test of the Government's commitment to nature restoration and community empowerment. The clock is ticking, and the people of Wicklow have been waiting long enough for this public purchase," Deputy Whitmore concluded.



Jennifer Whitmore TD



Bay Duffy and Aine O'Connor at the Cruinniú na nOg Ukulele Workshop in Arklow Library

CHARLIE FOR PRESIDENT?

Kilcoole native, Charlie Keddy, the serial candidate in all local and general elections, wants to run as a candidate in the upcoming Presidential election. As ever his platform will be anti-abortion.

"This is my first chance since St. David's Secondary School gave me the green light at the last election to carry on," he told Wicklow Times.

Charlie is referring to a mock election held by St. David's, organised by the Young Social Innovators group in the school at the time of last year's Local Elections, which saw him elected alongside Simon Harris, Jennifer Whitmore, and Stephen Donnelly.

He has written to all members of the Oireachtas and all Local Authorities, saying

'Under the constitution you have the power to nominate a candidate for Uachtarán na hÉireann. It would be good to have an anti-abortion president elected.

"Please nominate me, Charlie Keddy. My credentials are well known. I tried to stop abortion before it started and stood against it as a candidate in five constituencies. The constitution allows me, being an Irish citizen and over 35 years old, to run, but you must nominate me in this year of hope."



Charlie Keddy.



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Wicklow Town makes top 10 in IBAL cleanest towns list

The latest survey from business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) reveals Wicklow town is 'Cleaner than European Norms' and in 9th spot in the ranking of 40 towns and cities across Ireland.

The An Taisce report for the town stated: "As with many IBAL surveys in recent years, Wicklow has scored very well, with seven out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. These included the approach roads, residential area of the Glebemount, Glen Beach

Cliff Walk and Riverwalk - from Bridge Tavern to Parnell / pedestrian Bridge - these were not just good with regards to litter, but very well presented and maintained. By far the most heavily littered site was the commercial site, 3 The Murrough -- it presents

poorly and is likely to deteriorate if not addressed."

Overall, two-thirds of towns were clean, which was up on 2024. Naas was once again top of the ranking of 40 towns and cities, ahead of Ennis and Killarney. Only 4 areas were branded littered or

seriously littered - the lowest number on 5 years. Both Dublin and Cork city centres have improved in advance of the peak season for visitors.

"It is encouraging to see that our main city centres - Dublin and Cork - have improved as we welcome summer visitors to our country. Clean streets are imperative, given the challenges facing Ireland

as a high-cost destination," says IBAL's Conor Horgan.

Dublin's North Inner City, seriously littered, remains rooted to the foot of the rankings.

Conor Horgan comments: "No progress is likely in the North Inner City without a ban on bags. We need the Council to come good on its intention to convert the entire city to bin collec-

tion services. In addition, it is high time that appropriate legal changes were brought into effect to allow the council to pursue those responsible for littered basements, an age-old blight on our Capital City."

One year on from the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme, plastic bottle and can litter is down 50% on previous levels but was still found

in 20% of the 500-plus sites surveyed across the country. "We hope that the scheme will see the disappearance of this litter, but statistics so far do not bear this out. Cans and plastic bottles are far from a rare sight on our streets and in our hedgerows," says Conor Horgan.

While the prevalence of coffee cups on our streets remains stubbornly high, there was a fall-off

in disposable vape litter. The UK and Northern Ireland outlawed disposable vapes earlier this month and a ban here is likely in the coming months.

The survey found the main streets of towns to be generally clean, as were heritage and amenity sites. Residential areas, bus and train stations and recycle facilities were most likely to be littered.

New clothes bank provider welcomed in Greystones

Greystones Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott has welcomed the arrival Liberty recycling service provider following repeated incidents of illegal dumping beside recycling banks in the area.

This follows continuous representations from Cllr Scott over the past year regarding issues at the clothes banks at Mill Road and the South Beach car park in Greystones, where large volumes of dumped items have caused environmental and public health concerns.

Cllr Scott said: "I have been following up with the Council over ongoing problems of dumping at the Clothespod banks in Greystones for nearly a year now. In this time I have been constantly contacted by people com-

plaining about the illegal dumping and overflowing bins. Not only is this unsightly, but it leads to litter spreading into the sea and attracts rodents. I have even been out cleaning the area myself, but it's happening so frequently it's very hard to keep on top of. I asked for increased collection frequencies and the Council also installed audio messaging at bins, reminding people not to dump. These measures helped to a degree. However I am pleased that this week the Council has confirmed that a new

service provider is being introduced. Liberty Recycling has already placed new collection banks at Mill Road and the South Beach car park. I hope that these will be better maintained than the previous ones as we seem to have a huge usage of these recycling facilities in the area."

Liberty Recycling is a social enterprise that supports people affected by drugs by providing them with work experience, stability, and the confidence needed to transition into mainstream employment. They also

operate a charity shop in Bray.

Cllr Scott said the challenges with textile recycling are part of a wider national issue.

"This isn't just happening in Wicklow. Some councils have removed textile banks altogether, while others have scaled back services."

She noted the sector has faced major disruption over the past year. Conflict, shipping issues, and the rise of ultra-fast fashion have flooded the market with low-quality clothing. Despite this oversupply of clothing, at

the same time export demand has dropped, and this combination has put extreme pressure on local recycling services. However, while access to a clothes bank may sometimes be difficult, people still have a responsibility to dispose of clothing appropriately and not to dump items.

Cllr Scott is urging residents to view clothes banks as a last resort and to prioritise reusing and repurposing clothes wherever possible.

"Before bringing items to a clothing bank, maybe think of other options. Can the clothes be repaired or altered to reuse? Could they be passed on to friends or



Cllr Scott at one of the new clothes banks.

family or offered through local zero waste group? Can you donate to a local charity shop? Hosting or a clothes swap, upcycling older items into cleaning cloths, or using worn fabrics for crafts are all simple ways to reduce waste. Recycling is important,

but reusing extends the life of clothing and reduces pressure on the system. Every small action helps."

Cllr Scott has previously run successful Halloween and Christmas swap shops and asks anyone that needs help set-

ting up a clothes exchange to contact her lscott@wicklowcoco.ie

"This is a shared community resource. If the banks are full, please do not dump. We must protect these valuable services and the local environment."



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Whitmore calls on Government to move on climate adaptation

'Wicklow is on the frontlines of climate change, and we're still waiting for a plan'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, has warned that the Government's failure to deliver local climate adaptation measures is putting communities across the county at serious risk, in particular Wicklow.

"We know where the vulnerabilities are - coastal erosion, flooding, landslides - but we're not seeing the investment to match the risk," Deputy Whitmore explained. "The EPA reported recently that Ireland faces 115 climate-related risks, with 43 of them requiring urgent action within the next five years. For coastal counties like Wicklow, that includes serious threats to homes, roads, and infrastructure from rising sea levels and increasingly severe weather events."

"This week the Irish Times identified Ireland's 'sitting ducks', the areas that are most exposed to extreme weather due to geography, infrastructure gaps, and planning failures. Wicklow ticks all the boxes: a long coastline, steep uplands, and growing pressure from development. Yet we're still waiting for a proper adaptation



Jennifer Whitmore TD.

strategy tailored to our county," Deputy Whitmore continued.

"The Government has been slow to move on the National Adaptation Framework and there is a serious lack of dedicated funding for local authorities to implement climate resilience projects. Wicklow County Council

is doing its best, but without proper resources, it's impossible to deliver the scale of adaptation that's needed," Deputy Whitmore added.

"We need flood defences, nature-based solutions, and climate-proofed infrastructure, not more delays and empty promises."

"On top of all that, we're still approving developments in flood zones and failing to integrate green infrastructure into new builds. That's not just short-sighted, it is dangerous. An Bord Pleanála cannot keep making planning decisions that ignore climate risk," Deputy Whitmore noted.

"I am calling for immediate funding for local adaptation projects in Wicklow, a full review of planning policy to prioritise climate resilience, and clear timelines for delivery under the National Adaptation Framework," Deputy Whitmore commented.

"Adaptation is not optional, it is essential. The longer we wait, the higher the cost, both financially and in terms of our communities' safety. Wicklow deserves better, and I will keep pushing until we see real action on the ground."

Brady slams €12m housing underspend

Sinn Féin TD and Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, John Brady, has sharply criticised the Department of Housing after it was revealed that over €12 million in funding earmarked for estate regeneration and refurbishment went unspent in 2023.

Deputy Brady described the underspend-€37.2 million of a €50 million allocation-as “deeply concerning,” particularly in light of ongoing complaints from social housing tenants about poor living conditions.

“Time and time again, residents in social housing are told there’s no money for basic repairs-from fixing broken doors and windows to addressing black mould caused by dampness,” Brady said. “Meanwhile, entire estates needing urgent regeneration are simply being left to rot.”

He pointed to Ashlawn Court in Bray as a case in point. The estate was part of a pilot

regeneration project in which 18 homes were refurbished, but the remaining 248 homes-also flagged for upgrades-have yet to see any improvement.

“Families are still living in damp, deteriorating homes that were promised attention. It’s beyond frustrating to now find out that over €12 million sat unused in the Department’s budget while these homes are allowed to fall further into disrepair,” he said.

Brady confirmed he would be writing directly to the Minister for Housing to demand answers and seek immediate funding allocations for Wicklow County Council to

address outstanding works.

“This isn’t just about statistics or spreadsheets,” he said. “It’s about people’s lives. That money was meant to make homes safe and liveable-and instead, it’s gathering dust while families are stuck in unacceptable conditions.”

He called on the Government to ensure that no further delays occur in rolling out estate regeneration funding in Wicklow and across the country.

“The needs are clear. The money is there. There can be no excuses for inaction.”

Future of 106 Blessington homes in doubt

Concerns are mounting in West Wicklow following revelations that 106 planned social homes in Blessington may no longer go ahead, after the Department of Housing abruptly scrapped a major Public Private Partnership (PPP) housing bundle without a clear backup plan.

The decision was brought to light during a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee last week, where Sinn Féin TD John Brady pressed senior Department officials for clarity on the future of the homes. The Department’s Secretary General, however, was unable to explain how or when the homes would now be delivered, despite construction originally due to start within weeks.

“It’s incredibly worrying,” Deputy Brady said. “This wasn’t just a proposal on paper, €8 million had already been spent, 1,400

workers were ready to begin, and the site in Blessington was prepared to deliver desperately needed homes.”

The Department cited concerns over “value for money” as the reason for abandoning the PPP scheme, something Sinn Féin has long criticised. Brady said it was “astounding” that the Government only recognised flaws in the PPP model after years of warnings and significant investment had already been made.

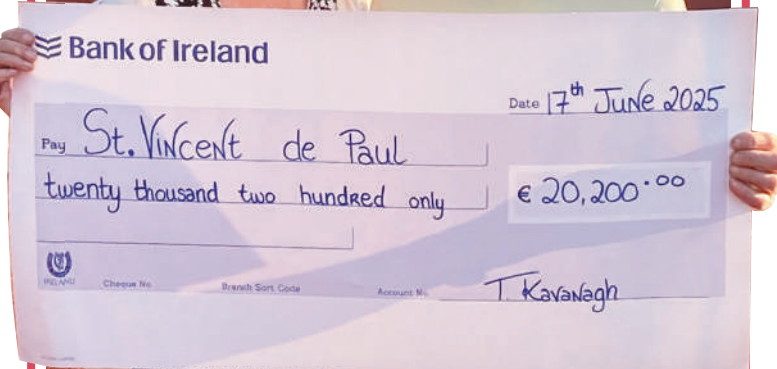
“PPP has never delivered prop-

erly for people on housing waiting lists. That’s been our position for years,” he said. “Now, hundreds of homes are left in limbo, and families in Wicklow and beyond are paying the price for poor planning and mismanagement.”

The Blessington homes were part of a wider PPP housing bundle covering nearly 500 social homes across the country. Brady raised concerns that officials could not confirm whether other similar housing projects were still going ahead.

“This creates enormous uncertainty at a time when we need urgency and clarity,” he said. “These homes were meant to be exclusively for social housing. In the middle of a housing crisis, this level of indecision is simply unacceptable.”

Deputy Brady said he would continue to apply pressure on the Minister for Housing to ensure the Blessington homes are delivered without delay. “Wicklow cannot afford to be left waiting. These families need homes, not excuses.”



The Roundwood Lotto rollover jackpot was won by SVP. Pictured are Frances Shearer of The Kilquade Conference of St Vincent de Paul being presented with a cheque for €20,200 by Terry Kavanagh of the Roundwood Lotto Committee.

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Clara Glens U13s host Michael Dwyer's in inaugural memorial cup match

On Saturday, 7th June 2025, Clara Glens U13s proudly welcomed their juvenile counterparts from Michael Dwyer's GAA Club to Ballinacor Community Park for the inaugural Michael Dwyer 200 Memorial Cup. This fixture marks the beginning of the commemorative events leading up to the Michael Dwyer Bicentennial Commemoration in August.



Clara captain Joseph McDonald Healy, Referee John Keenan and Michael Dwyer's Team Captain Dillon Cullen.



Therese O'Brien of the Michael Dwyer Pipe Band leads the Michael Dwyer's and Clara football teams.

A spirited and skilful game of football was witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd, as both young teams displayed impressive talent and determination. The match was expertly officiated by All-Ireland referee John Keenan, ensuring fair play throughout.

In a closely fought encounter it was Michael Dwyer's who narrowly edged victory on the day. Their captain, Dillon Cullen, proudly lifted the Memorial Cup to cheers from his teammates, coaches and supporters.

The event served as a fitting prelude to the extensive commemorations planned for August, highlighting the historical and cultural significance of Michael Dwyer's legacy in County Wicklow and beyond.

Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of the Arklow Municipal District, praised the young players, stating "Both teams displayed tremendous talent on the pitch. It was an exciting game of football, full of heart. Each player did their team and community proud."

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman expressed pride in the Council's sponsorship of the event, saying, "We're proud to support the Michael Dwyer 200 Memorial Cup as part of our bicentenary program. It's important to involve all ages in remembering our heritage, especially

our young people."

Leonora Earls, Arklow Municipal District Manager, also shared her thanks: "We are thankful to everyone who helped organize this memorable event - including the mentors, supporters, and volunteers. A special thanks to Leah Hanlon, whose heartfelt performance of Amhran na bhFiann made the event even more meaningful."

This match is part of a larger program of events planned to celebrate Michael Dwyer. The



Cathaoirleach of the Arklow Municipal District Cllr. Pat Kennedy and Ellie Leeson.

Michael Dwyer 200 event is a two-day commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of the

famous 'Wicklow Chief' and 1798 leader, Michael Dwyer. This Heritage Week event is scheduled

for 23rd and 24th August Glenmalur, with more details to be available in the coming weeks.



Pat Dunne, Cathaoirleach of the Arklow Municipal District Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Alvina Brehony District Administrator, John Keenan and Ann Byrne present the Michael Dwyer trophy to Michael Dwyer's captain Dillon Cullen.



Be Independent Home Care is Now in Wicklow!

We are delighted to announce that **Be Independent Home Care** is now expanding our services into Wicklow! As one of Ireland's leading home care providers, we offer trusted, professional care services to support older people in living independently in the comfort of their own homes.

Our team provides care both privately and through HSE home support packages, tailored to each individual's needs. Whether it's help with daily routines, companionship, or more specialised care, we're here to make life easier and safer for families across Wicklow.

As part of our expansion, we're also proud to be creating new jobs in the area. We're currently hiring experienced and aspiring carers who are passionate about making a difference in people's lives. We offer full training, flexi roster, and the chance to build a rewarding career in a supportive environment.

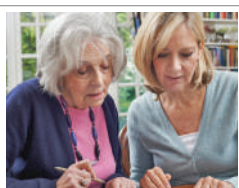
Now serving communities across Bray, Greystones, Kilcoole, and beyond. To enquire about care services or job opportunities, contact us today!

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Be Independent. Trusted Care in your Home.

#HomeCareWicklow #BeIndependentHomeCare #NowHiring #HSECare #PrivateHomeCare #WicklowJobs #CommunityCare #ElderCare



The Michael Dwyer's and Clara football teams with John Keenan and Cathaoirleach of the Arklow Municipal District Cllr. Pat Kennedy.

Corrigan elected Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council

Outgoing Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien reflects on "privilege of a lifetime"

Fine Gael councillor Melanie Corrigan has been elected Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council following a vote at the Council's Annual General Meeting on 16th June.

Cllr Corrigan, who represents the Bray Municipal District and is from Enniskerry, was proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr Lourda Scott. She received 22 votes to secure the position. Independent councillor John Snell, proposed by Cllr Gerry O'Neill and seconded by Cllr Joe Behan, received 10 votes.

Corrigan succeeds Labour's Paul O'Brien, who reflected on a productive and rewarding year in the role during his final address as Cathaoirleach.

"Whether you voted for me or not, I want to thank

you for being so polite, courteous and respectful towards me, not just in the chamber, but any time I met you in your district and beyond," Cllr O'Brien said. "Because you worked so well with me during the year and the respect you showed me, we got through our Council meetings with minimal fuss."

He highlighted the smooth running of key items such as the Local Property Tax (LPT) meeting, the Council's annual budget, and the progression of two Local Area Plans, while praising staff across all departments for their commitment and professionalism.

"To represent Wicklow County Council as Cathaoirleach has been the honour and privilege of a lifetime," he said, concluding with a quote from Nelson Mandela: "Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

Snell: "For democracy's sake"

Before the vote, Independent Cllr John Snell addressed the chamber, acknowledging that he hadn't canvassed support and had not originally intended to

allow his name to go forward.

"Coming in today I had no intentions of allowing my name to go forward," he said, "but I suppose, if we don't have some level of democracy after what happened last year, then what are we doing?"

Cllr Snell was referring to last year's contentious AGM, which he described as "probably the lowest point in my 16 years in Wicklow County Council." Despite entering the contest reluctantly, he reaffirmed his respect for Cllr Corrigan and her family, and praised her personal qualities.

"I know Melanie very, very well, and I know she will make an excellent Cathaoirleach," he said. "You're an excellent candidate and a decent person. You come from a highly respectable family."

Explaining his decision to leave his name in the race, Snell concluded: "We know the result... but for democracy's sake, it's probably no harm. And I will certainly work with the new Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council."

Corrigan: "An incredible honour I do not take lightly"

In her first remarks as Cathaoirleach, Cllr Melanie Corrigan expressed gratitude to colleagues, Council staff, and her family and friends for their support.

"It's a huge honour for me today to become Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council," she said. "I want to assure you that I am committed to working collaboratively with you all in the chamber and everyone across County Wicklow to ensure fairness and inclusivity in our Council and county."

Cllr Corrigan paid emotional tribute to her late mother Muriel, who had a passion for politics and encour-



Cllr Melanie Corrigan, new Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council.

aged her children to persevere. "She always said to us growing up: 'there's no such word as 'can't', only to try and keep trying until you succeed'," Corrigan said.

She also thanked her husband Liam, their children, and extended family, several of whom were present in the chamber.

Corrigan commended outgoing Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien for his "exceptional dedication," saying he had "set a high standard for the role."

Looking ahead, she pledged to work closely with all councillors and communities:

"I am looking forward to promoting our county and working together with fellow elected representatives, officials and the community to make Wicklow an even better place to live, work, and visit, both now and in the future."



Cllr Paul O'Brien.

Council signs transfer deed for land at Magheramore

Earlier this month, Wicklow County Council signed the Transfer Deed for the purchase of a 21-acre site overlooking Magheramore Beach. The Council had previously attempted to secure public ownership of the land for beach access.

They were unsuccessful in the initial auction held in 2021 and again at the auction in March 2025. However, after the successful bidder chose not to proceed with the sale, the Council was given the opportunity to step in and complete the purchase of this significant coastal amenity.

Acquiring this land at Magheramore will ensure continued access to the cherished beach. Furthermore, it is a step towards the County Development Plan

objectives to protect the Special Area of Conservation and the National Heritage Area.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien, expressed his delight at the signing of the Transfer Deed, stating, "On behalf of the six elected members of Wicklow Municipal District, I want to thank the officials for their foresight in securing access to the beach for generations to come."

Brian Gleeson, Director of

Finance for Wicklow County Council and Wicklow District Manager, commented, "Following a long and repeated bidding process, the Council was afforded the opportunity to purchase the land and we immediately acted on this to ensure a swift and efficient transfer of ownership. I also wish to acknowledge the strong community support that helped highlight the importance of preserving Magheramore Beach for public use."



Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Wicklow Municipal District Cllr. Graham Richmond, Cathaoirleach of the Wicklow County Council Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr. Shane Langrell with the students from Scoil Realt Na Mara, Brittas Bay.



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**



WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 BLESSINGTON LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Wicklow County Council being the Planning Authority for the area has made a Local Area Plan for the settlement of 'Blessington' at the Council meeting on the **16 JUNE 2025**.

The Local Area Plan in accordance with Section 20 will come into effect on **28 JULY 2025** and consists of a written statement indicating the objectives in detail as may be required by the Planning Authority for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, maps and appendices.

The adopted plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, prepared in accordance with the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended), an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report carried out in accordance with 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities'. Notice is also given, under Article 14I of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended), that a Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement, summarising, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, has been prepared and is available alongside the Plan. An Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement, summarising the AA process and its findings, is also available alongside the adopted Plan.

A copy of the adopted Local Area Plan and associated documents will be available in the coming weeks, throughout the lifetime of the Plan, for viewing and downloading on the Council website www.wicklow.ie (scan the QR code here) and for online inspection, at Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, all Municipal District Offices, and all libraries during normal opening hours.



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

Arklow RNLI host special visitor in advance of 200th anniversary and lifeboat naming ceremony

Volunteers at Arklow RNLI and their invited guests, recently hosted a special visit to the lifeboat station from Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Vice President of the lifesaving charity and former Deputy Chair. The visit was arranged in advance of the station's naming ceremony for their new Shannon class lifeboat, which was held on the 21st of June and their 200th anniversary, which will be celebrated next year. Arklow RNLI is the oldest established RNLI lifeboat station on the island of Ireland.

Sir Tim Laurence is no stranger to Ireland, having served as a Chair of the RNLI's Operations Committee which saw him visit a number of Irish lifeboat stations during his tenure. However, this was his first time visiting Arklow lifeboat station and he received a warm welcome from all present.

Arklow RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager John Bermingham introduced Sir Tim Laurence to the assembled lifeboat crew, station management, fundraisers, and their families. Invited guests included Arklow Harbour Master Captain Paul Ivory, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of the Arklow Municipal District and Arklow Sailing Club Commodore Seamus Cramer.

Coxswain Eddie McElheron and Mechanic Craig O'Reilly gave Sir Tim Laurence a tour of the new €3.1m Shannon class lifeboat and there was also a visit to the Boathouse and Shop. The visit concluded with a stop at the town's mar-

itime museum, which recently hosted a RNLI 200 exhibition. Former Lifeboat Operations Manager, Jimmy Tyrrell and Coxswain Brendan Dillon were on hand for a tour and some station history. Jimmy was responsible for the RNLI naming the Shannon class after an Irish river, in recognition of the service of Irish volunteers to the charity over two centuries, a fact that was shared with their visitor.

Commenting on the special visit, Arklow Lifeboat Operations Manager John Bermingham said, 'We were delighted to host Sir Tim Laurence for a special visit to our station. Arklow is a lifeboat station that is steeped in RNLI history and the town has a hugely important maritime background. We are very proud to be the first RNLI lifeboat station on the island of Ireland and to be naming our new Shannon class lifeboat soon, following its arrival last October. It was Sir Tim's first time visiting the station and we hope to welcome him again in the future.'



Arklow RNLI Crew and Family from L-R : Seamus Cramer, Aine, Cillian & Craig O'Reilly, Eddie McElheron, Tommy Nolan, Manager John Bermingham, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Cassie Connaughton, Liz Bermingham, John V Tyrrell, Joy Crosbie, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Paul Burke, Jimmy Tyrrell, Roger Tyrrell.

Wicklow RNLI bring three fishermen to safety after vessel breaks down

Wicklow RNLI brought three fishermen to safety on the afternoon of Friday 13th June after their vessel suffered mechanical failure while fishing for whelk off the Wicklow coast.

The all-weather lifeboat RNLB Bridie O'Shea slipped its moorings from the south quay at 1.40pm following a Coast Guard pager alert and put to sea under the command of Coxswain Nick Keogh.

Twenty-five minutes later the lifeboat was alongside the twelve-metre vessel, in a position ten miles northeast of Wicklow harbour. Conditions at the scene were wind south westerly in direction, force six with moderate

sea and good visibility.

Speaking after the call out, Wicklow RNLI Coxswain Nick Keogh said: "Once alongside, we carried out a quick assessment of the fishing vessel and found it had lost all power. So, the safest course of action was to tow the boat back to Wicklow harbour."

A towline was quickly set up, and course was set for Wicklow harbour at 2.10pm. The twelve metre fishing vessel was secured

alongside the south quay just before 11.30am and the three fishermen were landed safely ashore.

Speaking after the call out, Wicklow RNLI Press officer, Tommy Dover said, "We give a special mention to trainee crew, Adelaide Kane and Cian Kelly, who went to sea today on their first 'Shout' as Wicklow RNLI crew members, we are very proud of their dedication and commitment."



The RNLB Lifeboat Bridie O'Shea crew; Coxswain Nick Keogh, Peter Byrne (Mechanic), Adelaide Kane, Cian Kelly, Alan Goucher and John Stapleton and a photo of Adelaide Kane and Cian Kelly. (Photo by Wicklow RNLI / Tommy Dover).

AONTÚ
LIFE • UNITY • ECONOMIC JUSTICE

PUBLIC MEETING

**Where is the
COVID VACCINE INJURY
compensation
scheme?**



Mairéad TÓIBÍN
Aontú Dún Laoghaire Rep



**Rochestown Lodge Hotel
Dún Laoghaire**

Thursday • 26 June • 7:30pm



Céimeanna Baitsiléara Tríú Céime Nua ar fáil i gCill Mhantáin don bhliain acadúil 2025/2026

Tá na Céimeanna Baitsiléara Tríú Céime seo a leanas ar fáil i gCill Mhantáin den chéad uair i mí Mheán Fómhair: Níl iontráil bunaithe ar phointí, agus níl aon táillí teagaisc ann don chéad bhliain nó dhó.

• Baitsiléir Ealaíon (Onóracha) i Léiriú Meán Tumtha

Ag tosú in Institiúid Breisoideachais Bhré, le haistriú gan uaim go dtí IADT (Campas Dhún Laoghaire).

• Baitsiléir Gnó (Onóracha) i nGnó agus Síceolaíocht

Ag tosú in Institiúid Breisoideachais Bhré le haistriú gan uaim go dtí IADT (Campas Dhún Laoghaire).

Bailithe bus
i rith na bliana coláiste ó Ghuaire,
An t-Inbhear Mór, Cill Mhantáin
agus Ráth Nua

bife INSTITIÚID BREISOIDEACHAIS BHRÉ

TIOMANTA • GAIRMIÚIL • PAISEANTA

EALAÍN

- KA** Ullmhú Punann Ealaíne
- KB** Ealaín, Ceardaíocht & Dearadh
- KC** Cleachtas na Mínealaíona
- KE** Ceardaíocht Chruthaitheach

DEARADH

- DA** Dearadh Grafach
- DD** Dearadh & Teicneolaíocht Ailtireachta
- DN** Déanamh Seodra & Ceardaíocht Adhmaid
- DI** Dearadh Troscáin & Saoirseacht/Saoirseacht
- DC** Faisean & Teicstílí
- DJ** Dearadh Troscáin & Déanamh Comh-Aireachta (Ardleibhéal)

CEOL

- MI** Teicnící DJ & Léiriú Ceoil
- MJ** Léiriú Ceoil
- MK** Taibhiú Ceoil
- MF** Innealtóireacht Fuaime

RIOMHAIREACHT

- NA** Forbairt Bogearraí Ríomhaireachta le hintleacht shaorga
- NB** Eolaíocht Ríomhaireachta
- NC** Líonraí Ríomhaireachta agus Cibearshlándáil
- ND** Comptia A+

SPÓRT

- EA** Spórt, Aclaíocht & Treoir Aclaíochta
- EC** Traenálaí Pearsanta, Neart & Oiriúntú
- ED** Cóitseáil Sacair & Bainistíocht Spóirt
- EF** Teiripe Gortuithe & Suathaireachta Spóirt / Fisiteiripe Réamh-Ollscoile

CÚRAM AINMHITHE

- HA** Cúram Ainmhithe
- HI** Cúram & Bainistíocht Ainmhithe Réamh-Ollscoil
- HJ** Tionscal Eolaíochta Ainmhithe
- HX** Staidéir Eachaí

STAIÉAR SÓISIALTA & CÚRAM LEANAÍ

- OA** SNA (Bunscoil & Iar-bhunscoil)
- OB** SNA & Staidéir Míchumais (Leibhéal 6)
- HD** Foghlaim Luath & Cúram / Cúram Leanaí
- HE** Staidéir Shóisialta & Cúram Pobail

GRUAIGE, ÁILLEACHT & FOLLÁINE

- FJ** Smideadh & Gruaig Ghairmiúil
- FF** Gruagaireacht - Stíleoir Sóisearach
- FG** Gruagaireacht - Stíleoir Sinsearach
- FH** Bearbaireacht
- FD** Teicneoir Ingne & Riarachán Salon

EOLAÍOCHT & INNEALTÓIREACHT

- HS** Eolaíocht Fhoiréinseach - Réamh-Ollscoil
- HK** Eolaíocht - Réamh-Ollscoil
- HZ** Eolaíocht Bia le Diaitéitic - Réamh-Ollscoil
- JF** Cúntóir Miondíola Cógaisíochta
- JJ** Teicneoir Cógaisíochta
- HU** Staidéir Éiceolaíochta Feidhmí agus Bithéagsúlachta
- DK** Gairneoireacht & Dearadh Gairdíní
- HV** Innealtóireacht Réamh-Ollscoil

GNÓ

- JA** Bainistíocht & Riarachán Gnó
- JC** Bainistíocht Gnó - Teastas Ardleibhéil
- JD** Teicneoir Cuntasaíochta
- LD** Teastas Ardleibhéil Turasóireachta Gnó
- SD** Díl Riarachán Díl Réamh-Ollscoile
- SF** Riarachán Leighis (Maidineacha Amháin)
- SE** Riarachán TF & Oifige (Maidineacha Amháin)
- JT** Margaíocht Dhigiteach agus Fiontraíocht
- EE** Slándáil & Réamh-Gharda
- JP** B.Bus (Onóracha) Gnó & Síceolaíocht

FÁILTEACHT & TURASÓIREACHT

- LA** Turasóireacht, Bainistíocht Fáiltithe & Imeachtaí
- LH** Bainistíocht Bialainne & Beair
- LC** Ealaíona Cócaireachta
- LE** Ealaíona Cócaireachta Ardleibhéal
- LG** Taosrán, BÁCÁIL & Barista
- LI** Bainistíocht Fáilteachais & Gnó (Leibhéal 6)

TEASTAS ARDLEIBHÉILE DO DHAOINE FÁSTA

- RB** Teastas Ardleibhéil do Dhaoiné Fásta

SLÁINTE

- HB** Staidéir Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais - Réamh-Ollscoil
- HH** Cúntóir Cúraim Sláinte
- HP** Cúntóir Teiripe Ceirde
- JK** Staidéir Cúraim Éigeandála (Réamh-pharaimhíochaine, Dóiteán & Otharcharr)
- HL** Síceolaíocht sa Phobal (Ardleibhéal)

SCANNÁN & CLUICHÍ RIOMHAIREACHT

- MA** Léiriúchán Teilifíse & Scannán
- MB** Léiriúchán Teilifíse & Scannán - Ardleibhéal
- ME** Dearadh Chluichí Ríomhaire 3D
- MC** BA (Onóracha) Céim Léiriúcháin Meán Tumtha
- MG** Forbairt Cluichí Ríomhaire

ACTÓIREACHT & DAMHSA

- PB** Aisteoireacht don Ardán & don Scáileán Ardleibhéal
- PE** Teicníc Damhsa, Taibhiú agus Cóiréagrafaíocht Corpoideachais - Ardleibhéal

BÉARLA DO IDIRNÁISIÚNTA MIC LÉINN

- XA** Béarla agus Staidéir Ghinearálta

PRINTÍSEACHTAÍ

- JG** Printíseacht Teicneora Cuntasaíochta



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EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Our Rural Future

€199,044 in funding for the successful applicants of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025

On Friday, 13th June, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD, announced the successful projects in Co. Wicklow under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025.



Tánaiste Simon Harris TD.

Groups receiving funding this year include: Bray Family Resource and Development Project CLG; Tearmann Community Garden in Ba-Iltin-glass; Rathnew Community Centre CLG; Friends of the Cliffwalk; East Coast Samaritans; Newtown and Newcastle Men's Shed in Newtownmountkennedy; Post 21, Wicklow IUNVA (Irish United Nations Veterans Assoc) in Delgany; Purple House Cancer Support in Bray.

The Local Enhance-

ment Programme 2025 was launched in November 2025 with funding of €199,044 allocated to County Wicklow. This funding included €170,609 in capital funding to support community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out works and improvements to facilities, as well as the purchase of equipment for community use. Additionally, €28,435 in current funding was provided to support local groups with ongoing oper-

ational costs. A total of 235 community groups in County Wicklow have successfully received funding under this scheme.

The Department of Rural and Community Development and Gaeltacht's Local Enhancement Programme 2025 is administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien welcomed the announcement:

"The Local Enhancement Programme funding is invaluable for so many groups and clubs that work tirelessly to improve our local communities and provide essential activities around the county."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman highlighted the importance of the funding said "This funding represents a significant investment in our communities. It will empower and support local groups and organisations at a grass-roots level to continue their work in delivering important community projects and services."

Minister Buttimer also stated "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."

Minister Calleary added "The impact of the Local Enhancement Programme is considerable, and it allows community groups to carry out the invaluable work they do on behalf of others in local areas throughout the country."

All applicants will be contacted by Wicklow County Council in due course regarding their project.

An Tánaiste Simon Harris said: "These are small grants that make a big difference. I am delighted today to announce funding to support over 200 organisations that do such fantastic work right across County Wicklow. These grants are small in nature but I know they make such a big dif-

ference to the organisations involved.

"The groups might use the funding to pay a particular bill or perhaps to fund a project or idea they might have it's up to them. I have visited many of these groups across County Wicklow and I have seen first-hand the fantastic work that they do for the benefit of their communities.

"These groups do invaluable work to make our communities better places to live, work and raise a family."

The Tánaiste also encouraged all recipient groups to liaise with their Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), which is administering the programme locally. This announcement is a celebration of community resilience and local pride, recognising the dedication of volunteers, leaders, and residents who shape the heartbeat of County Wicklow.

Smarter, greener mobility launches in Wicklow and Rathnew

New e-bike sharing scheme powers shift toward climate-friendly travel

Wicklow County Council has welcomed the arrival of the MOBY e-bike sharing scheme to Wicklow Town and Rathnew - an important step forward in the county's journey towards smarter travel, lower carbon emissions, and a healthier environment.

Launched on 23rd June, this shared mobility initiative directly supports Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan and the National Sustainable Mobility Policy by offering residents and visitors with a cleaner, more efficient alternative to private car use. With up to 50 electric bikes available across more than 30 locations, the scheme expands low-carbon transport options for communities across these towns.

public transport hubs, schools, sports centres, tourist sites and residential areas, making it easier than ever to leave the car at home. Users can rent and return bikes through the MOBY MOVE app, with designated parking stands and virtual zones helping to manage the service sustainably. The scheme operates 24/7 with flexible pricing, including pay-per-use options. New users will receive €10 in free ride credit to encourage them to try the service and make the shift toward smarter travel.

Making Active Travel Easier and Smarter

Recognising that the hilly terrain in Wicklow can be a barrier to conventional cycling, the Council has partnered with MOBY to offer a practical and accessible solution. E-bikes enable more people to cycle for everyday journeys, such as commuting to work, connecting with public transport, attending school or college, or visiting local amenities.

Each e-bike comes equipped with features that support safer, more convenient travel, including automatic gearing, GPS tracking and long-lasting batteries with a range of up to 70 km. These features make cycling a viable and attractive option for a wider range of users and trip types.

Seamless Integration with Daily Life

E-bike stations are strategically located near

Climate Action Plan.

Leading by Example

The TFI Smarter Travel for Workplaces programme continues to support Irish employers in promoting sustainable and active commuting. With growing participation across the country, smarter travel is helping to reduce transport costs, ease traffic congestion, enhance employee wellbeing and better manage parking demand.

A Climate-Positive Path Forward

These initiatives go

beyond mere transportation solutions - they represent a broader commitment to creating a liveable, low-carbon Wicklow. By investing in clean, accessible mobility options, Wicklow County Council is empowering individuals to make everyday travel choices that support climate action, reduce emissions and build a more resilient, connected community.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien, welcomed MOBY, stating: "We are delighted to introduce the MOBY e-

bike scheme to Wicklow Town and Rathnew. This is a smart, climate-focused initiative that will make a real difference to how people move around our towns. By offering a clean and convenient alternative to the private car, we're reducing congestion, cutting emissions, and improving the quality of life for our residents and visitors. This is a practical step toward a more sustainable future for County Wicklow."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, added: "The launch of the

MOBY e-bike scheme in Wicklow Town and Rathnew highlights our commitment to delivering climate action on the ground. This initiative supports our goals for active and low-carbon transport, and it's part of a broader effort across the county to reduce emissions and promote healthier, more sustainable communities. Through collaboration between our Municipal Districts, the Active Travel Team and the Climate Action Team, we are creating smarter travel options that benefit everyone."

Brian Gleeson, Director of Service for Wicklow Municipal District, commented: "Bringing shared e-bikes to Wicklow Town and Rathnew is a great example of how local government can lead by doing. By investing in sustainable transport and giving people real alternatives to private car use, we're not only reducing our operational impact - we're also empowering communities to take part in climate action. These kinds of initiatives are key to delivering on our Climate Action Plan and making low-carbon lifestyles easier and more accessible."

Thomas O'Connell, CEO and Founder of MOBY, expressed his enthusiasm: "We're excited to launch our e-bike sharing scheme in Wicklow Town and Rathnew. Our goal is to support Wicklow County Council in making sustainable travel an easy and appealing choice. Whether commuting, connecting to public transport, or exploring the area, our e-bikes offer a reliable and zero-emission alternative to driving. We're proud to help Wicklow lead the way in smarter mobility."



(L to R) Cathaoirleach of the Wicklow Municipal District Cllr. Graham Richmond, Alan Martin, Cllr. Shane Langrell, Thayana Goulart (Moby), Brian Gleeson, Georgina Franey, Cllr. Danny Alvey, William Hannigan, Mark Costello and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien.

Sod turned on Fassaroe Park and Ride

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien officially marked the start of construction for a Park and Ride facility at Fassaroe, Bray, earlier this month. This facility represents a significant investment by the National Transport Authority and highlights the importance of the project within County Wicklow. The construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

The Fassaroe Park and Ride will be a modern, high-quality facility located to the west of M11 Junction 6, purposefully designed to encourage a shift from private car usage to public transport. It will offer 388 parking spaces, including 26 for mobility-impaired users and 42 spaces equipped for electric vehicle charging. An indication of our commitment to accessibility and sustainable transport solutions.

The development will also include two bus bays, passenger shelters, and a dedicated turning circle, all designed to ensure a smooth and efficient experience for passengers. To improve connectivity and traffic flow, a new all-movement junction will be constructed at Fassaroe Lane, featuring a dedicated right-turn lane, while an existing lay-by will be removed to streamline bus operations. Additionally, the facility will include bike shelters and lockers, encouraging cycling as part of a multi-modal journey.

This facility is not an isolated initiative; it complements planned

improvements to bus infrastructure along the N11 corridor and will serve as a catalyst for the expansion of public transport services across County Wicklow's major towns. It represents an investment not only in infrastructure but also in the economic and environmental well-being of our communities.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien, said "This facility has been a long time in the making. It was included in the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 and officially approved by Wicklow's elected members in November 2023. The land purchase was completed by September 2024, and now, construction is well underway, with completion expected by the end of this year. We're on track to open the doors and welcome commuters in 2026."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, stated that "This project is fully funded by the National Transport Authority, and is being delivered through strong partnership and careful plan-

ning with Wicklow County Council's project team. I would like to thank the NTA's Park and Ride Development Office, with the support of Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates, who have taken the lead in the design and delivery of this scheme and the construction company Wills Bros Ltd, who we thank for their efforts on the ground. We look forward to the successful completion of the works later this year, and to welcoming the first passengers to the Fassaroe Park and Ride facility in 2026".

Ian Gourley, NTA Head of Fleet and Bus Infrastructure said: "NTA welcomes the commencement of construction works at the new Fassaroe Park and Ride facility, which will be the first of the new strategic Park and Ride facilities in operation and the first of several planned along the N11/M11 corridor. We have worked closely with Wicklow County Council to get the Fassaroe facility to this stage and that close collaboration will continue in order to deliver the remaining facilities over the next few years."



(L to R) Director of services Wicklow County Council Joe Lane Helen Purcell, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Dermot O'Brien, Cllr. Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, Cllr. Erika Doyle, Bray Municipal District Administrator Garvan Hickey and Engineer for Bray Municipal District Stephen Fox.



Ciarán Hogan, Aontú.

Traffic nightmare looms for Bray, warns Aontú's Hogan

Wicklow Aontú representative Ciarán Hogan has criticised Bray Municipal District council for what he describes as "nine months of total inaction" on the town's growing traffic crisis.

Speaking out last week, Hogan recalled a presentation made to Bray Municipal District councillors on October 1st, 2024, by Clare O'Connor of the Alliance of Bray Residents (ABR).

"The issue was made crystal clear," he said. "The facts were laid out, the problems were detailed, and the urgency of action was beyond dispute. Every councillor agreed the situation

was dire. Yet here we are, nine months later at the final council meeting before the summer recess, and absolutely nothing has been done."

Hogan, who has long campaigned on local transport issues, pointed to his own 10-point traffic relief plan published in the lead-up to last year's local elections. The plan includes:

- A subsidised and expanded school bus

programme

- Staggered school start times
- Child and carrier rental bikes
- Support for job creation within Bray
- Carpooling initiatives for local commuters
- Active traffic wardens to direct parking
- A full review of traffic light signalling
- Main Street loading time restrictions and off-peak storage
- Removal of Main Street bollards

- And crucially: keeping the Herbert Road connection to the N11 open, with improvements

"The traffic in Bray is already abysmal," Hogan said, "but it's going to get dramatically worse. The town's population is projected to rise by 37% by 2028, with new housing developments underway and more people moving here from Dublin due to the rental crisis."

He also criticised the response from Bray

councillors. "They set up a committee, on paper at least, but it hasn't met even once. There's been no comprehensive traffic survey initiated, no meetings with the ABR, and no effort to engage with me or my proposals."

Hogan also highlighted the stalled progress on the Bray-Greystones cliff walk. "We've had a cliff walk committee and even a taskforce launched by Tánaiste Simon Harris. Neither has

delivered any meaningful progress."

He concluded with a rallying call to residents: "It seems the council is incapable of delivering on the big issues that matter to this town. Residents of Bray should be furious. This is your time wasted in endless traffic. This is your town losing business and services. This is your fuel money spent idling on clogged roads. This is a hazard to your children. It's time for real accountability, and real action."

L14 bus route extended to Cherrywood LUAS

Following engagement between John Brady TD and the NTA, the L14 will no longer terminate in Palermo, but rather pass through the area for pickups and drop-offs, before continuing on to Cherrywood, where it terminates near the LUAS line. This changes came into effect on 15th June.

"This would address the concerns of residents and school users in Palermo, while creating a fully integrated bus-LUAS connection from Bray - something that's been badly needed since the removal of the Finnegan's service," said Deputy Brady, who hailed it as a victory for common sense.

"The introduction of the new L14 route, running between Southern Cross and Palermo in Little Bray,



John Brady TD at the dangerously located bus terminus in Palermo.

was a positive development," said Deputy Brady. "However, I had been contacted by a large number of residents in the Palermo area, and by parents from St Peter's School, raising serious concerns about the safety and nuisance issues caused by the buses terminating at a busy junction right beside the school."

Residents reported that idling engines at the terminus caused noise and air pollution, while the location of the stop created traffic and safety hazards in a heavily used area, particularly at school times.

"In addition to these concerns, the rollout of the new network saw the cessation of the Finnegan's Bus service, which had provided an essential connection between Bray and the LUAS. That left a major gap in our public transport infrastructure, with no direct link from Bray to the LUAS at Cherrywood," Brady added.

"I want to thank the residents and school community who raised these issues with me and stood together to demand a solution. This is a positive outcome - one that improves both local safety and connectivity," he said.

"I'll continue to work with the NTA and local stakeholders to ensure the rollout of the new routing is smooth and meets the needs of the public."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 VARIATION NO. 3

Notice is hereby given that Variation No. 3 (Blessington Local Area Plan 2025) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was made by Wicklow County Council on 16 JUNE 2025, pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

VARIATION NO. 3

Integrating the land use zoning map and key development objectives from the **Blessington Local Area Plan (LAP) 2025**, the LAP was prepared separately but alongside the proposed Variation, as well as other changes consequent into the County Development Plan.

This variation is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening documentation prepared in accordance with the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended). The variation is also accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment screening documentation pursuant to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.

In accordance with Section 13 (11) of the Act this variation shall have effect from **16 JUNE 2025**.

A copy of the made variation and associated documents, and the updated County Development Plan, will be available for viewing and downloading on the Council website www.wicklow.ie (scan the QR code here) and for inspection, at Wicklow County Council, County Buildings and all Municipal District Offices, during normal opening hours, in the coming weeks.

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



Wicklow marks 2025 Energy Awareness Day

Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul O'Brien opens Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2025 and cuts ribbon marking energy upgrades at host venue - the Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town

Communities from County Wicklow joined Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul O'Brien, for the official opening of Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2025. Hosted by Wicklow, Greystones and Arklow Sustainable Energy Communities, the day provided a dual celebration with the Cathaoirleach cutting the ribbon to mark energy upgrades undertaken at the Pastoral Centre and the official launch of Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2025.

Energy Awareness Day involves a collaboration of several key stakeholders including Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC), Wicklow Tidy Towns, Wicklow Town Team, and Wicklow Co. Council. SSE Renewables onboarded for a second year as event patrons assisted on the day by colleagues from its retail brand SSE Airtricity.

With free admission, the day offered much to those interested in learning about energy improvements and efficiency. With an external and internal exhibition experience, the public had the opportunity to peruse and chat to a wide range of exhibitors to get advice on how to make their homes, businesses and personal transport more efficient and sustainable. Over 30 EVs were on display. The public perused the exhibition stands with experts on hand to lend advice on solar, heat pump and battery storage options; grants available through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI); and tips on improving energy efficiency and retrofitting. Information sessions blended with fun Eco activities for children (such as the 'Watt Bike' and face-painting for juniors).

Sylvester J Burke, member of Wicklow SEC,

said: "Wicklow SEC, like the others, consists of volunteers dedicated to helping the public in local communities transition to a new way of 'low carbon emission living' so that Ireland can meet the targets required to reduce the impact of climate change. We're grateful to all the stakeholders involved in profiling the importance for Wicklow of the need to move to more sustainable energy options which can practically and readily translate in our daily lives."

Commenting on the upgrades at the Pastoral Centre, he said: "The building dates to the 1970s and needed to be brought up to date with energy improvements. Upgrades undertaken included: heating controls on radiators, foam insulation on external walls and ceilings, the erection of 30 solar panels on the roof, rainwater planters, a bike rack and swop shelving (repurposed from a large enterprise) for clothing and toys, in addition to a community fridge for fruit & vegetables. The retrofit was funded by Wicklow County Council through the Community Climate Action Fund. A further announcement is expected soon on grant assistance to replace the existing windows with triple glazing equivalent. Centre users have described how comfortable the building is and savings of

€1,500 in heating oil have been recorded since January. In just a mere two weeks, the solar panels have generated almost 600kWh of electricity."

Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables said: "We were delighted to be involved again as patrons of this year's Wicklow Energy Awareness Day. The day provided a unique opportunity to meet the Cathaoirleach and local communities across Wicklow to share information about our flagship off-shore wind development project - Arklow Bank 2. Once operational, our Arklow project will be capable of offsetting around 830 million kilograms of harmful carbon emissions annually and bring significant investment and employment to the Wicklow area."

Our colleagues from SSE Airtricity were alongside, to give practical and technical advice to those interested in learning more about energy efficiency and SSE Airtricity's 'Generation Green' home improvement energy scheme.

We're particularly grateful to the hosts, Wicklow Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) and other sustainable communities involved, Wicklow Tidy Towns and Wicklow County Council for their efforts in bringing together a variety of activities, exhibitors and information workshops collectively

offering real and practical options to help reduce carbon and encourage public thinking about more sustainable energy options.

For further information email wicklowsec2020@gmail.com or follow Wicklow Sustainable Energy on Facebook. Energy Awareness Day 2025 is supported by Wicklow Tidy Towns, Wicklow Town Team, and Wicklow Co. Council.

For details on the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank 2 Sponsorship Fund contact Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager by phone 087 1822587 or email deirdre.keogh@sse.com



Paul Craigie, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Paul O'Brien, SSE Renewables Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh and Eamon Kenny.



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Paul O'Brien officially opens the Wicklow Energy Awareness Day at De La Salle Pastoral Centre.



Cllr Shane Langrell, David Meunier, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District Graham Richmond, Andrew Lawless, outgoing Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Paul O'Brien, Deaglan O'Meagher, Simon Whelan, Sylvester Burke, SSE Renewables Community Engagement Officer Deirdre Keogh, Cllr Pat Kennedy and Mark Costello at the Wicklow Energy Awareness Day at De La Salle Pastoral Centre.

Dovida Wicklow: bringing genuine connections and person-centred values to home care

Dovida delivers home care that empowers their clients to live life their way in the comfort of their own home. They do this by recognising that no two people are the same and shape their care to best match their clients' and caregivers' interests, values, and personalities. As part of their vision for the future of home care, they have introduced the 'Circle of Care'.

Circle of Care

"We provide care that is centred around the individual. This approach creates the 'Circle of Care' - a philosophy that places our clients at the centre of a holistic support system that connects

families, our skilled caregivers and support teams with Public Health Nurses, GPs and physios."

Connection, confidence and choice

"While some of our

clients need us to pop in once a week for some help around the house, others require daily support. Some clients need temporary help after surgery or respite care to give their loved ones some rest, while others use our services on an ongoing

basis. Whatever the situation, we shape our care around our clients' needs and proudly enable each individual to live their life with connection, confidence, and choice - in a way that is meaningful to them."

Why choose home care?

"Choosing home care allows our clients to maintain their confidence and

independence at home. They receive the level of care and support they need without the stress of a big move. Choosing to privately fund home care or apply for a HSE Home Support Package is a big decision, and navigating the various options can seem daunting, but we're here to help. We offer a range of personalised home care packages tailored to our client's specific needs."

Getting started with Dovida

Step 1 - Contact your local office

Begin your journey by contacting your local Dovida office in Kilmacanogue on 01 276 8122. They'll have a quick conversation about your unique needs and organise a free, no-obligation consultation.

Step 2 - An initial consultation at home

A local Care Manager will visit a potential client's home for a consultation, where they are welcome to ask questions and explore their options. This will help us to get a better understanding of an individual's needs and create a care plan that best supports them.

Step 3 - Find the right match

"We'll carefully match a caregiver or a team of caregivers to our client, taking into account their preferences, needs, and interests. Visits will be scheduled to their date and time preference to create a stress-free start to their care."

Step 4 - Get to know each other

"Our caregiver will begin by getting to know their client's routine and needs, so they can start building a long-lasting relationship."

Step 5 - Ongoing review

"Our Care Manager will work to ensure that our care meets the client's needs and that they are happy with the service provided. Care Plans and the schedule of visits will be amended to support changing requirements."

Visit dovida.ie to find out more.

Casey leads call on ageing well in Wicklow

Senator and Wicklow Age Friendly Ambassador, Pat Casey, joined fellow Age Friendly Ambassadors from across the country to promote a clear message: emotional, mental and physical health must take centre stage in how Ireland supports and celebrates ageing.

New insights gathered from Age Friendly Ireland's network of 30 high-profile Ambassadors from the worlds of entertainment, business, sport and public service - including Francis Brennan, Gavin Duffy, Sandy Kelly, Geraldine Plunkett and Celia Holman Lee - reveal that nearly 80% fear cognitive or mental decline more than any other aspect of ageing. When asked what gives them hope, over half pointed to the growing commitment to an inclusive, supportive society that values older people and being able to remain active and independent.

Held at VISUAL Carlow, this year's Ambassadors' Day brings

together Age Friendly Ambassadors from across the country for a day of discussion, reflection and visibility around the theme: Wellbeing in Later Life - Physical, Mental and Emotional Health. The event shines a light on the lived realities of ageing in Ireland, where the over-65 population is expected to double by 2050, and underscores the need to place dignity, purpose and wellbeing at the heart of national policy, community initiatives and everyday conversations.

Senator Casey said: "I want to use my role as an Ambassador of Age Friendly Ireland to influence improvements in public transport for

older people. As older people stop driving, being unable to visit friends and relatives can have a huge impact on them. Although having shopping delivered is wonderful, having the independence to choose when to shop or go to the Doctor is important. Access to public transport for all needs to improve. I would encourage any older person or even someone who just wants to learn more about ageing well in Ireland to contact their local Age Friendly Programme by contacting their local council."

Age Friendly Ambassadors are appointed by City and County Councils across Ireland to use their platforms to challenge ageism,

champion dignity in ageing, and support more connected, active and inclusive ageing across Ireland. The full list of Ireland's Age Friendly Ambassadors can be found at agefriendlyireland.ie. Age Friendly Ireland is the national body supporting Ireland's 31 Local Authorities to deliver the Government's vision of an Age Friendly Ireland. Each local authority leads a dedicated Age Friendly Programme, in partnership with older people, service providers and community stakeholders.

Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland, said: "Too often, ageing is spoken about only in terms of decline or dependency, but the reality is far more powerful and positive. Older people in Ireland are living longer, contributing more, and redefining

what it means to grow older. This year's Ambassadors' Day puts the spotlight on the importance of our emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, reminding us that our independence, connectedness and purpose are central to how we think about ageing.

Through Age Friendly Ireland, and the local government sector, we provide the structure to enable that joined up thinking that is making this vision a reality in every town, city and county in Ireland. We are extremely grateful to our Age Friendly Ambassadors for championing this work."

Those wishing to learn more about ageing well in Ireland should contact their local Age Friendly Programme via their local council or visit agefriendlyireland.ie.



Senator Pat Casey, Age Friendly Ambassador.



Darina Johnston (left) and Bernie Finn of Waist Watchers.

New Bray group takes a fresh approach to weight loss

A new early-morning weight loss class is making waves in Bray and it's not like anything else out there.

Waist Watchers Bray takes a fresh, holistic approach. There are no points, sins, or off-limits foods. Instead, it focuses on a realistic, balanced way of eating with no stop start dieting, just real-life results.

The group is led by Bernie Finn, a head chef who lost 9 stone herself. Bernie's passion for food shows in the incredible recipes shared each week practical, tasty meals that actually work. Her warmth, honesty, and lived experience make the group feel welcoming, down-to-earth, and genuinely supportive.

Bernie started the class after being coached by Darina Johnson, founder of Waist Watchers. Darina's two classes in Gorey and Arklow have helped members lose over 1,000 stone in just two years. Inspired by that success, Bernie brought the same empowering approach to Bray and the results have been remarkable.

The class runs at 6:45 a.m. in Epworth Hall, Florence Road making it the earliest weight loss group in the Wicklow/Dublin area. All talks can be sent out digitally so it's perfect for those going to work or college.

With daily support, ongoing motivation, and a group full of fabulous people, Waist Watchers Bray is all about lasting change.

To find out more, call or WhatsApp Bernie on 089-4210435.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

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

Road to be closed:

R764 from the junction at Roundwood Church to the junction of the L1076 Roundwood Park.

Period of closure:

4.00 pm Sunday 3rd August until 4.00 am Monday 4th August 2025.

Alternative Routes:

R765 Knockraheen to Diamond Hill R764 to L1076 Roundwood Park.

Reason for Closure:

This road closure is necessary in order to facilitate the Roundwood Village Festival.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed road closure must lodge their objection in writing to Transportation and Roads, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Co. Wicklow or via email at roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie not later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 1st July, 2025.

Linda Healy,
Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.

Whitmore presses Department on urgent need for additional SNA support at Scoil na Coróine Mhuire



Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore with Cllr Danny Alvey.

'Two SNAs for over 300 pupils is unsustainable and unfair'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, has written to Minister for Education Helen McEntee to highlight the critical shortfall in Special Needs Assistant (SNA) support at Scoil na Coróine Mhuire in Ashford.

"Scoil na Coróine Mhuire is a mainstream primary school with 307 pupils, yet it has been allocated just two SNAs. One of those SNAs is fully assigned to a pupil with complex medical needs requiring full-time care, effectively leaving just one SNA to support the rest of the school," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"This is an untenable situation. The school has submitted detailed documentation to the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) outlining the scale of need, and assurances were given that this would be taken into account. However, no additional support has been provided," Deputy Whitmore continued.

"The lack of action is placing immense pressure on staff and leaving children without the sup-

port they need to thrive in the classroom. We've been left with a situation where schools with surplus SNAs are being allowed to retain them due to the delay in redeployment, while schools like Scoil na Coróine Mhuire, where the need is urgent, are left behind. This is a systemic failure," Deputy Whitmore stated.

"This is about more than staffing numbers. It's about fairness, inclusion, and the right of every child to access education in a way that meets their individual needs. If this isn't addressed immediately, the school may be forced to tell families it cannot meet the needs of new pupils in September. That would be a deeply unjust outcome and a clear violation of the EPSEN Act, which is why I have written to the Minister for Education, Helen

McEntee, urging her to take action," Deputy Whitmore noted.

Local Social Democrats Councillor Danny Alvey echoed these concerns, saying: "Scoil na Coróine Mhuire is an excellent local primary school which members of my family attend and I know how dedicated and hard working the staff are for the students there. This decision not to grant an additional Special Needs Assistant is inexplicable, especially given there are over 300 students currently in the school and only two SNAs assigned to it. With one student needing fulltime support, this essentially leaves just one SNA for the entire rest of the school."

"I have had many friends and local residents with children in the school or starting there next year contact me in the last few days

about this unfair situation. The Department of Education needs to step

in here and review this decision and grant additional support before the school year begins again in September and a whole new cohort of students join Junior Infants. If they don't the students of this school who may need some additional help are going to be totally under-resourced and will be left behind in these formative years of their education," Councillor Alvey added.

Deputy Whitmore concluded "I am urging Minister McEntee and the Department of Education to intervene without delay. The school community has done everything asked of them. Now it's time for the Department to act and ensure these children are not left behind."

11 Wicklow primary schools win prestigious Curious Minds Award

Local schools recognised for achievements in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, has announced that 11 primary schools in Wicklow have won a Research Ireland Curious Minds Award for 2025.

Funded by Research Ireland, this annual initiative seeks to ignite a passion for science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) in primary pupils, their families, and educators throughout Ireland.

The Research Ireland Curious Minds Awards give recognition to schools for their dedication to hands-on, curiosity-driven learning in STEM disciplines.

Each year, thousands of students around the country enthusiastically delve into fascinating topics by conducting a range of practical STEM challenges.

These engaging activities include design and make projects, math trails, rocket launches, explorations of school-ground biodiversity, egg drop experiments, pond construction, vegetable cultivation, marble run creations, coding

initiatives, and applying STEM principles to solve real-world problems.

Commenting on the awards, Celine Fitzgerald, Interim Chief Executive Officer at Research Ireland, said: "I am extremely proud to see the continued interest in, and impact of, the Research Ireland Curious Minds programme. The appetite for engagement through fun, practical STEM learning within our school community is so evident. Our goal is to empower teachers and to inspire students, showing the younger generation that STEM is not just a subject, but a way of exploring, understanding, and shaping the world around them."

To mark the announcement, a virtual Research Ireland Curious Minds Awards Ceremony took place today in hundreds

of classrooms throughout Ireland, hosted by TV presenters Grainne Bleasdale and Phil Smyth, to celebrate the awardees.

Schools participating in the Curious Minds Awards initiative apply for one of three award tiers:

- Silver Award: For schools beginning their STEM journey and involving a minimum of two classes.
- Gold Award: For schools further along their STEM journey, involving at least half of the classes in the school.
- Platinum Award: For schools that have already achieved the Gold Award and want to further integrate STEM into their school culture.

This year, in Wicklow, 7 schools received the Gold Award, 1 received the Platinum Award and three received the Silver Award.

Registration for the 2025/2026 Research Ireland Curious Minds Awards will open in September 2025. Registration for the CPD courses for 2025/2026 is open now.



Minister for Further and Higher Education James Lawless and Dr Ciaran Seoighe, Deputy CEO of Research Ireland, with Rathmore National School pupils Nina and Fionn.

Seven Wicklow schools to benefit from energy upgrades

Seven Schools in County Wicklow will receive major retrofitting works this summer under the REPower EU Programme,

The schools benefiting include: Scoil Nicolais Naofa Wicklow, Scoil Chonglais Baltinglass, St. Mary's & St. Gerard's NS Enniskerry, Bray School Project, Kilcommon NS Wicklow, Carnew NS, and St Patrick's National School Wicklow.

Tánaiste Simon Harris said: "I am delighted that seven schools across Wicklow will benefit from state-of-the-art energy upgrades this summer. These works will ensure that all schools achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of at least B, through the installation of heat pumps, LED lighting, upgrading of the airtightness of the school and the installation of electric car chargers.

Edward Timmins TD added "Not only will this make schools more energy efficient, reducing their carbon footprint and energy bills, but it will also make our schools more comfortable for the students and entire school and teaching community."

Minister for Education and Youth, Helen McEntee said: "This is great news for schools in Wicklow who will benefit from this investment from the REPower EU Programme. Across the country, 28 schools will benefit, with a total investment of €86 million. These projects are advancing quickly; from the appointment of design teams to reaching tender stage in just six months, the pace of delivery has been exceptional.

"I want to thank all schools that engaged in this Programme. There are opportunities for all schools across the country to progress their climate-proofing through the Climate Action Summer Works Programme which is open for applications until 30th June."

Newtownmountkennedy accountancy student is amongst world's best

Ben Scott from Newtownmountkennedy has reason to celebrate after ranking amongst the best in Ireland and the world in his accountancy exam.

An Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) student at Dublin-based online and blended learning college, Accountancy School, Ben finished first in Ireland, and 18th worldwide, in his Strategic Business Leader (SBL) exam.

Viewing his result in context, of the worldwide number of 500,000 ACCA students, approximately 8,000 of whom study in Ireland, Ben was one of 27 fellow Accountancy School students to finish first in Ireland. All were recognised for their achievements at a ceremony in Dublin recently.

Congratulating Ben on his result, Accountancy School managing director, Dave O'Donoghue said "ACCA is a globally recognised accountancy qualification, and the key to a hugely rewarding career in accountancy and financial management, here in Ireland and internationally.

"Against the backdrop of an acute world-wide shortage of accountants, ACCA trainees, affiliates and members are in high demand throughout the world," O'Donoghue added.



Ben Scott.

A big sustainable green applause for our Wicklow schools

Let's give a bualadh bos to our Wicklow Schools this year for their outstanding work in environmental education programs, including Green Schools, ReLove Fashion, and the Rubbish Film Festival awards.

Once again both primary and secondary schools accepted their well-deserved Green Flags at The Helix in Dublin. These flags were awarded in recognition of the excellent work undertaken by students as part of the Green Schools program delivered by An Taisce. Awards covered themes such as Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship and the Marine Environment.

Of special note, Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir in Arklow was awarded a

regional prize for their efforts focused on the Water theme. Additionally, Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara in Brittas Bay received a regional award for their outstanding work on the Global Citizenship Marine Environment theme and also secured a national award under the Marine Institute's Explorer's Education Programme. Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara is one of only 32 European schools selected for the recently launched EU Blue Lights program.

Loreto Bray Secondary

School, along with other Wicklow secondary schools, participated in ReLove Fashion. This year, Edena Foot, a third-year student, won the national award for 'Best Evening Dress'.

With a growing focus on sustainable, slow fashion, Edena created a stunning evening dress from old denim jeans found in a local charity shop. The dress features beautiful hand embroidery and was inspired by aquatic life and the pollution caused by fast fashion.

The Rubbish Film

Festival is a creative Transition Year program that provides a platform for students to explore and research Sustainable Development Goal No. 12, 'Responsible Consumption'. The short, one-minute films created by student teams were full of well-researched topics, focusing on themes such as fast fashion, habitat destruction, water conservation, and even AI! Colaiste Craobh Abhann took home the county's best prize back to Kilcoole, while Colaiste Raithin won county first prize for the best impact film, which was presented in Gaelge. Additionally, St David's in Greystones was awarded second place for the best film award.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien commented "we extend our thanks and appreciation to the teachers and schools who contribute so much to the next generation. Without them our environmental education programmes including Relove Fashion, The Rubbish Film Festival and An Taisce's Green Schools, would fail to deliver essential learnings, and positive action at a local and county level. They are helping us to make Wicklow a better, more sustainable place to live, work and play."

Theresa O'Brien, Director of Services Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity was full of praise by the creativity, passion and expertise at a young age and said: "The youth of County Wicklow are concerned about Climate Change and are engaging in building a more sustainable future for all of us."

Wicklow County Council will continue to support our schools in delivering education for sustainability through our Climate Action Plan, and our environmental awareness programme."



Edena Foot (Loreto Bray) and her father Steven Foot after securing first place in the National Evening Dress category.



Ghaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir, Arklow with their Water Theme green flag.



Colaiste Craobh Abhann who won best Wicklow film in the Rubbish Film Festival.

Young students from Wicklow breathing life into the Irish language

Primary school students from Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Baltinglass recently attended an awards ceremony in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, where they were presented with a Gaelbhrtach.

Irish speaking competitions, yard games in Irish and learning Irish songs and dances are just some of

the activities set up and run by the student committee in Scoil Naomh Iosaf that was recognised for its promo-

tion of the Irish language.

Run by Gael Linn, Gaelbhrtach is a national initiative that encourages primary and secondary school students to speak Irish outside of the formal classroom setting.

A total of 163 flags were awarded to primary schools

this year - over double the figure from last year - in recognition of the students' efforts to inspire and empower their school communities to speak Irish. In May of this year, a further 140 flags were presented to students from post-primary schools.

As part of the celebrations at the awards ceremony students from Wicklow enjoyed interactive games led by former Gaelbhrtach committee members Máire Ní Churraoin and

Barry O Siachriú.

Commenting on the awards, Edel Ní Bhraonáin, Bainisteoir Gaelbhrtach said: "Gaelbhrtach gives young people of any age or background the opportunity

to use and develop their Irish language skills outside of the traditional classroom setting. The programme aims to put the student voice at the centre of their learning through the

Gaelbhrtach committee. The scheme is going from strength to strength each year, with over 90 primary schools taking part in the initiative for this first time this year."



Scoil Naomh Iosaf pupils being awarded their flag in Roscrea in recognition of the students' efforts to inspire and empower their school communities to speak Irish.

<div data-bbox="1135 1928 1212 2050"> </div> <div data-bbox="1255 1955 1561 2023"> <p>An Roinn Cosanta Department of Defence</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1190 2104 1496 2132"> <p>ARMY RIFLE RANGES</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1255 2172 1430 2213"> <p>WARNING</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1124 2227 1561 2620"> <p>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!</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1616 1928 1692 2050"> </div> <div data-bbox="1736 1955 2042 2023"> <p>An Roinn Cosanta Department of Defence</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1627 2104 2042 2132"> <p>RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1703 2159 1954 2199"> <p>FOLÁIREAMH</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1605 2199 2063 2620"> <p>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!</p> </div>
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Niamh Beatrix.

Real. Raw. Risng:

Niamh Beatrix releases unfiltered song of young love

“Pure poetry from a teenage heart. This music certainly transcends Niamh's young age, as I can certainly hear the echoes of Brandi Carlisle and Billie Eilish.” - *SPIN Magazine, Ron Hart*

At just 14, South African-Irish singer-songwriter Niamh Beatrix Smith, affectionately known as 'Niamhy', is already making waves with her courageous emotional depth and unmistakable voice. On Friday 27th June, she will be releasing her boldest and most vulnerable track yet: 'Too Loud' - a heartbreak song that cuts deeper than most adult records.

More than just a break-up track, 'Too Loud' is an aching reflection on the pain of loving someone too much for them to hold. There's no studio gloss here - just Niamh's voice, a guitar, and the kind of unfiltered honesty that's all too rare. With no vocal effects and no digital polish, the track showcases Niamh's raw vocal power and soul-baring songwriting. Already nicknamed 'Little Adele' by the media, Niamh's talent is capturing hearts around the globe. Blending old-soul emotionality with a new-generation sensitivity, she's earned over 200,000 streams, a Top 3 Junior Eurovision Ireland finish, and a #1 radio hit in South Africa - all before turning 15. From intimate home recordings to international airwaves, Niamh Beatrix Smith isn't trying to be perfect - she's trying to be real. And in 'Too Loud' she proves that truth still resonates. "Too Loud" will be available on all major streaming platforms. Watch Niamh perform live at the South African Gathering Ireland on 13th September 2025 - Ballykilkavan Farm & Brewery.

“Country-tinged, indie-bent, singer-songwriter purity - a song without armor, meant to bruise. And in that vulnerability, Niamh shines. ‘Too Loud’ doesn’t shout to be heard. It whispers truths most of us forgot how to say. In a world of polished pain and algorithmic hooks, this is the sound of a real heart speaking - and it’s unforgettable.” - *AvA Live Radio, Jaqueline Jacks - Florida*

At War With Mercy

Courthouse Arts Centre, Saturday 5th July, 8pm - 10pm
Ticket Price: €16/14

At War With Mercy is a collaborative work between the late Canadian songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen and the writers John MacKenna and Angela Keogh. Cohen and MacKenna worked together on the requiem Between Your Love and Mine in the months before Cohen's death in 2016. The idea for At War With Mercy had been mooted at that time and now it comes to fruition.

At War With Mercy is a musical and dramatic exploration of war, peace and mercy through Leonard Cohen's songs and the stories developed by Keogh and MacKenna from Cohen's characters and writings. In a ninety-minute show, the music, characters and words reflect on the brutality of war and the healing power of peace and mercy.

At War With Mercy is a tonic for the mind and soul and an affirmation of Leonard Cohen's commitment in music, words and life to peace in the world.

With singer Katie Jacques; singer/guitarist Shane Sullivan; percussionist Dave Day and actors Angela Keogh and John MacKenna, the show is a life-affirming journey that echoes with hope, warmth, redemption and peace.



Brittas Bay Music Academy fills Avoca Valley with rapturous recital

The valley of Avoca became an amphitheatre of sound for a time on Saturday, 31st May when the Brittas Bay Music Academy hosted their summer recital in the Avoca Community Hall.

It was all hands on deck as the parents and friends gathered at the hall with baked goods and refreshments to give the occasion a real summer party feel.

With guest compere Michael McNamara at the helm, each participant was given a personalised introduction before taking to the stage to perform their pieces.

With students having taken their exams with the Royal Irish Academy of Music the previous week, each player was pitch-perfect and delighted to perform for fun this time.

Some students were enjoying a welcome break from studying for state exams too and welcomed the opportunity to 'rock out' and kick

back with friends and family at the event.

Speaking about the event, Director of the Academy, Siobhan Kennedy-Perri, said “The students at Brittas Bay Music Academy have worked so hard this year and it is always a welcome opportunity to give them a chance to perform. As a professional musician myself, we treat this as we would any performance I have with my band 'Mack Fleetwood'. So much so that we had fellow band member Andrew O'Duffy as sound technician today.

“These young musicians are so talented and deserve to be treated as professionals on stage. I am so proud of each one of them for

what they have achieved.”

We are really grateful to have the support of the parents, family and friends of the performers coming to these shows and to the community of Avoca for letting us use the amazing facilities here at the Community Hall - an amazing resource in a stunning village. We couldn't have imagined a better backdrop.”

Performers on the day were Maeve, Frank and Jane McNamara, Cole Perri, Maria, and John O'Dwyer, Kat Knopf, Susan Howe, Zoe Carolan, Matilda, and Theo Byrne, Noa Haviv, Emmelin Oborsky and special guest performer Ava McFall O'Duffy.



Performers from the Brittas Bay Music Academy who took part in the Summer Recital at Avoca Community Hall under the baton of Director Siobhan Kennedy-Perri.

Bray artist brings new work to city gallery

Bray-based artist Adam Connors is set to unveil his fourth solo exhibition later this month and for the first time, his work will be shown in the heart of Dublin City at REDS Gallery on Dawson Street.



Bray artist Adam Connors with one of his works from his Continuum of Companionship series.

Opening on Thursday, June 26th at 6pm, the exhibition will showcase a brand-new instalment of Connors' Continuum of Companionship series, a distinctive body of work he has been developing since he first began painting in 2016. Alongside this signature series, visitors can expect a number of new pieces in a contrasting style, offering a broader glimpse into his evolving artistic voice.

Curated by Tony Strickland, the show launches with a wine reception and guest speaker Dr. Lollie Mancey. It runs until July 2nd.

Though this marks his first solo show in the city, Connors is a familiar face in Bray, where he has maintained a studio-gallery on Quinsborough Road for the past three and a half years. "There've been ups and downs," he says, "but I love being part of the Bray community. I meet people from all walks of life every day, and it's that mix that keeps things inspiring."

Despite applying five years in a row, Connors has yet to receive Arts Council funding. His

practice is entirely self-sustained through the sale of his paintings and prints, and he continues to give back, regularly hosting free painting workshops for locals, including children and individuals with additional needs.

"This exhibition feels like a milestone," he adds. "It's taken a lot to get here, but I'm proud of what I've created, and I'm excited to share it."



Tony Strickland outside the A.J. Connors Fine Art Studio Gallery.



Adam outside his studio in Bray.

Bray DJ to play Glastonbury

As winner of the BBC Radio 6 Music ICONS Mix of the Year 2024, Bray DJ EMA has been invited to perform as Glastonbury Music Festival, which kicks off this week on June 25th.

EMA's winning mix was featured on Mary Anne Hobbs' show on BBC Sounds.

EMA is a key torchbearer for a new generation of global bassniks, embodying community rave values through a love of low end frequencies from her home, which is now in Dublin.

Her work as a DJ, founder of label/party Woozy, booker for Dublin nightclub Tengu, Rinse FM resident and co-founder of the Skin & Blister collective is exhaustive, highlighting a relentless work ethic that has inspired a foundational infrastructure for her and those in her orbit to prosper.

Operating as a conduit to the on-going mutations of low-end futurism, EMA's selections warp rhythmic advances around a respected tradition in sub weight. Rigorously informed by the foundational lineage of dub-inspired club music, she encompasses not only the sounds but also the unity mentality of her influences. Her application of this ethos to mix crafting is sensational, pairing

evocative wub narratives with a penchant for screw-face bass anthems.



EMA.

It's an undeniable gift, evident in EMA's monthly residency on Rinse FM,

celebrated mixes for Ilian Tape, Truants, Crack Magazine, and Ransom Note, notable appearances at Fabric London, Printworks, Open Ground, NYC's Public Records and the Arcadia Stage at All Together Now festival, multiple broadcasts for The Lot Radio and the co-hosting Keep Hush's inaugural Irish stream with Woozy.

Founded in 2020, Woozy is EMA's label and party series celebrating the sounds and DJs of modern soundsystem culture. 7 releases deep, including three various artist compilations plus solo EPs from Coe, Sha Ru and Laenz, and many parties hosted has seen her form a remarkable community around the values she wears so proudly on her sleeve.

EMA is also the co-founder of Dublin based collective Skin&Blister, a platform curated to nurture and encourage female, trans and non-binary creatives in the realm of music and the arts. Through running events, workshops, founding Ireland's first creative database.

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Spirit Motor Group bring Ford to the heart of Wicklow

Spirit Motor Group is celebrated the launch of its new Spirit Ford Wicklow showroom with a special event attended by loyal customers, local VIPs and Ford enthusiasts.

by Martin McCarthy

The upgraded showroom, located in Kilpedder, is now the home of Ford in Wicklow and is the third Ford location within Spirit Motor Group, joining Spirit Ford South Dublin in Sandyford and Spirit Ford West Dublin in Baldonnell.

To celebrate the official opening, Spirit Ford Wicklow welcomed customers to an evening reception featuring music from the renowned Glas String Quartet, as well as a special raffle on the night supported by Spirit Ford Wicklow ambassador, Irish rugby player, Josh van der Flier.

Guests had the opportunity to see the legendary New All Electric Ford Capri, alongside the exciting range of Ford electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The Ford Go Electric 252 Event,

offering savings of up to €3,000, has been extended exclusively for Spirit Ford customers until 30th June 2025.

Speaking at the launch event, Mark Burton, Dealer Principal at Spirit Ford Wicklow said: "This is a significant milestone for the team here in Kilpedder which I have been proud to be a part of over the past 31 years. This is a fitting home for the fantastic range of Ford vehicles and we look forward to welcoming customers old and new to Spirit Ford Wicklow."

Alan Moore, Managing Director of Spirit Motor Group said: "This redevelopment is another essential step in our growth plans for Spirit Motor Group. It further demonstrates our commitment to Ford and our ambition to provide first class service and facilities to our valued Ford customers."



Pictured L-R: Padraig Duane, Ford Ireland; John O'Brien, Spirit Ford Wicklow; Paul Draper, Ford Ireland; John Manning, Ford Ireland; Chris Pratt, Spirit Ford Wicklow; Johnny Kavanagh, Ford Ireland; Mark Burton, Spirit Ford Wicklow.

The search is on for Ireland's Greenest Places!

People from all over Wicklow invited to nominate the places they believe deserve recognition

As we head into what we hope will be a marvellous summer filled with long days in the great outdoors details of the search for Ireland's Greenest Places 2025 have been announced.

Whether you live in a community, village, suburb or town anywhere on the island of Ireland, or perhaps it's a place you love to visit on a regular basis - you can help it secure the coveted title of one of Ireland's Greenest Places.

The initiative which has been launched by The Irish Times, in association with Electric Ireland, will see each nominated place judged on specific criteria including its beneficial environmental impact, level of ongoing collective engagement by the community and evidence of behavioural change by people.

To be in with a chance to claim the title for your place of choice, all you have to do is write a short submission - up to 300 words - explaining why it's so special and the tangible contribution it makes to a genuinely greener environment.

The Chair of the Judging Panel, Irish Times Features Editor Mary Minihan said they will be looking for places which offer a vision of a more sustainable future.

"We chose place because it's a deliberately broad term. People can nominate a suburb, village, town or community

such as a peninsula, island or other distinct area anywhere on the island.

The key will be how it measures up against the criteria outlined above as well of course as care for nature and the local environment. Over the next four months our judges will draw up shortlists based on the submissions, visit the front-runners, choose winners in each category and eventually choose an overall winner. We are looking forward so much to hearing from people from Wicklow and all the other counties as soon as possible to help us identify Ireland's Greenest Places 2025."

Former Green Party leader and Minister for the Environment Eamon Ryan, who is one of the judges, said one of the key objectives of the competition is to showcase the contributions people and communities are making to a greener Ireland.

"We know that Irish people care about climate change and that they are concerned about its effects on their lives. We also know that place-based solutions deliver climate actions that really work because they are developed and underpinned by community ownership. With this initiative we want to celebrate what's happening in so many locations around the country, share those learnings as widely as possible and encourage more people to get involved in making their community a better place to live now and into the future."

Electric Ireland's Lisa



Browne said the company is proud to partner with The Irish Times as the sponsor of Ireland's Greenest Places.

"As a judge, I'm looking forward to seeing the wonderful stories come in from communities around Ireland and their journey to a more sustainable life. This partnership is the perfect fit with our strategy to empower customers to live an all-electric life and to help customers to see how big or small changes can make a real difference."

Anyone can enter by writing a short pitch about a place they believe is contributing to a greener environment and helping to build climate

resilience. The judging panel is looking forward to a challenging summer of deliberation with every stage in the process documented on a regular basis in The Irish Times.

Joining Mary Minihan, Eamon Ryan and Lisa Browne on the judging panel will be Irish Times Environment Editor Kevin O'Sullivan and Senior Features Writer Rosita Boland.

If you know a place in Ireland that deserves recognition for its contribution to a greener future, visit <https://www.irish-times.com/environment/2025/05/24/irelands-greenest-places-2025/> to submit your nomination.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information / Revised Plans.

We, hereby give notice of the submission of Significant Further Information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 24/60737 for John & Jacinta Scannell, who are applying for retention permission at Raheengraney House, Raheengraney, Clonegal, Co. Wicklow, Y21 Y168. For Retention Planning Permission to include the following; -

a) Retention of a material change of use to a previous single storey agricultural outbuilding which has been converted to an existing commercial short-term letting holiday home.

b) Retention of existing commercial short-term letting as constructed to include additional access corridor extension, plant room extension, 3 no. roof lights, chimney flue and all external & internal alterations and finishes.

c) Retention of foul water connection to adjacent on-site septic tank and percolation area and retention of water connection to adjacent on-site bored well and all ancillary site works within the curtilage of a Protected Structure RPS Number 46-01 and NIAH Number 16404601.

Significant further information / revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

RECRUITMENT

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Charleville Estate
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JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Gardener/Groundsman
- Full-time, Monday to Friday.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

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- Ride on mower experience
- Spraying course desirable but not essential
- Must have full driving licence.
- 2 / 3 years' experience in similar role preferable.
- Chain saw experience desirable but not essential.

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SALARY:

- Salary by negotiation.

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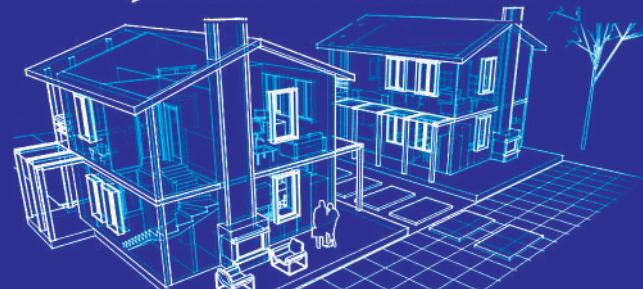
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'Ban them or cater for them - but stop ignoring illegally parked campervans'

Ireland South MEP Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, a leading member of the EU Tourism Taskforce, has called on local authorities across Ireland to grant more planning permissions for facilities for campervans or invest in municipal campervan parks where no private facilities exist.

Ní Mhurchú has accused local authorities of putting their head in the sand when it comes to the regulation of, and opportunity provided by, camper van tourism.

Ní Mhurchú says that Ireland is way behind the rest of Europe when it comes to facilities for campervans. According to Ní Mhurchú it is leading to a situation where campervans are parking illegally by our beaches and in public car parks annoying local residents in our coastal communities and causing friction.

"I would like to see more planning permissions given to camping and caravan parks and more supports for private existing campsites. Where no private facilities exist, local authorities should invest in modern basic facilities for campervan tourists that will allow them to dis-



Cynthia Ní Mhurchú MEP.

pose of waste, have showers, get water and power. Charge them a small fee for using these municipal camper van parks and reinvest that money back into the park."

According to Ní Mhurchú, illegally parked campervans are an eyesore at our beaches, "Where are those campervans dumping their waste, grey water,

sewerage and where are they getting water and sanitation?"

Camper van tourists spend money in the local restaurant, the local shop and buy groceries in the local supermarket. They are a valuable part of our tourism offering and we should have specific facilities that they can use and stay in the area.

Ní Mhurchú emphasised that she is only advocating for municipal facilities to be provided where existing private campsites do not exist. She will raise the issue with EU Tourism chief, EU Commissioner Apostolos Tzitzikostas when she meets with him in July. She will ask the EU Commissioner to consider EU funding supports to build these basic camper van facilities across Europe so that we can encourage a sustainable form of tourism that will reap rewards for coastal communities across

Ireland and the EU. Campervan culture has exploded since Covid as it becomes an increasingly popular way for Europeans to holiday. Travelling by road can be a more sustainable approach to exploration

CLASSIFIEDS

Daily Gospels

Come to me all you who are weary and I will give you rest

God so loved the world that he gave His only son

Love thy neighbour as thyself

I am the Bread of Life

There are many rooms in my father's house

If you love me keep my commandments

Don't immerse in a life of pleasures.



Kate and Lauren Martin at the recent Brittas Bay National School Garden plants and cake sale.

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Camp 2: Wicklow Town	July 7th - 11th	12.30 - 3.30pm
Camp 3: Enniskerry	July 14th - 18th	9am - 12 noon
Camp 4: Enniskerry	July 14th - 18th	12.30 - 3.30pm

East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town and The Schoolhouse for Art Enniskerry
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